

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



August 18, 2016

Ramona Oswald, Chair
Alejandro Gomez, Jr., Vice Chair
Toby Beauchamp
Johnell Bentz
Zachary Berent
Ga Young Chung
Peter Darch
Julie Dowling

Elizabeth Hsiao-Wecksler
Monica McDermott
Linda Owens
Charles Schroeder
Murillo Soranso
Ebony Zamani-Gallaher
Medra Roberts-Southerland, *ex-officio*

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this letter is to request your service on the Chancellor and Provost Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (LGBTQ). Ramona Oswald, Professor, Director of Graduate Programs, Department of Human Development & Family Studies has graciously agreed to serve as Chair of this year's Committee. Alejandro Gomez Jr., Clinical Counselor in the Counseling Center, will serve as Vice Chair.

We are pleased to have Assata Zerai, Professor in the Department of Sociology, taking on a leadership role as the Associate Chancellor for Diversity. Professor Zerai began her position on August 16 and will be joining the campus diversity committees at the Diversity Summit on September 9 at the Illini Union. The Diversity Summit will afford each of the committees an opportunity to share information about the issues and initiatives they have been working on.

We have asked Associate Chancellor Zerai to lead a campus effort to develop a comprehensive and actionable campus diversity strategy that includes attention to recruitment, training, education, research, communication, policy, and governance at campus and unit levels. It will be important for the LGBTQ Committee to work closely with Associate Chancellor Zerai to help inform and support that very important work. Additionally, we encourage you to continue your work on ongoing initiatives, including:

- a. building community among the LGBTQ communities;
- b. increasing the visibility of the achievements of LGBTQ faculty and academic professionals;
- c. assisting in shaping LGBTQ friendly policies to improve the working and learning climate at Illinois; and
- d. working collaboratively with other diversity committees and stakeholders.

We ask that your Committee provide a report to Associate Chancellor Zerai in May 2017 that describes the Committee's work during 2016-2017 and goals for 2017-2018.

Ramona Oswald, et al.
August 18, 2016
Page 2

Given current fiscal constraints, we will not be allocating a pre-established budget to the LGBTQ Committee. Rather, we ask that you make specific requests for financial support for proposed initiatives to Associate Chancellor Zerai. Your committee will need to develop a budget and outline the goals and the measures of success prior to any distribution of funds.

Thank you in advance for your service on this important Committee. Your work is crucial and valued.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Wilson
Interim Chancellor



Edward Feser
Interim Vice Chancellor for
Academic Affairs and Provost

c: A. Zerai