

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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



October 20, 2017

**Revised**

*Cindy Ingold, Chair*  
Jennifer Bernhard  
Robert Hughes  
Sandra Rodriguez-Zas  
Rosa Milagros Santos

Peter Sauer  
Marci Uihlein  
*Assata Zerai, ex-officio*  
Medra Roberts-Southerland, *ex-officio*

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this letter is to request your service on the Gender Equity Council (GEC). We are in communication with a potential chair of this year's Council, and will announce the chair at a later time.

You will work closely with Associate Chancellor for Diversity Assata Zerai as she continues 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. This is a year of transition. A new Diversity Council will be charged and GEC will have representation there. Additionally, we encourage you to continue your progress of ongoing GEC initiatives, including:

- a. preparing for hosting the annual Celebration of Women event in conjunction with the Office of the Provost in 2018-19 (note: Associate Provost Santos is planning this year's celebration);
- b. providing feedback the NSF ADVANCE grant proposal;
- c. engaging with various colleges and units to promote a healthy work climate;
- d. recognizing the achievements of women at Illinois for the Sesquicentennial Celebration;
- e. providing input to Associate Chancellor Zerai on future diversity efforts; and
- f. provide advice to the Diversity Council, diversity committees and stakeholders.

We ask that your Council provide a report to Associate Chancellor Zerai in May, 2018 that describes the Council's achievements during 2017-2018 and goals for 2018-2019.

The campus diversity committees will hold a Fall Diversity Summit on October 11, 2017, 12:00 – 2:00pm at the Illini Union, Room 314A. The Fall Diversity Summit will afford each of the committees an opportunity to share information about the issues and initiatives they have been working on. Please also add the Celebration of Women Faculty (October 25, 2017 from 11:30-1:00 PM at the I-Hotel) and the Celebration of Diversity November 10, 8:30-10:30am, I Hotel to your calendars.

Thank you in advance for your service on the GEC. Your work is crucial and valued.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Jones  
Chancellor

John P. Wilkin  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic  
Affairs and Provost