

February 11, 2022

Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services

Mark McCarthy, Chair
Chelsey Baker
Kathleen Downes
Esther Lee
Danny Oster
Mari Anne Brocker Curry, Director of Housing Information & Marketing, *Ex Officio*
Maureen Gilbert, Campus Life Coordinator, *Ex Officio*
Allison Kushner, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, *Ex Officio*
Paige Lewis, Beckwith Residential Support Services Associate Director, *Ex Officio*

Dear Students and Colleagues,

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all students. We believe every campus community member should be able to live and thrive in their full humanity in all aspects of their academic and campus life. This commitment includes providing equal access to university programs, as well as strong supports for students with disabilities, addressing issues that may negatively affect the lived experiences of students, and advancing clear, concrete, and actionable steps to create change when it is needed.

To achieve these aims, I am establishing and charging the Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services (BRSS) and invite you to serve as its first members. The work of this Advisory Council is to assist my office in identifying opportunities to improve and sustain the BRSS program.

The Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services is charged with the following primary responsibilities:

- To serve as a resource to the university in support of BRSS' mission and goals.
- To supplement, not replace, the existing internal advisory group comprising of current BRSS residents, disability advisors, personal assistants, and members of the BRSS administrative team.
- To provide a forum for discussion of opportunities, challenges, goals, outcomes, and resources related to BRSS.
- To provide feedback to BRSS and university leadership regarding the above.
- To perform additional functions, subject to the Council's capacity and the needs of BRSS and the university, related to the assessment and improvement of BRSS.

The Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services is expected to meet periodically (at least 2 times a year). The Council will provide a written report to the Chancellor's Leadership Team at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. This report will provide details of the status of current efforts and recommendations for the Council's future efforts.

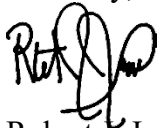
Members of the Advisory Council will serve for terms of two years and will consist of former BRSS residents and individuals who have expertise in post-secondary education and assisting students with disabilities to transition to independent living. Ex-officio members include the university's Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator or designee, a staff representative from University Housing, a staff representative from Disability Resources and Educational Services, a staff representative from BRSS, and a representative from the Illinois Department of Human Services/Department of Rehabilitation Services (to the extent a representative is made available).

I have asked Mark McCarthy to be the inaugural chair of the Council. In addition to being an active member, he will facilitate the work of the Council and be a liaison to my office.

You will be contacted by Erin Metz, Office for Access and Equity, to schedule meetings. At your first meeting in February, the Council members will meet each other, discuss the staffing and framework through which the Advisory Council will operate, and set goals for the first year.

Thank you again for agreeing to serve in this important role for our university.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones
Chancellor

c: C. Span
N. Arain
A. Kushner