

September 16, 2025

FEDERAL UPDATES: EXECUTIVE STEERING GROUP

Robin Kaler, Chair
Danita Brown Young
Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko
John Coleman
Aimee Heeter
Gio Guerra Pérez
Susan Martinis

Martin McFarlane
Shari Mickey-Boggs
Lowa Mwilambwe
Allison Vance
Paul Weinberger
Collin Richmond, *Ex Officio*
Becky McNaught, *Ex Officio*

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the *Federal Updates: Executive Steering Group*. Robin Kaler will chair this *ad hoc* working group, and Becky McNaught will serve as the project manager.

This group will review new federal regulations that may have an impact on higher education and will help guide our approach to moving forward in a way that is consistent both with the law and the essential values that are cornerstones of our university.

I ask that your committee:

- Monitor and analyze proposed federal directives that could impact higher education in general and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign specifically.
- Oversee the work of subgroups developed to address impact in the following areas: 1) immigration, 2) expanding access, 3) research and 4) impact to our workforce.
- Develop plans for communication of committee activities and recommendations with senior campus leadership, college deans, the Academic Senate and more broadly to all students, faculty and staff.

I ask that your decisions and recommendations be guided by these core principles:

- Protect the university's missions (teaching, research, engagement and economic development).
- Adhere to relevant laws and regulations.
- Support the well-being and privacy of all members of the university community.

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I also ask you, as the steering group, to coordinate the charging and subsequent activities of four working groups:

Immigration: Martin McFarlane, Chair
Expanding Access: Gio Guerra Pérez, Chair
Research: Melissa Edwards, Chair
Impact to our Workforce: Deb Stone, Chair

As circumstances evolve, the steering group may determine that additional working groups are required to address emerging issues. You are authorized to coordinate the charging of additional working groups, as needed, if they cannot be addressed within these four initial topical areas.

I ask that you meet as soon as possible to begin determining how to fulfill the charges I have laid out. As you know, there is both great urgency and great need for planning and actions. I will meet regularly with the chair of the steering group for updates on your progress.

I thank you for your service as we respond to potential changes in the higher education landscape.

Sincerely,



Charles L. Isbell, Jr.
Chancellor