

November 17, 2015

To: University of Illinois President, Chancellor and Provost

Whereas: We acknowledge that college campuses across the nation are experiencing issues of diversity, racial inequality, and inclusivity. Our Vision is for Illinois to be a university that leads with a positive, welcoming and affirming experience inclusive of its global diversity. It is important that our campus make a strong statement that reaffirms this positioning. The Inclusive Illinois Committee was formed to raise awareness and improve inclusion on campus for all people.

Whereas: Our Mission is to assist the University in its efforts towards excellence in making our campus a preeminent public research university with a land grant mission and global impact that respects the diversity of its individuals and builds on the strengths and skills of a diverse campus. We reaffirm that we are ready to join the University's efforts in making the Vision of Excellence come to fruition.

Whereas: The Inclusive Illinois committee is one of the most diverse groups you will see on campus. We bring a variety of perspectives including those of students, staff, faculty, and all of the Chancellor's diversity committees together. As committee members we serve to protect and support individuals and their voices from places of marginalization and intentionally seek to create a climate that is indeed a safe place. We define and interpret "Safe" as a space or forum where opinions can be expressed and challenged, where understandings can be examined and contested, and where multiple truths and realities can coexist in respectful and harmonious ways.

Therefore: We seek to assist in your efforts to build, sustain, and nurture a campus where students, faculty, staff, and administrators are able to co-create, co-exist, critique, and share information that fosters learning on all levels. We request to be included in shared decision-making processes that include, but are not limited to, search processes for campus leaders and major campus policies and procedures. This strategic positioning will convey to the public the positive image of our collaborative efforts to adhere and uphold the major core values of this University: to be inclusive, to treat each other with dignity and respect, and to promote responsible and engaged citizenship.

Therefore: We are publicly reaffirming our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and pluralism as a priority and cornerstone of operations here at Illinois. As we look and plan for the future, we look forward to our engagement in the search for new campus leaders. Furthermore, we believe that it is important that Inclusive Illinois be consulted on matters that relate to campus leadership and direction of the institution including Academic Affairs, Admissions, Enrollment Management and other key initiatives. In that spirit we look forward to your support in adopting and implementing the 2030 Diversity Plan. We believe such representation is beneficial to serving the needs of the University and neighboring communities, consistent with the land grant mission of the University, and is in the spirit of shared governance.

Therefore: We will continue to support and make our presence known on issues of equality, inclusivity, and fair treatment of all campus citizens, particularly in situations of crisis, controversy, and disagreements.

In closing, we look forward to working with you to create a better future for generations to come. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to work with us in a shared pursuit of our mission to ensure that Illinois remains a global leader in diversity and inclusion.

Signed,

Inclusive Illinois Committee

CC: Board of Trustees