

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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



August 18, 2016

Ronald Bailey, Chair  
*Vacant*, Vice Chair  
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Ave Alvarado  
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Janice Collins  
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Joycelyn Landrum-Brown  
Leslie Morrow

Kevin Mumford  
Kimberly Otchere  
Gigi Secuban  
Jamie Singson  
Wallace Southerland, III  
Medra Roberts-Southerland,  
*ex-officio*

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this letter is to request your service on the Chancellor and Provost Committee on Race and Ethnicity (CORE). Ronald Bailey, Chair and Professor of African American Studies, has graciously agreed to continue to serve as the Chair. We are currently seeking a 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 CORE 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 the following efforts:

- a. engaging with the Office of the Provost and the Academic Senate to work on the implementation of the U.S. ethnic minority course as a General Education requirement;
- b. continued involvement in the campus enrollment management efforts;
- c. exploring ways to connect with students from the United States and international students;
- d. focusing on graduate education diversity issues; and
- e. working collaboratively with other diversity committees and stakeholders.

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Given current fiscal constraints, we will not be allocating a pre-established budget to the CORE. 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