

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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



August 18, 2016

Rosa Milagros Gilbertz Santos, Chair  
Jennifer Bernhard  
Robert Hughes  
Cindy Ingold  
Harley Johnson  
Nadya Mason  
Erik McDuffie  
Colleen Murphy

Maria Ochoa Woods  
Sandra Rodriguez-Zas  
Peter Sauer  
Kelly Tappenden  
Marci Uihlein  
Jaya Yodh  
Medra Roberts-Southerland, *ex-officio*

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this letter is to request your service on the Chancellor and Provost Gender Equity Council (GEC). Rosa Milagros Gilbertz Santos, Professor, and Interim Head, Department of Special Education in the College of Education, has graciously agreed to serve as chair of this year's Committee.

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 Gender Equity Council to work closely with Associate Chancellor Zerai to help inform and support that very important work. Additionally, we encourage you to continue your work of ongoing GEC initiatives, including:

- a. support efforts by the Office of the Provost to revisit and disseminate the revised *Modified Teaching Duties for Faculty Members with a New Child*;
- b. work jointly with the Provost's Office to host the annual Celebration of Women event;
- c. continue to engage with various colleges and units to promote a healthy work climate;
- d. continue work on recognizing the achievements of women at Illinois for the Sesquicentennial Celebration; and
- e. work collaboratively with other diversity committees and stakeholders.

We ask that your Committee provide a report to Associate Chancellor Zerai in May, 2017 that describes the Committee's work during 2016-2017 and goals for 2017-2018.

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