

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



December 13, 2017

Trolling Attacks on Academic Researchers Task Force-REVISED

William Bernhard, Office of the Provost, *Chair*
Esther Cha, Technology Services
Lt. Joan Fiesta, UIPD
Chuck Geigner, Technology Services
Gloriana Gonzalez Rivera, College of Education
Robin Kaler, Public Affairs
Sandy Kopels, School of Social Work
William Maher, Library
Lisa Power, University Counsel
Assata Zerai, Office of the Chancellor

Dear Colleagues,

From time to time a faculty member's research will come to the attention of some members of the public who verbally attack and even threaten the faculty member. As a result, the faculty member may not feel safe.

I am requesting that this task force develop a protocol for how the University handles such a situation. Please consider the following issues:

- What actions, if any, should the University take to protect the faculty member from these sorts of attacks? For instance, would it be appropriate to block emails? Remove the faculty member's contact information from the web?
- What actions, if any, should unit executive officers take in these situations? Are there best practices surrounding statements of support for the faculty member?
- Under what conditions should the University invoke these protocols?

I would appreciate your recommendations by Monday, March 12, 2018.

Sincerely,

John P. Wilkin
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

c: Robert Jones, Chancellor
Andreas Cangellaris, Incoming Provost