

December 20, 2019

Dear Central Family,

Before we close out the semester, I wanted to update you on two important advancements in our efforts to improve the campus culture: the formation of the President's Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the campus climate survey.

The Commission met in late November and received its charge. Among its responsibilities, the Commission will review and monitor our diversity, equity and inclusion practices, policies, climate, data, and research and will host an annual diversity summit. The Commission also will advise me and the Executive Committee in establishing institutional diversity goals and setting priorities and will work with deans, department chairs, and other institutional representatives to develop innovative curricular strategies.

The Commission membership is large—36 will serve as “Diversity Liaisons” (see the list below). Nominations were sought from schools, departments, affinity groups, the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association. In bringing together this assembly of voices, we will be provided with knowledge and perspectives that represent many facets of our campus community.

The Diversity Liaisons will lead the transformation of our campus climate and will help us develop a network of faculty, staff, and students who are determined and enthusiastic about promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within their individual colleges and/or departments.

I wish to express my appreciation to those who have agreed to serve on the Commission. I am pleased with their work, already underway, with the Office of Institutional Research & Assessment (OIRA) and the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI). They have been working collaboratively with the highly-respected UCLA Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) to prepare for the launch of a campus climate survey of faculty, staff, and students.

The survey launch date has been set for **February 3, 2020**. For meaningful results, your participation, as well as your help in encouraging colleagues and students to do the same, will be critical. In working together to address areas of concern and areas of strength, we will be successful in establishing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive campus culture.

We will be back in touch as the launch date approaches. In the meantime, have a wonderful winter break!

Sincerely,

Zulma R. Toro  
President

## **President's Commission on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

### *Chair*

Rusty Barcelo\* Interim Vice President, Office of Equity and Inclusion

### *Members:*

Helen Abadiano Director, Center for East Asian Studies

Abigail Adams Professor, Department of Anthropology

Ravi Ajodhi Student

Jean Alicandro Director, Residence Life

Toyin Ayeni Chair, Committee on the Concerns of Women

Patricia Bingham Student

Jan Bishop Associate Professor & Vice President, Faculty Senate

Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin Coordinator, Women's Center

Juan Coronado Assistant Professor, Department of History

Julie deFalco Controller, Budget Office

Gabriela Flores-Erazo Associate, Human Resources

Guruprasad Gadgil Associate Professor, Dept. of Management Information Systems

Chris Gutierrez Coordinator, Office of Veterans Affairs

Larry Hall Director, Office of Recruitment and Admissions

Shelly Jones Professor, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences

Rene Karas Coordinator, Facilities Operations

Briana Kuo Student

Catherine Kurkjian Professor, Dept. of Literacy, Elementary & Early Childhood Education

Charisse Levchak Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology

William Mann Professor & Director, LGBT Center

Tatiana Melendez-Rhodes Assistant Professor, Dept. of Counselor Education & Family Therapy

Joanne Milke Chair, Disability Advisory Committee

Momar Ndiaye Director, Center for International Education

Olusegun Odesina Professor, Computer electronics & Graphics Technology

Evelyn Phillips	Professor, African American Studies & Anthropology
Enrique Romero	Technical Services, Information Technology Dept.
Elizabeth Spear	Director, The Learning Center
Nicole Spencer	Assistant, Registrar Services
Sarah Stookey	Associate Professor, Dept. of Management and Organization
Amy Strickland	Associate Director for Compliance, Athletics
Jesse Turner	Professor, Dept. of Literacy, Elementary & Early Childhood Education
Joanna Flanagan*	Victim Advocate, Office of Equity & Inclusion
Carolyn Magnan*	University Counsel
Awilda Reasco*	Director, Pre-Collegiate and Access Services
Christina Robinson*	Interim Associate Vice President, Graduate Studies
Pamela Whitley*	Senior Officer, Office of Equity & Inclusion

\*Ex-Officio Member