Diversity Realized at Illinois through Visioning Excellence (DRIVE) Committee

Matthew Ando, Mathematics (Chair)  Colleen Murphy, Law
C.L. Cole, Media and Cinema Studies, GWS  Yoon Pak, Ed. Policy, Organization and Leadership
Lance Cooper, Physics  Jamelle Sharpe, Law
Ollie Watts Davis, Music  Monika Stodolska, Recreation, Sport and Tourism
Nicki Engeseth, Food Science & Human Nutrition  Nathan Todd, Psychology
Wendy Heller, Psychology  Nicolas Yunes, Physics
Cindy Ingold, Library  Heidi Johnson, OAE, ex officio
Denise Lewin Loyd, Business Administration  Nizam Arain, OAE, ex officio

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Diversity Realized at Illinois by Visioning Excellence (DRIVE) Committee for AY 2022-2023. By recommending policies, developing best practices, and advising campus administrators, the Committee supports the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion’s (OVCDEI) efforts to recruit and retain outstanding faculty and postdocs from historically underrepresented populations.

Professor Matthew Ando has agreed to serve as the Committee’s chair this academic year. The Committee’s specific charge for AY 2022-2023 is as follows:

1. Continue to administer the Illinois Distinguished Postdoctoral Research Associate and Visiting Scholars Program (“DRIVE Postdoc Program”) by: (1) selecting new postdocs for AY 2022-2023; (2) reviewing current postdocs’ progress toward tenure-stream appointments in their departments; (3) holding a postdoc research symposium in Spring 2023; and (4) facilitating consistent contacts among the Committee’s members, postdocs, and mentors.

2. Building on the work of the 2021-2022 DRIVE Committee, make a recommendation as to whether Illinois should join the University of California Partnership for Faculty Diversity.

3. Study whether a differently designed postdoc program might be more effective in recruiting candidates to the tenure-stream faculty, in fields where the DRIVE Postdoc Program has not been widely adopted.
4. Review the reports of the Chancellor’s Call to Action to Address Racism and Social Justice Working Groups and the DRIVE Committee (see Spring 2021 reports) and make recommendations for implementation as relevant for DRIVE’s remit of recruiting and retaining faculty and postdocs from underrepresented groups.

5. In view of the recent updating of the OVCDEI and OAE web sites, review and recommend updates to materials related to the DRIVE committee, including materials concerning faculty recruitment and retention, the workshops for search committees, and the DRIVE Postdoc Program.

6. Provide advice and support to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion and the Office of the Provost as they develop a new associate/vice provost position.


Diversity, equity, and inclusion are top priorities for our campus, and I look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goals for our campus community. Thank you in advance for your service on this important committee.

Sincerely,

Sean Garrick
Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Cc: William T. Bernhard, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost