



September 27, 2023

Reflection Space Working Group

Ross Wantland, <i>Chair</i>	Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Awad Awad	Salaam Middle East North Africa Cultural Center
Brian Bundren	Office of the Provost
Charlotte Davidson	Native American House
Alana Harris	Campus Recreation
Melissa McDonald	University Housing
Emily McKown	Religious Workers Association
Tim Newman	University Library
Jeffrey Royce	College of Education
Rebecca Salzman	Illini Union
Deidre Weathersby	Counseling Center
Nizam Arain, <i>ex officio</i>	Office for Access and Equity

Dear Colleagues:

Religious, spiritual and secular inclusion has become increasingly important on college campuses. While the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has a rich history of religious and interfaith engagement, the campus does not currently have a policy on the provision of reflection spaces for prayer, meditation, or other reflective practices. Currently, there are five unique reflection rooms operated across campus, but the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign does not have common guidelines or expectations for the construction, use, or maintenance of these facilities.

This working group will review the work and recommendations of the informal Prayer & Reflection Space working group that convened in 2021-2022 to develop a proposed set of campus guidance for Reflection Rooms on campus. This working group will work with students and staff/faculty to achieve the following:

- Identify and confirm existing reflection spaces.
- Engage campus stakeholders to identify reflection space needs.
- Develop protocol to regularly review and assess known reflection spaces.
- Determine standard furnishing and equipment for reflection spaces.
- Identify funding for renovations and equipment maintenance.
- Develop a campus reflection room policy to include recommended amenities, use, and maintenance.
- Identify web space/app to maintain list of reflection spaces and other relevant information.
- Develop standardized reflection space use guidelines.

Ross Wantland will chair the working group. The group will meet monthly beginning in October 2023 and for the duration of the fall semester. The working group shall submit a status report reflecting its progress, noting any challenges or barriers to its work, and its recommendations for future action and implementation by February 1, 2024. This working group will conclude following the report submission.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to doing this important work for the campus. Kellye Smith will contact you shortly to schedule meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gioconda J. Guerra P.".

Gioconda Guerra Pérez, PhD
Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity

Cc: Jim Hintz, PhD
Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success, Inclusion and Belonging