

June 16, 2022

*Sent Via Email*

**Transfer Student Experience Task Force**

Brenda Lindsey, School of Social Work, *Chair*  
Kimberly Alexander-Brown, Minority Student Affairs  
April Carter, College of Education  
Caitlin Clarke, College of Applied Health Sciences  
Katie Clark, College of Media  
James Fry, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, New Student Programs  
Stephon Fuqua, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics  
Brianna Gregg, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences  
Laura Hendley, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Ann Marie Morgan, Office of the Dean of Students  
Jacki Rand, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Bob Steltman, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Dustin Tarter, Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
Nancy Walsh, Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
Ross Wantland, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Destini Coleman, Student Representative  
Lauren Zylke-Reyes, Student Representative  
Kathy Martensen, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, *ex-officio*

Dear Colleagues,

In a collaborative effort between the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, we are launching the **Transfer Student Experience Task Force**. The need for this work grew out of recommendations from the Student Success Initiative (SSI) task groups, the Chancellor's Call to Action working groups, and the President's Access 2030 initiative. Each of the aforementioned groups has explored the student experience on our campus, how we define student success, and the work needed to achieve a common goal of institution-level improvements that address equity and inclusion. A pressing and recurring need identified across all three initiatives relates to the transfer student experience. The landscape of the transfer experience is changing, and campus is interested in exploring opportunities for programming and outreach to these students.

The Transfer Student Experience Task Force will be chaired by Brenda Lindsey, Associate

Professor and Director of the BSW Program in the School of Social Work. This group is charged with examining the changing landscape of the transfer student experience; including new opportunities for admission and recruitment, determining existing policies and structures that present barriers, and recommending practices to support transfer student retention and inclusion in our community. The work of this group will take place over the next two years. In this initial phase, we would like your group to focus on the following areas and recommend items both for immediate implementation as well as those requiring further study.

- Articulation of a comprehensive approach for addressing the transfer student experience related to their sense of belonging, campus engagement, and awareness of campus resources to support their success.
- Exploring opportunities to recruit transfer students and identify barriers to their success including the following:
  - Review the traditional course articulation process and the impact on the transfer student experience;
  - Research non-traditional mechanisms for earning academic credit not currently employed on our campus but commonly accepted by higher education institutions across the US including, but not limited to: CLEP, ACE credit, Experiential Learning and/or Prior Learning Assessment;
  - Expand pathway programs and efforts aimed at increasing the number of students transferring to UIUC from within and beyond the state of Illinois. Review relevant legislation and recommend strategies for participation in these initiatives, including strategies to grow financial incentives like scholarship opportunities;
  - Explore options for broadened participation in the Illinois Articulation Initiative.
- Reviewing academic policies and practices impacting transfer student success, including but not limited to [3-801](#) Credit Requirements for Degrees, including reference to the student codes or analogous policy documents of other peer institutions that exhibit best practices.

With a broad charge focused on a group of students with a diverse set of needs, your approach to this work requires engaging with a broader audience. We believe it would be best to organize into targeted subgroups which may require recommendations for expanding the task force membership. Additionally, we encourage broader consultation with colleagues as the recommendations take shape.

The work of this task force is guided by foundational core values that promote systemic change across the university. Please review and reference the core values statement from the Student Success Initiative which is enclosed with this charge letter. With students at



the heart of every decision, these core values are embedded throughout our work to preclude racial equity gaps, inconsistencies, and miscommunication between institutional stakeholders. Common language fostering an inclusive, anti-racist environment and an unwavering commitment to student completion shall be derived from these core values and should guide our outcomes.

We are grateful for your willingness to serve and will look forward to receiving the team's recommendations.

Sincerely,



Sean Garrick  
Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion



Danita M. Brown Young  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



Andreas Cangellaris  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost  
M.E. Van Valkenburg Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Enclosure: Student Success Initiative Core Values