To: All Faculty, Students, and Staff Members  
From: Eric D. Isaacs, Provost  
Subject: Update on Campus Diversity and Inclusion Efforts  
Date: January 14, 2015

In December, the President and I wrote about actions we are taking as part of our institutional commitment to Diversity and Inclusion. I am writing to give you a brief update and invite your participation.

I will host an event to discuss campus climate on Thursday, January 22 from 6-8pm in Regenstein 122. The conversation we have at this event will give us a chance to talk about the best ways to ensure that our climate is one where the greatest variety of perspectives can come together within this academic community. The format will be small group discussions with faculty, students and other individuals in university leadership roles. Due to size and format, we are limiting the event to 150 participants. The event is co-sponsored by Associate Dean of Students Karlene Burrell-McRae, Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. Please RSVP at https://universityprovost.wufoo.com/forms/conversation-about-campus-climate/.

As we announced previously, we are forming a new Diversity Advisory Council to be chaired by Professor Adam Green. The Council will advise us on broad approaches to issues of campus climate and specific further steps we can take to increase the diversity of our faculty, students, and staff. We have invited a number of faculty members to serve on the Council and we expect the first meeting to occur in early February. We are currently accepting applications from students who wish to serve on the Council at http://diversity.uchicago.edu/resources/fsdae-application.shtml. Applications are due on Sunday, January 25. Once formed, we will add a page on the Diversity and Inclusion website where the community can find out about the Council, its members, and activities.

I also want to remind you that this Thursday, January 15th at 6:00 pm in Rockefeller Chapel, we will gather for our long-standing annual celebration of the life and legacy of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. will offer the keynote address.

Our commitment to a robust exchange of ideas requires us to actively cultivate a campus climate that welcomes talented faculty, students, and staff of all backgrounds. What I have outlined above represents a small piece of this ongoing work. Many other activities and resources are listed on the Diversity and Inclusion website: diversity.uchicago.edu.