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University-wide Climate Survey in full swing
Nearly 12,000 responses as of Nov. 11

CHICAGO — The University of Illinois is encouraging all students and employees to complete the first university-wide climate survey that will measure student and employee perceptions of the academic, working and social environment on the three campuses.

Nearly 12,000 students, faculty and staff have completed the survey – administered by the Survey Research Lab at the University of Illinois at Chicago and managed by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs – so far. The survey ends Nov. 23.

“This is an important tool that the university will use to make positive changes,” said Mrinalini “Meena” Rao, former vice president for academic affairs who has led the project.

Christophe Pierre, who joined the university in October as the vice president for academic affairs, stresses “The extent to which members of the university experience inclusiveness, professionalism and recognition creates the climate for working, learning and living at the university. We need each and every person here to participate.”

An email was sent to all students, faculty and staff on the campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield on Oct. 26 and 27 containing a link to the survey and personal login information. Survey questions, estimated to take around 15 minutes to complete, are specific to the participant’s affiliation to the university.

Participants will be asked for their opinions on the university’s structures, policies and practices; the attitudes and values of its members and leaders; and the quality of personal interactions. It will assess perceptions of inclusiveness, diversity, friendliness, cooperation, professionalism, recognition, respect, accessibility, support and opportunities for advancement.

Planning for the survey began in November of 2010, when President Michael J. Hogan directed the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs with conducting a university-wide climate survey. A subcommittee of the university-wide Diversity and Access Task Force then began reviewing more than 500 questions from historic climate surveys on U of I campuses and similar institutions.

Once the survey results have been finalized, Hogan will formally charge Pierre to form a cross-campus advisory committee to review the results and make recommendations. The survey will be conducted every two to three years, in order to track changes.

For more information on the survey and how it is being administered, visit www.uillinois.edu/ClimateSurvey.

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The University of Illinois is a world leader in research and discovery, the largest educational institution in the state with more than 79,000 students, 24,000 faculty and staff, and campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The U of I awards more than 19,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees annually.