

September 2, 2009

Dear Campus Community member:

At UW-Whitewater, we seek to create an environment characterized by equal access for all employees regardless of cultural differences, and where individuals are not just tolerated but valued. A welcoming and inclusive climate is grounded in respect, nurtured by dialogue, and evidenced by a pattern of civil interaction. The UW-W Diversity Plan provides a four-pronged framework for our efforts in achieving a welcoming and inclusive climate on campus, and the Equity Scorecard has given us data for establishing benchmarks in meeting our goals for diversity. Next month, as part of the University of Wisconsin Systemwide Climate Project, we will launch a survey to assess the current climate in order to identify important issues and then to create ways for the University to address them.

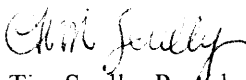
UW-Whitewater is one of four System institutions involved in Tier II of the Campus Climate Project, with UW-Eau Claire, UW-Parkside, and UW-River Falls. Five institutions, including UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Stevens Point, and UW Colleges, completed the survey last year as Tier I participants. Our goal is to have 100% participation in the survey among faculty, staff, students, and administration within the campus community.

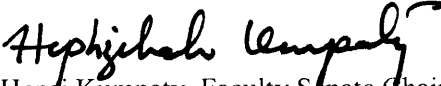
We hope that you will take time to help us understand the current climate at UW-Whitewater. The survey is designed to provide information on both positive and challenging aspects of our climate. The survey is your opportunity to describe your own personal experiences, your observations, and to offer suggestions for change that might enhance our climate. The data will be used to identify strategies for addressing potential challenges and for supporting positive diversity initiatives. Your answers to the survey will be submitted directly to an external agency, Rankin and Associates, for tabulation. All of your answers are confidential, and all results will be reported in group form only. You will not be identifiable as an individual. Your participation in this project is voluntary. This survey has been reviewed and approved by UW-W's Institutional Review Board.


In the next few weeks, you will be given additional information about the survey, including a URL to access the survey. The survey will be "live" from October 1 through October 15. We urge you to take the 20-40 minutes needed to answer the survey questions. If you have questions about the survey, you may contact the co-Principal Investigators, Susan Rankin (sue@rankin-consulting.com), Sharon Wilhelm, Interim Associate Vice President of the Office of Policy Analysis and Research (OPAR), UW System (swilhelm@uwsa.edu), or Barbara Monfils, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UW-Whitewater (monfilsb@uww.edu).


Thank you in advance for your contribution to this important project.

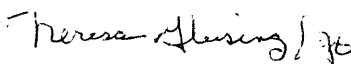

Richard Telfer, Chancellor


Tim Scully, President, WSG


Hepsî Kumpaty, Faculty Senate Chair


Denise Ehlen, Academic Staff
Assembly Chair
(response pending)


Mike Sacco, President,
WELA


Theresa Gleesing, President,
Local 1131