

To the UConn Community:

I write to you today to announce the members of two different groups that will play key roles in the future of diversity and inclusion at UConn: the search committee for our next Chief Diversity Officer and the President's Council on Race and Diversity.

I'm pleased to share the [full membership of the search committee here](#) which will be chaired by Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, Professor of History and Latino & Latin American Studies and the Director of our Hartford campus.

I want to thank every member of the committee for agreeing to undertake this important search. We will seek candidates who have the vision and leadership needed to significantly advance diversity and inclusion at UConn, help cultivate and nurture an environment that supports those values and can play a lead role in effectively confronting acts that may harm our efforts.

The search will begin this semester and likely conclude during the spring 2020 semester. Finalists will meet with groups of students, faculty and staff during their campus visits this spring.

In addition, I'm also very pleased to announce the membership of the [President's Council on Race and Diversity](#). I received about 100 expressions of interest from our students, from which 16 were selected. The letters expressing interest that I received were incredibly thoughtful, compelling and even moving; choosing only 16 was an immensely difficult task. I am proud that so many of our students are eager to play a leadership role at UConn. There are many opportunities to do so.

As you will recall, the council has three purposes:

- To identify with the President the direction and strategic priorities that relate to identity, diversity and inclusion for the University.
- To advise the President and serve as a source of ideas for future planning that embrace and strengthen the University's commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- To serve as ambassadors to actively engage and understand the student experience at UConn.

I want to thank every student who took the time to express their interest in serving on this council.

As I noted in several discussions I have had over the last week: at UConn, we have an administration, a board of trustees and community committed to making visible progress toward the culture and environment we value. That is one in which students from traditionally underrepresented groups are present in numbers sufficient to prevent the isolation of mind and spirit, and in which each person is appreciated for their unique contribution to the life and mission of this great university.

Both the search for our next CDO and the President's Council on Race and Diversity will be critical as we work to achieve the goals and aspirations we have set for ourselves.

Sincerely,

Tom
Thomas Katsouleas
President
University of Connecticut