

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT CHICAGO

Gender & Sexuality Center (MC 369)  
1180 Behavioral Sciences Building  
1007 W. Harrison St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7140

February 26, 2009

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, Friends, and Community Members,

Over the past year, we've heard a lot about "change" and UIC is not exempt.

In mid-November of 2008, UIC's Gender & Sexuality Center (formerly the Office of GLBT Concerns) Director Dr. Patrick Finnessy left and I was appointed by Interim Vice Provost Bette Bottoms as Interim Director while a search is conducted for the new Director. I am enjoying and appreciating this leadership position within the GSC, but look forward to returning to the post of Assistant Director when the Director position is filled. Meanwhile, GSC continues to serve and organize quality programs for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the Chicago community.

This set of events presents us with an important opportunity for assessing the Center, its needs, its mission, and its leadership. There is clearly an urgency to fill the Director's position with thoughtfulness and intention. I am committed to helping facilitate discussions and explorations of what the GSC could be.

To this end and at the recommendation of the GSC Advisory Board, I'm excited to announce a forum for coming together and discussing the center and its future: a GSC Town Hall meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2009; 3:00-5:00 p.m., Room 140 BSB, 1007 W. Harrison St., Chicago.

There are two simple goals of this Town Hall Meeting: (a) First, to bring the diverse LGBTQA UIC and Chicago communities together in an open discourse, and (b) Second, to facilitate a discussion of what new versions of the GSC might look like. For example, should there be a shift in the Director's role and responsibilities? Should the GSC include more focus on academic research? Has the GSC reached its full potential, or can reshaping or reformulation make it a better resource for all who are served by the center?

In closing, I hope that you will attend the GSC Town Hall or participate in some form, because the GSC belongs to all of us.

Sincerely,

Liz Thomson Interim Director



*LGBT Education, Outreach, Research and Support*

Phone (312) 413-8619 • Fax (312) 996-4688