

Board Meeting  
January 15, 2009

ESTABLISH THE CENTER ON DEMOCRACY IN A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY,  
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST, URBANA

**Action:** Approve the Establishment of the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society, Office of the Provost, Urbana

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the Office of the Provost to establish the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society.

The Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society is a unique research institute organized around a commitment to the practice of democracy, equality, and social justice within a changing multiracial U.S. society. A central aim of the Center is to promote multiple and interdisciplinary approaches for examining the organization of society relating to the racially and ethnically diverse populations in the U.S. at the beginning of the twenty-first century. In addition to analysis of the national dynamics of racial divisions and of democratic possibilities, the Center supports related studies of a transnational and international comparative nature. The Center includes a network of University of Illinois affiliated scholars with an expertise in and sensitivity to the

persistent and significant role of race in many aspects of life in the United States. The Center's three core principles are to:

1. Learn how to fully realize the benefits of diversity, negotiate conflicts, and form coalitions with individuals and groups of various racial and ethnic backgrounds;
2. Empower members of the University of Illinois community to live in racially diverse communities, maintain friendships with people of different backgrounds and function more effectively in an increasingly diverse workplace by teaching and learning about racial diversity in formal classroom activities and informal interactions on campus; and,
3. Prepare students for civic engagement and participation in a democratic society.

The Center was granted temporary center status by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in 2002 and now seeks permanent center status.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.