Recent Activity

- Board of Directors statement on civility
- Strategic planning process
- Alumni recognition at Urbana and Chicago
- Advocacy events
Statement on Civility

February 14, 2014

The University of Illinois Alumni Association is one of the largest in the nation, with more than 700,000 members, including nearly 400,000 in the state of Illinois. It has served the University in a self-governing capacity for over 140 years. We, as temporary stewards of this venerable organization, write to express our support for recent efforts of the University, and of the Urbana-Champaign campus in particular, to promote civility and inclusiveness in our University community.

Recently, a small number of students were unhappy that classes were not cancelled during one of the many particularly cold days on the Urbana campus this year. Regrettably, and remarkably, they responded through social media by posting ethnically insensitive and sexist comments about Chancellor Phyllis Wise, comments that were wholly out of step with the traditions of the University of Illinois.

In the wake of those offensive and inappropriate comments, our University community broadly united in support of civility and inclusiveness. Notably, University President Bob Easter and Board of Trustees Chairman Chris Kennedy issued a powerful public statement on the subject. Student leaders also broadly and quickly spoke in support of our shared values of decency, inclusiveness and sensitivity to others. At the request of Inside Higher Education, Chancellor Wise, herself, wrote a thoughtful commentary focusing on the bigger issues and shared it with the campus community. A campus-wide forum was held last week during which these important topics were discussed at length.

One of the roles of the Alumni Association is to remind members of the University community of our many fine traditions, and our history, at the University of Illinois. In that regard, it is important to know that one of the proudest chapters in the history of our great University was its pioneering
Strategic Planning Process

- Review of consultants
- Feedback from internal and external stakeholders
- Six-month timeframe
Advocacy Events

- May 13
  - Reception at Lincoln Museum

- May 14
  - Coffee meeting at Governor’s Mansion

- Illinois Connection legislative visits