President Loh and the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) request that the Joint President/Senate Inclusion & Respect Task Force consider how best to nurture a climate that is respectful and inclusive of all members of our campus community, stands against hate, and reaffirms the values that define us a University.

Specifically, we ask that you:

1. Collect input from and engage the entire campus community, including faculty, staff, students, administrators, and alumni, as well as representatives of the surrounding community, on the current campus climate and on the difficult issues at the intersections of free speech, hate speech, and freedom of association.

2. Assess the climate on diversity and inclusion on the campus and how it is experienced by members of the campus community. Review existing data on campus climate and gather information from members of the campus community from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including underrepresented minorities and members of the international and LGBTQ communities.

3. Consult with representatives of the Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ODI), the Office of Student Conduct, the University of Maryland Police Department (UMPD), the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct (OCRSM), Office of Rights and Responsibilities in the Department of Resident Life, the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Department of Athletics, University Marketing and Communications, the Office of Undergraduate Studies, and other relevant units at the University.
4. Review the University of Maryland Non-Discrimination Policy and Procedures and other relevant University and University System of Maryland policies.

5. Review the University’s procedures for reporting and resolving reports of hate, bias, racism, and discrimination.

6. Review information on the response to past reports of hate and bias incidents at the University from OCRSM, UMPD, ODI, and any other relevant University offices.

7. Review and assess current resources, programs, and outreach efforts to (1) educate the campus community, and (2) support those affected by racism and discrimination, and their overall effectiveness.

8. Review current cultural competency initiatives and trainings throughout the University and consider the effectiveness of these efforts in creating an inclusive campus environment.

9. Review research related to race/ethnicity, discrimination, and bias in higher education.

10. Review and assess best practices at our peer institutions.

11. Review higher education professional association guidance addressing hate speech and campus climate issues.

12. Consider how to evaluate the needs of underrepresented groups and develop strategies to assess the efficacy of efforts to address those needs and create a more inclusive environment.

13. Consider how best to differentiate between free speech and hate speech in University policies and procedures.

14. Consider how appropriate communication and public awareness efforts should be used to promote a more inclusive campus climate.

15. Develop strategies for fostering a campus environment that is intolerant of hate, bias, and racism, including any necessary educational or training initiatives for students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Consider how these strategies should be implemented and how they can be evaluated for effectiveness.

16. Develop a statement on the University’s core values and consider how those values are instilled in students, faculty, and staff. If appropriate, consider how to enhance understanding of our core values and develop strategies to reinforce them over time.
17. Consult with the appropriate Senate committees on any proposed revisions to University policies and procedures.

18. Consult with the University’s Office of General Counsel on any proposed recommendations.

19. If appropriate, make recommendations on revisions to University policies and procedures as well as on appropriate strategies for fostering an inclusive campus community.

We ask that you submit your report and recommendations to the Senate and the President’s Offices no later than March 30, 2018. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Reka Montfort in the Senate Office, extension 5-5804.