

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



November 16, 2017

Food (in)Security Strategy Task Force

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Jesse Ribot
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Dear Colleagues:

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has seen tremendous change and progress regarding issues in the food security arena over the last three years. The International Food Security at Illinois program launched an initiative on Big Data, Food Security and the Environment in April 2016, the Food Security Symposium held its third conference in Spring 2017, and a team of researchers received a grant to address food security and infrastructure issues. There are additional pockets of research on this topic by at least 17 faculty from Illinois resulting in over 100 news articles, according to Experts Illinois Research profile. These are all notable achievements in our efforts to meet the food security-related goals of the university's 2013-2016 strategic plan.

To further build on this progress, to contribute to our next phase of strategic planning, and to create the best possible foundation for future success in this area, we are initiating the development of a comprehensive strategy for food (in)security research, education and engagement.

Based on consultation with campus leaders, including the deans and institute directors with whom you are associated, you have been identified to contribute critically to this process by serving on the Food (in)Security Strategy Task Force. Alex Winter-Nelson has agreed to lead this Task Force, whose efforts will culminate in a report to the Chancellor and Provost.

In carrying out its strategy making effort, the task force should explicitly address the following:

- In what areas does Illinois have the greatest opportunity to positively impact state, national and global food (in)security through research, education and engagement?

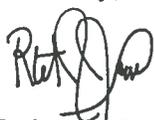
- What opportunities and challenges do we face in food (in)security-related research and education over the next five to ten years?
- What specific actions would be most effective in realizing our potential in food (in)security education, research and engagement? What new investments would be necessary to implement those actions? Please distinguish short-(24 months), medium-(3-5 years), and long-term horizons (5-10 years) for the actions.
- How can we better leverage our research strengths to enhance the university's educational mission in food (in)security-related fields?
- The area of food (in)security presents many opportunities for community engagement. How can we best engage our local community through the food security?

The Task Force may wish to consider additional questions to help guide the development of multiple strategies for food (in)security at our institution. In producing the comprehensive strategy, we ask that you develop, at the outset of your efforts, a process for engaging key internal and external stakeholders and drawing on the diversity of disciplinary expertise on the campus.

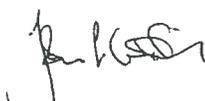
We would like to receive your presentation as an initial report no later than January 15, 2018, and we would like to invite a representative from your group to present your findings at a broader planning meeting on January 26, 2018. A report will be due in February, 2018. Please contact Staci Provezis (sprovez2@illinois.edu) in the Provost's Office with questions or requests that emerge during your review.

Your willingness to serve on this task force is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones
Chancellor



John P. Wilkin
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
and Provost

c: S. Provezis