TO: The Faculty Affairs Committee

FROM: The Faculty Diversity and & Equity Committee (FDEC)

SUBJECT: Request for Reconsideration of Decision by FAC regarding academic calendar and religious and significant holidays

It has come to the attention of the FDEC that FAC decided to leave the beginning of the Fall Quarter in 2015 and 2018 on Yom Kippur. This is the most significant Jewish holiday and places our faculty, staff and students in an extremely difficult decision to attend school/work and thus to violate one’s religious beliefs. This conflict is paramount to opening day being held on Christmas. Thus this decision is perceived as offensive and insensitive to those of the Jewish faith on our campus. While we do not believe this was your intent it is in fact the effect of it. Therefore we encourage the FAC to reconsider its decision and find a solution to this conflict. We know this can be accomplished with careful consideration of all the relevant factors.