December 21st, 2009

TO: NEW TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND PROGRAM/PROJECT ASSISTANTS

FROM: Luis A. Piñero, Assistant Vice Provost for Workforce Equity and Diversity

RE: Graduate Assistants’ Equity Workshops

During Spring 2010, UW-Madison will again offer professional development sessions for Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Program/Project Assistants (PAs) focusing on diversity, discrimination, and harassment. The sessions are presented by the Office for Equity and Diversity and the McBurney Disability Resource Center, in collaboration with the Theatre for Cultural and Social Awareness (TCSA) and the Office of Human Resource Development (OHRD). Participants receive information about relevant laws, policies, regulations, and resources; explore the practical applications of these policies to classroom and learning environments; and participate in facilitated conversations designed to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and excellence through diversity. The sessions promote the development of competencies that sustain and strengthen our position of preeminence in research and higher education. We strongly encourage you to attend and participate.

Under the current collective bargaining agreement between the Teaching Assistants Association (TAA) and the State of Wisconsin, attendance at one of these sessions is critical because attendance is required in order to be reappointed as a TA beyond one additional semester. Due to the lateness of the contract approval, all current TAs who have not attended diversity issues training during the 2009-2010 academic year will be able to be reappointed for Semester I of the 2010-11 academic year and attend the training during that semester. If they do not attend, they cannot be reappointed for Semester II of the 2010-2011 academic year.

The schedule of sessions, electronic copies of the materials referenced during each presentation and on-line registration are available at: [http://www.oed.wisc.edu/workshop.html](http://www.oed.wisc.edu/workshop.html). Please register online to ensure that the reserved rooms can accommodate the anticipated audience size and that adequate supplies of handouts are available for each session. We can only accommodate approximately 40 registered participants at each Spring 2010 session. Therefore, we may be unable to accommodate participants who do not register online prior to the scheduled session date and time. If you do not register online, we may need to ask you to attend another session. A hard copy of the schedule of session is attached.

Individuals who need an accommodation because of a disability should call the Office for Equity and Diversity for assistance at the numbers listed below.

If you need child-care assistance, please call Community Coordinated Child Care (CCCC) at 271-9181 for information about available day-care facilities. CCCC is a community-based resource and referral service with complete listings of licensed child-care facilities throughout Dane County.
Please contact your department to inquire about specific forms or other requirements for documenting your attendance at these sessions. TAs and PAs who have attended one of these sessions at UW-Madison in the past, need not attend again.

Thank you.

Attachment
  (schedule of session dates and times)

cc:  Academic Personnel Office