

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AND UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE STUDENT
BODY RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE OFFICIAL
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE PRESIDENT SEARCH**

Short Title: Presidential Search Act of 2017

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Sponsors: Sen. Jessica Morgan (Arts and Sciences), Sen. Natalia Bilchuk (Medical), Sen. Brian Czerwonka (Nursing), Sen. Matthew Pennington (Music), Sen. Benjamin Streepy (Business), Sen. Blake Manion (Public Health and Information Sciences), Sen. Katie Bonds (Law), Sen. Meghan Mattingly (Education and Human Development), Sen. Sydney Lucas (Engineering)

Referred to:

Version: First Reading

First Reading: 3/28/2017

Second Reading:

WHEREAS, the University of Louisville (hereafter referred to as “UofL”) had suspended the search for a new President of the university due to an unconstitutional Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, UofL is currently under the direction of its second interim university President, Dr. Greg Postel, after its previous interim President, Dr. Neville Pinto, resigned; and

WHEREAS, the UofL Board of Trustees is now in compliance with the Kentucky State Constitution and thus is legally able to begin the search for a permanent university President; and

WHEREAS, the UofL Student Government Association (hereafter referred to as “SGA”) and the UofL student body have a large stake in the choosing of a new university president; and

WHEREAS, the UofL SGA is the representative institution of the UofL student body and thus is impelled and obligated to recommend criterion on behalf of the student body in the presidential search and selection process; and

WHEREAS, the presidential search should seek to incorporate student interests during all phases of the process;

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, the UofL SGA, on behalf of the UofL student body, puts forth the recommendations and criterion to be used during all phases of the presidential search in evaluating and assessing university presidential candidates as outlined in APPENDIX A following the text of this legislation; and

BE IT FINALLY ENACTED, upon passage of this act, all contents of APPENDIX A shall be united with this bill and presented as a whole to the presidential search committee, the UofL Board of Trustees, the interim President, the interim Provost/Vice President, and all who will be involved with this presidential search.

APPENDIX A

ON THE MATTER OF QUALIFICATIONS, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Possess and demonstrate student-centric leadership and development;
- Possess a doctorate degree in an established field of study within academia from an accredited university;
- Have no less than 10 years of experience in a tenured faculty position at an accredited university within the past 20 years.
- Possess a strong knowledge of university procedures including, but not limited to, academics (including tenure and accreditation), finance (including public and private financing), and budgeting (including income and revenue); and
- Ability to and unwavering promise to follow, uphold, and defend:
 - The mission, vision, and mandate derived from the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 of UofL as a premier, nationally recognized metropolitan research university;
 - The UofL 2020 Plan
 - The 21st Century Initiative.

ON THE MATTER OF EXPERIENCE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Possess extensive experience working with large and small groups, particularly groups in academic and business settings;
- Possess fluency and experience with public university financing;
- Possess experience in the unique set of knowledge required to lead large, research-based undergraduate, graduate, professional, health sciences, and postgraduate programs;
- Possess experience in and ability to manage relations between students, faculty, staff, and university stakeholders; and
- Possess extensive experience in providing resources and addressing concerns expressed by marginalized students, faculty, and staff in academic contexts;
- Demonstrate understanding of UofL's position as a metropolitan research institution.

ON THE MATTER OF STUDENT INCLUSION, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Possess a record of and willingness to foster the advancement and maintenance of a strong and unwavering commitment to diversity inherent in an academic institution including, but not limited to:
 - Race and Ethnicity;
 - Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, Sexual Affectation, and Sexuality;
 - Ability (both physical and mental);
 - Socioeconomic Class;
 - Thought and opinions;
 - Religion, Spirituality, and Belief.
- Commitment to continue and further solidarity with International students at UofL by ensuring the needs and necessary protections of these students so they may receive the same level and security of education bestowed upon all students at UofL;
- Acknowledgement of the unique and critically important status of UofL being the most diverse university in the Commonwealth of Kentucky;
- Commitment to maintain and provide resource centers for marginalized student communities;
- Commitment to continue UofL's pursuit of being the most inclusive and diverse university campus possible so that students may attend UofL without fear;
- Commitment to address in the best manner possible any instance of discrimination on any topic mentioned above in this section; and
- Commitment to address and resolve any instance of sexual abuse or trauma experienced by any UofL student in accordance with all state and federal laws, with the student's needs at the fore.

ON THE MATTER OF ACADEMICS, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Commitment towards bettering the education quality and retention of UofL at all levels of the institution;
- Demonstrate an understanding of UofL's current position with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in regards to accreditation;
- Commitment to the resolution of any and all remaining barriers or concerns regarding accreditation by SACS in a manner that does not compromise the education or position of UofL in any facet;
- Commitment towards the maintenance and furtherance of the diversity of academics provided such diversity is based in fact; and
- Willingness to penalize any faculty member or student in an instructor position who does not embody the commitment to fact and diversity embodied by UofL academics.
- Commitment to upholding unique strengths of all University of Louisville programs, be they undergraduate, graduate, professional, or programmatic;
- Commitment to continue and strengthen the research initiatives of the University of Louisville; and

- Commitment to preserving college affordability in all aspects, including undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.

ON THE MATTERS OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Unwavering promise to ensure all UofL and UofL Foundation documents and proceedings of all matters are made public and accessible by the public; and
- Recognize that students, faculty, staff, and UofL affiliates possess the ability to challenge the university President on all matters, as these groups reserve the right to hold the university President accountable; and
- Commitment to improve the free discourse of university information; and
- Commitment to improve the access to university information by establishing clear and modernized procedures including, but not limited to, information technology and electronic governance.

ON THE MATTER OF STUDENT PRESS AND SPEECH, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Commitment to maintain the independence of student-run media outlets, such as *The Louisville Cardinal*, to publish content without any advance clearance or university oversight; and
- Commitment to maintain UofL's position as a "limited public forum" in accordance with Kentucky State Law and the United States Constitution, Code, and Common Law.

ON THE MATTER OF SUSTAINABILITY, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of UofL in matters including, but not limited to, transportation, facilities management, and energy consumption; and
- Commitment to increase green-based initiatives on campus and on affiliated properties (including any and all Tax Increment Finance Districts (TIFs)).

ON THE MATTER OF CONSTRUCTION, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Recognize the destructive impact of expansion into the surrounding communities located around the Belknap Campus and Health Services Campus by way of new UofL construction, construction of TIF districts, and the construction of affiliated housing structures;
- Commitment to ameliorate the aforementioned impact of UofL expansion in these areas in order to operate amongst these communities, without negatively impacting them; and

- Commitment to build with the most sustainable methods available in materials purchasing and construction processes.

ON THE MATTER OF STUDENT HOUSING, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Commitment to replace dilapidated and unsafe housing structures, including Hilda Threlkeld Hall, Miller Hall, University Tower Apartments, and Johnny Unitas Tower with new, sustainable, UofL-owned, and affordable housing units; and
- Commitment to lower the cost/rent of UofL-owned housing to match market-rate, similarly-positioned housing in Louisville to ensure all students may live in UofL housing without spending more than 30% of personal income on cost/rent, the United States Housing and Urban Development definition of affordable housing.¹

ON THE MATTER OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, the UofL SGA recommends the new university President meet and embody these criteria:

- Recognize and respect the UofL SGA as the official and sole governing body responsible for representing UofL students; and
- Commitment to and willingness to work alongside all SGA members, including all members of the five branches--i.e., Student Senate, Executive Branch, Supreme Court, Student Activities Board, and Engage Lead Serve Board; and
- Commitment to work closely with the elected "Top 4" on the Executive Branch--i.e., Student Body Executive President, Student Body Executive Vice President, Student Body Academic Vice President, and Student Body Services Vice President, on their respective issues; and
- Recognize all legislative matters passed by the Student Senate in the past, present, and in the future as the legitimate voice of the UofL student body; and
- Commitment to continue current levels of funding for the SGA.

¹ Retrieved from: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/glossary/glossary_a.html