

Chair's Report
April 2019
Submitted by John Smith

Strategic Planning: The three workgroups are active and moving forward. I am serving on the Executive Committee, which oversees the workgroups. I am pleased that our meetings have moved from the conceptual realm to “putting rubber on the road.” The three workgroups are tasked with reporting progress at each of our executive committee meetings and given specific goals for the next meeting. We are being well represented on each of the three work groups.

Tuition and Fees: The committee has completed vetting 22 proposals and is finalizing their report of recommendations to go to the Provost. Most of those are very specific to course offerings. Each request is deeply vetted. Only three would be across the board fees for all students and current cumulative total for those is actually less than another current across the board fee that is ending.

Mark Watkins Meeting: Each month the three executive officers meet with Mark Watkins and some other people pursuant to our desired agenda of topics. This month that included Chief Lewis and Dan Durbin. Funding for the expanded DPS presence on the Health Science Campus is expiring in a matter of days. Chief Lewis is looking for ways to continue the additional officer(s) on that campus. I will provide more details as they become available but Chief Lewis is hopeful that some proposals of his are accepted and the program continues. Dan Durbin reported on the MCC Codes and spending specifically for the Medical School. Codes were turned off and a process of requiring approval for purchases was implemented which caused some issues for many departments. Several changes are being considered to reduce those impacts. Those include removing credit card blocks for departments that have a positive margin on university based funding through February 28, lifting the card blocks on cards tied to grants and lifting the card blocks on departments that provide a plan to reduce their spending through the end of the year or at least break even on a monthly basis. We also discussed purchasing contracts and obligations to use contractual vendors even if lower prices are available through other vendors. The restrictions on using contracted vendors are to insure compliance with KRS laws and are not an option for departments to not observe.

Mark Watkins reported an offer has been extended and accepted for the new facilities director. That position is pending Board of Trustees approval and should be announced soon after the April 18 BOT meetings.

Chick Fil A: Permits are in hand and construction/renovation of the space has begun. We anticipate opening in late June. The required permits caused a significant delay in the construction process

HSC Meetings: Krista Wallace Boaz, Faculty Senate Chair, Jonathan Fuller, SGA President and I are starting a new initiative of being on the Health Science Campus on day per month for lunch. Our second of these was held Monday, March 18. Our next one will be Tuesday, April 9 and will be held in the Quad area. There will also be a cookout taking place that day and Dr. Bendapudi will join us to meet and talk with the staff and faculty on the Health Science Campus.

Red Book Review: The Red Book review process is gaining traction. This month we are dealing with leave of absence policies, administrator definitions and CUPA definitions of administrators. This is detailed and important work, which requires deep vetting. Every section of the book will be investigated during this review.

Dr. Bendapudi Meeting: Dr Bendapudi meets with Krista Wallace-Boaz, myself and Jonathan Fuller once a month to discuss anything on our agenda. In the future that group is being expanded to include the Provost and Chief of Staff since they could provide relevant information on many topics we discuss. The items we discussed this month were of a highly confidential nature so I am not able to share those at this point but will when appropriate.

Board of Trustees: Our scheduled March 14 meeting was moved to April 18. This will include both committee meetings as well as a full board meeting. I have not received an agenda yet but will have a complete report in April.

Foundation Board of Directors: We have the important “spend” meeting on Wednesday, April 10. This is where the Foundation gives the University insight on their investments and what portion of those would be safe for the University to spend. This is a critical function with the Foundation and part of the reason for some of the issues we have had to deal with the past several years. I will have a more in depth report in May on those results.

List of Meetings I attended in March:

Monday, March 4, Senate Leadership Meeting, 9:00 AM, MITC

Monday, March 4, Mark Watkins Meeting, 1:00 Grawmeyer

Tuesday, March 5, Strategic Planning Executive Committee, 1:30, Jefferson Room

Thursday, March 7, Tuition and Fees, 2:00 TBD

Monday, March 11, Redbook Review, 10:00 AM, Shumaker 228

Monday, March 11, Staff Senate Regular Meeting, 2:00, HSC CTR Building

Thursday, March 14, HR Benefits Meeting, 3:00 PM, CTR Building

Monday, March 18, Constituents Brown Bag, HSC Noon

Monday, March 18, Strategic Planning Meeting, 1:30, SAC

Friday, March 22, Strategic Planning Executive Committee, 2:00 PM, Jefferson Room

Monday, March 25, Executive Committee, 3:00 PM, SAC

Tuesday, March 26, Red Book Review Committee, 1:30, Shumaker 228

Tuesday, March 26, Tuition and Fees, 3:30 SAC 118

Wednesday, March 27, Dr. Bendapudi, 2:00, Grawmeyer Hall

Friday, March 29, Coffee and Conversation, 8:00 AM, SRC

Friday, March 29, Strategic Planning Executive Committee, 2:00 PM, Jefferson Room