

Chair's Report  
September 2019  
Submitted by John Smith

**Jewish Hospital:** The decision that was made concerning our acquisition of the Jewish Hospital system has the very real potential to be one of the defining moments in the history of our university. I was humbled beyond my ability to express to have the opportunity to represent staff in something of this scope. I will tell you that I asked a lot of questions, did a lot of reading, talked to a lot of people and vetted this as deeply as I am able to do. I am excited for the things I think this acquisition can end up meaning for the University and our staff. I sent out a very detailed note explaining my decision to support the acquisition. If you have questions or concerns that note did not address please do not hesitate to reach out to me. The bottom line is, yes there is still some risk with our new acquisition but the alternatives available presented a much higher level of risk than not taking the action that was done.

**Board of Trustees:** The Board of Trustees met to review and approve the new Strategic Plan. I am excited about the new plan for many reasons. One, it is challenging and I think having tangible, measurable goals that stretch us is a good thing. Two, I really applaud the plan being a three year plan. The old, traditional plans of 10 years or more never made a lot of sense to me. It always seemed like everything was always so far away that things did not matter until time got close. I think the three-year cycle we are on now will eliminate that and keep everyone moving forward resulting in a greater degree of progress. There is a section of the plan that states; "And we will ensure employees are provided and adequate and safe workplace and maintain a healthy work-life balance by improving policies and training leaders to maximize employee potential." I got the floor and made a comment that the aggressive goals and metrics would "shine a light" on that statement, especially the work-life balance language. That there would be challenge in achieving the goals and objectives of the plan while at the same time achieving a work-life balance.

**Shared Governance Meeting:** The shared governance work group will begin in earnest in September. With the number of people gone at different times for vacations etc. in the summer, it was believed the best time to start was after everyone was back and we had the Fall semester off to a good start. I have a

scheduled meeting with Michael Wade Smith soon to discuss the implementation of this project.

**State Legislature Appearance:** I was very excited to be able to represent our staff in speaking to the Finance and Education Committee of the State Legislature on August 20. Dan Durbin, Rick Graycarek and Shannon Rickett did a great job prepping me on the various things that my talk was to cover. I sent a report out earlier on this meeting. If you have more questions on it please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

**List of Meetings I attended in August/September to date:**

**Thursday, August 1, Dental School Orientation, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, CTR Building**

**Thursday, August 1, Transfer Orientation, 4:30 PM, SAC**

**Friday, August 2, President's Cabinet, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, YUM! Center**

**Monday, August 5, Leadership Meeting, 9:00 AM, MITC**

**Wednesday, August 7, Board of Trustees, Noon, Grawmeyer Hall**

**Monday, August 12, Board of Trustees Meeting, TBA**

**Monday, August 12, Budget Model Committee, 3:00 PM, BAB**

**Wednesday, August 14, Board of Trustees, Graymeyer Hall, 10:30 AM**

**Thursday, August 15, Legislative Prep Meeting, Graymeyer Hall, 3:00 PM**

**Monday, August 19, Leadership Meeting, 9:00 AM, MITC**

**Monday, August 19, Free Speech Meeting, President's Conference Room, Noon**

**Tuesday, August 20, Ky. Legislature Testimony, Capital Building, Frankfort, 10:00 AM**

**Friday, August 23, Leadership Meeting, 11:00 AM, MITC**

**Monday, August 26, Dr. Bendapudi, 10:00 AM, Grawmeyer Hall**

**Wednesday, August 28, Executive Space Planning Committee, 3:00,**

**Tuesday, September 3, Leadership Meeting, 10:30, MITC**

**Wednesday, September 4, Mark Watkins, 1:00 PM, Grawmeyer Hall**

**Thursday, September 5, HR Compensation Meeting, 2:00 PM, HR**