

Faculty Senate Chair Report  
December 1, 2021

### **Demographic 25 Steering Committee (11/5/21)**

- Held initial organizational meeting
- Discussed focus and structure of subcommittees (Academic Quality, Institutional Aid Strategies, Academic Programs, Recruitment, Partnerships, Retention and Graduation, Barriers, Technology, Online Programs).
- December – will focus on subcommittee membership and charge
- I am the lead for the “Faculty-focused efforts for retention and graduation” sub-committee.

### **COVID-Coordinating Committee (11/8/21 and 11/22/21)**

- Most discussions were in relation to the COVID-19 vaccination related mandates issued by President Biden. These mandates have impacts on masking, distancing and mandatory testing for unvaccinated.
- Had a positivity spike on campus (athletics was a contributing factor)
- Enrollment for the fall fell short of budget projections. Winter enrollment is up, spring 2022 enrollment is trending well and Early projections for Fall 2022 are good.

### **Combined Faculty/Staff Senate COVID Meeting (11/10/21)**

- Two questions from this group were brought to the provost’s office. First, the lack of updates to COVID-19 dashboard vaccination rates. The day I brought this up, the site was updated (overall vaccination rate is now 91.3% with faculty still the lowest group at 89.4%). The vaccination rates have not been updated since. Second, the group wanted to see COVID-19 vaccination data by unit and constituency group. These data are routinely given to the deans but that information does not seem to be making it to faculty. The provost will now send these data to senate leadership as well.

### **Vice President of Diversity and Equity Search**

- The search was closed, but the faculty senate executive committee was invited to meet for a 50 minute Q&A with each candidate and to provide written feedback on each of the five candidates.

### **Budget**

- Eugene Mueller (senate vice-chair) and I met with Dan Durbin (UofL CFO) and Keith Sherman (UofL Foundation Executive Director and COO) to discuss the budget in relation to foundation spendable dollars. To further the discussions regarding foundation funds that are available and how this impacts the budget, Dan and Keith will be meeting with the senate Planning and Budget Committee, then the senate Executive committee before presenting to the full senate in the spring.

## **First Generation Faculty**

The First Year Experience & Student Success Program recently held an event to recognize our first generation students at UofL. If you have an interest in engaging with our first gen students, here is more information:

### ***Are you a first-generation student or graduate?***

*The Student Success Center seeks to identify first-generation (first-gen) faculty and staff, and if those individuals would like to hear about opportunities to engage with current first-gen students. All First Gen Cards will receive a metal pin & sticker. If neither your parents/guardians have a 4-year university degree, then you're a First Gen Cardinal even if you have a sibling who graduated before you. Please complete the online form if you're a First Gen Card.*

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Sm4k3TRUFU6K45Gtl5eyCVkB0QSG6-FBpu9hwXbpJY1UNk41U1I4SDM5NUFEM0xMN05XUVY1VIUwNy4u>

## **HR information**

Please make certain that faculty in your units have the following information from HR.

### **Item #1**

Employees will receive **new Anthem ID** cards for 2022. These cards must be used beginning January 1, 2022. Contact Anthem at 855-747-1137 if you have questions. If you do not receive your card in the mail by December 31, 2021, you can also print your ID card through visiting <https://louisville.edu/hr/benefits/medical/printid>.

### **Item #2**

#### **HRtalks Optum Training- HRA and FSA**

Join the Benefits Team, with special guest Optum Health for a virtual session to review the changes that will occur with Optum, especially in regard to HRAs and FSAs.

Beginning January 1, 2022, the administrator of our Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) and Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) is changing to Optum Health. Optum Health will replace our current administrators, Discovery Benefits/WEX Health (for Health Care and Dependent Care FSAs) and HealthEquity (for the HRA). Here's what this change to Optum Health will mean to you: • If you elect to participate in an HRA or FSA for 2022, you will receive a new Optum Health debit card. Use your new Optum Health card for any expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2022. • Your Discovery Benefits and HealthEquity debit cards will be deactivated on December 31, 2021. However, you can still submit manual claims for reimbursement to Discovery Benefits for FSA expenses incurred in 2021 during the run-out period between January 1 and April 15, 2022.

Manual claims can be submitted for reimbursement to HealthEquity for HRA expenses incurred in 2021 during the run-out period between January 1 and March 31, 2022. • At the end of the 2021 FSA and HRA run-out periods, any unspent HRA or FSA balances from 2021 will be transferred from Discovery and HealthEquity and rolled over to Optum Health. • The 2021 rollover balances will then be added to your 2022 account balance with Optum Health and accessible to you on or around May 1, 2022.

[Register December 8 from 2pm-3pm](#)