

AAUP report to the Faculty Senate, December 7, 2022.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has a vital interest in shared governance, and that includes participation in the selection of university presidents. The UofL Redbook recognizes this principle in **Sec. 2.1.1 Appointment of the President**: *“In making the appointment of the President, the Board shall consult with a faculty committee to be composed of one representative elected for that specific purpose from each of the units listed in Section 3.1.1.”*

In the spring of 2022, representatives were elected from each of the 13 UofL Colleges and Schools to the **Presidential Search Faculty Consultation Committee (PSFCC)**. The Committee met several times with the Trustee’s Search Committee Chair Raymond Burse, and were informed that the Trustees, on the instruction of the WittKieffer search firm, were extremely concerned about the confidentiality of the applicants. The PSFCC was told that the Trustees would be conducting a closed search but expected to involve the PSFCC at some point.

The PSFCC offered to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), but the Trustees did not appear interested in a compromise that would accommodate the interest of all parties. In the fall, the PSFCC asked the Board of Trustees Chair Mary Nixon to brief the finalists on the Redbook, the PSFCC’s members offer of NDAs, and to ask the finalists if they would be willing to meet with the faculty’s representatives. The PSFCC was told that would be done, and that their answer would be transmitted to the PSFCC. No such information was received.

The Trustee’s treatment of the PSFCC in 2022 was even more at variance from the Redbook than what took place in 2018. In the 2018, the Trustees planned to have the PSFCC meet with both finalists for the UofL Presidency, before the selection was made. In 2022, the Trustees provided information only their selectee, Kim Schatzel, in a large meeting with many other stakeholders, and just two hours before the public announcement. This cannot be considered the consultation stipulated by Redbook 3.1.1

The AAUP is dismayed and saddened by the UofL Trustees’ disregard for the shared governance principles of the Redbook, which demoralizes the faculty and undermines confidence in the Trustees and the university administration.

Submitted by,
Senator Michael Cunningham