

Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to the Faculty Senate – March 2, 2016

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on February 17, 2016, February 24, 2016 and on March 2, 2016.

President Ramsey met with the Executive Committee on February 17 during our regularly scheduled meeting. President Ramsey shared the FY 2016 Operating Budget Principles which are attached to this Report. We discussed several items including: (1) the new organizational structure under the Senior VP for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer; (2) the challenges to effective communication between the central administration and faculty, including the need for better mechanisms to provide comments and feedback; and (3) ongoing hiring freezes and waiver requirements for the colleges and units compared to continued hiring within the central administration. We asked President Ramsey for information verifying whether staff hiring within the central administration, particularly within the purview of the COO since he has taken on his position, have increased the overall number of staff. The President agreed to provide this information. The President also offered to the opportunity for senior leadership of the Faculty Senate to attend the senior central leadership team meetings.

At the February 24, 2016 meeting the following items were presented/discussed, and/or approved:

- Reports from standing committees including the proposed new Sabbatical policy from the Redbook Committee which will be presented for a first read to the full Senate this month
- Reports of the FS Chair, and representatives of the Student Senate and Staff Senate. In the discussion about the Chair's report regarding ongoing searches for administrative positions, we raised the question about the diversity of the applicant pools for the positions which is largely unknown.
- Discussion about the Provost Search Process and the extent of any consultation that occurred with the Chair and Vice Chair about an internal search.
- Discussion of the University Diversity Steering Committee and its work. The Chair of the Faculty Senate is a member of this committee.
- Discussion about challenges and opportunities facing the Faculty Senate. This is an ongoing discussion in our FSXC meetings that began in December 2015. This month we discussed whether we should reorder the Senate agenda to ensure discussions of the full Senate occur earlier in the meeting, and whether the Chair's report could include information about decisions and other matters before the Board of Trustees. The agenda for the March Senate meeting was adjusted to provide the opportunity for more discussion. We welcome input from any Faculty Senator. Please contact Enid Trucios-Haynes, ethaynes@louisville.edu

The Executive Committee will meet at 2:00 p.m. on March 2, 2016 with Susan Howarth, Associate Vice President of Finance & Business Affairs to learn about current budget considerations.



Submitted by Enid Trucios-Haynes,
Professor of Law, Vice Chair of Faculty Senate and
Chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee
March 2, 2016



FY 2016 -17 Operating Budget **Principles**

Unifying Principle:

The University of Louisville is first and foremost an academic institution committed to excellence. The education of its student, in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, is founded on a teacher-scholar model with a strong experiential component. **The success and well-being of current and future students of the University of Louisville is of singular importance in all budgetary decisions.**

Guiding Principles:

1. The University of the 21st Century Initiative: Powering the 2020 Plan will serve as the roadmap for prioritizing budget decisions.
2. Budget reductions must be strategic, not across-the-board.
3. Revenue enhancement, increased cost efficiencies, and internal reallocations must all be aggressively employed.
4. Enrollment growth will be prioritized as a strategy for revenue generation.
5. Tuition and fee increases must be minimized to the extent possible.
6. Financial aid to students is a high priority.
7. An “All Funds” approach will be applied.
8. For academic units, program demand will be a key consideration.
9. Core academic activities must be prioritized over administrative and support functions.
10. Budget Reserve Funds must be maintained for mid-year flexibility and year-end capital expenditures.
11. The existing budget development and decision making process will be utilized. Within this process, communication and dialogue will be open, honest, candid and frequent.