

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for April 2021

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Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (XC) met twice in April, and minutes will be duly available once approved at a future meeting.

April 21

Staff Senate representative Virginia ‘Ginger’ Brown reported that the Staff Senate was awaiting finalization of the telecommuting policy, and Student Government Association representative Benjamin Barberie reported that an e-mail message was being sent to remind students of resources available during the upcoming final exam period. Faculty Senate Chair David Schultz updated the XC on several topics including fall enrollment, the low Covid-19 positivity rate, and that UofL will impose a uniform campus mask policy in the fall consistent with CDC and Kentucky statewide guidelines.

The XC continued its discussion of the proposed Faculty Accountability Policy and feedback received from colleagues by XC members. Those issues will be presented at the full Faculty Senate meeting at which this report is delivered, so there is no need to list the concerns here. The XC then turned to a discussion of the Faculty Grievance Procedure, which has been perceived as one that has become overly legalistic (‘lawyered up’) and in which it is difficult for faculty to prevail. Feedback has been forwarded through Senator Sherri Wallace (currently a member of the grievance committee), including a request that outcomes be included to the extent possible in the annual reports to the Faculty Senate.

April 28

The XC welcomed new Provost Lori Gonzalez and had a discussion with her and President Bendapudi. The discussion included criteria and plans for moving back towards ‘normal’ at UofL, in research and academic settings, efforts to encourage Covid-19 vaccination among employees and students, Fall enrollment, the emerging budget, and an extensive review of the state of the UofL Foundation and endowment.

The XC bid a fond farewell to Benjamin Barberie, the graduating Student Government Association representative. The majority of the remaining meeting time was spent in further discussion of the proposed Faculty Accountability Policy, which will be covered explicitly at the Senate Meeting for which this report is submitted.