

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for June 2021

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Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (XC) met on June 16, 2021, and minutes will be duly available once approved at a future meeting.

The XC met in the University Club Board Room with the option of joining by Teams.

Student Government Association representative Alexa Meza reported on social-media-based efforts to encourage student vaccination, elections to fill in vacant SGA positions, and 'Welcome Weekend' events, which will be geared more to advocacy for on-campus experiences and reassurance of safety in light of the waning but ongoing pandemic.

Michael Cunningham voiced concerns by some AAUP members about requests to fill out conflict of interest forms in the two months for which most faculty members are not paid. A discussion generally covering the reasonableness of requests by UofL for effort by faculty during unpaid months followed.

Senate Chair David Schultz provided updates on issues considered by the various University Committees of which he is a member, including the continuation of the 'W3' total rewards subcommittee (part of Strategic Plan implementation), maintenance of the EPO health plan for the coming year, a data breach at UofL Health, the status of Redbook revisions, a plan to review the faculty grievance process, and the policy about accessing sensitive information in UofL systems only using 'UofL devices'. The former points will likely be summarized by Chair Schultz at the Senate meeting at which this XC report will be delivered, and a discussion about the last point will be resumed at the first XC meeting in August.

Senate Chair Schultz also gave a detailed update about the UofL budget for the new fiscal year.

The Academics Program Committee (APC) will review proposed changes in instructional format on a trial basis. APC members are unsure of the scope of such proposals and deem it prudent to review all of them initially to get a sense of whether or not they involve a change substantial enough to merit APC review.

The APC report provided a preview of action items to be presented at the July meeting of the Faculty Senate. The Committee on Committees & Credentials reported that the periodic reevaluation of the number of senators representing units is underway. The Planning and Budget Committee considered and reported back to APC on the fiscal impact of three proposed program closures.

The new policy governing intimate relations has been approved by the President's Cabinet.

Senator Rob Detmering (Libraries) brought changes to security staffing at Ekstrom Library to the attention of the XC. That issue is the subject of ongoing discussion between the Provost, the Dean of Libraries, and the Chief of University Police.