

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for December 2021
Eugene Mueller
Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (XC) met on November 17, 2021, and minutes will be duly available once approved at a future meeting. The meeting was in the University Club Board Room with the option of joining by Teams.

SGA representative Meza reported on continuing discussions about the replacement of the current web-based platform that aids students in choosing classes; concern was raised by XC members that department chairs use the same system to monitor enrollments in order to adjust section offerings. Ms. Meza also raised continuing concerns about campus safety and communication between the UofL Police and students; Senate Chair Schultz and XC members expressed similar concerns in light of an incident a few hours prior to the meeting: following LMPD's stop on Eastern Parkway of a stolen vehicle from which at least one juvenile fled, plainclothes police with openly displayed, holstered sidearms were very visibly present on campus between Eastern Parkway and the quadrangle bordered by Ekstrom Library and the Life Sciences and Humanities Buildings.

Staff Senate representative Brown briefed the XC on the previous Staff Senate meeting.

AAUP representative Cunningham reported on the group's upcoming general meeting and continuing objections to the Faculty Accountability Policy.

Senate Chair Schultz elaborated somewhat on the police incident earlier in the day. He next noted the concerns that the search for the Vice President for Diversity and Equity was a closed one; he also pointed out that faculty[†] and staff were given a time to meet with each finalist for the position. In response to faculty requests that vaccination rates be broken down by unit, Chair Schultz relayed that Provost Gonzalez has shared that information with the deans, and he will request that she make it more broadly available.

The XC renewed discussion of the change of the pass/fail policy to pass/no credit. Vice Chair Mueller had received no response from Vice Provost Willey to the request for clarification made by the XC in September. That request will be made again along with a restatement of the expectation that the Senate will need to vote on the matter affirmatively before the policy change can be instituted. The general matters over which the Faculty Senate has jurisdiction under the Redbook remains an ongoing conversation with the provost.

The XC finalized the information to be requested in order to explore the general sense that the number of tenure-track faculty is declining as the number of administrators rises accompanied by an increase the share of the UofL budget devoted to administration.

Details of the standing committee reports will be included in the minutes, but there seems little point in reiterating them here because they will likely be contained in the reports of those same groups to the full Faculty Senate.

[†]Senate Chair Schultz, Senate Vice Chair Mueller, and Senator Sherri Wallace were among the faculty who met with the finalists.