

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for March 2022

Eugene Mueller

Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (XC) met once in February 2022 (on Teams in response to the omicron variant), and minutes will be available once approved at a future meeting. The standing meeting on the third Wednesday of the month was substituted with a meeting of the Joint Covid Response Group of the Faculty and Staff Senates to get feedback on the proposed end of mandatory Covid testing for the asymptomatic unvaccinated population; concerns and comments were relayed to the provost.

February 23, 2022

SGA representative Alexa Meza reported that KN95 masks are available to students in the SGA office and that she is seeking donations for the new repository of course materials that can be checked out by students. Staff Senate representative Virginia 'Ginger' Brown briefed the XC on items from the February 8 meeting of the Staff Senate, which largely recapitulated information shared with the Faculty Senate at our February meeting. AAUP representative Michael Cunningham reported that the organization was viewing several events at UofL and in Frankfort in "watchful readiness and wariness".

In his report, Senate Chair Schultz briefed the XC on the search for a new athletic director and the RFP for the new master plan, which will encompass all three UofL campuses and their infrastructure. The Demographic 25 Committee has met and set timelines for reports and action plans. Senate Chair Schultz also updated the XC on meetings of the Executive Budget Steering and Covid Committees. Parking rates for the coming fiscal year were shared with the XC.

The XC was offered the opportunity for more comment/questions about evolving Covid-19 policy. Senate Chair Schutz informed the XC that an *ad hoc* committee of the Board of Trustees is being formed to review the RFP for a search firm for the presidential search. A discussion was held over the pros and cons of a proposal to return to in-person XC and full Senate meetings but with an appropriately equipped room on both HSC and Belknap campuses to allow in-person attendance on either campus. Widespread agreement prevailed on the inadequacy of the currently available technology for hybrid meetings. The convenience of Teams and avoidance of travel time was offered by several XC members as reasons to keep a virtual option open. More discussion awaits clarification of the capabilities and availability of rooms outfitted for conferencing, an issue currently being examined by IT at the behest of President Gonzalez. A meeting with Senate leadership and IT is set for Monday, March 9.

Standing committee reports completed the meeting, and details will be available in the minutes.