

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report for April 2022

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Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Chair of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (XC) met twice in March 2022, once on Teams and once in-MITC 201 or HSC Instructional Building 205, which were linked by audio/video feed. Minutes will be available once approved at a future meeting.

March 16, 2022

Interim President Lori Gonzales informed the XC and then fielded questions on the following topics: changes in Covid-19 policy (primarily mandatory testing of the unvaccinated and masking), vice presidential vacancies, issues concerning the developing Kentucky budget and other legislative initiatives in Frankfort, the developing UofL budget, and the process and rationale behind potential A&S restructuring. Overall, budgetary news from Frankfort was positive. The position of Vice President for Health Affairs will not be recreated.

Representatives of SGA, the Staff Senate, and AAUP reported continuing efforts that were covered at previous XC meetings. When asked, Alexa Meza reported that student feedback on the changes in masking policy was nearly unanimous in favor of eliminating masking in instructional settings.

Senate Chair Schultz briefed the XC on several fronts, including the selection of a vendor for the Master Plan (evaluation of proposals was underway), updates on Workday implementation and the compensation study, the meeting of the steering committee of the Demographic 25 Committee, and the near finalization of a slate of meetings with various constituencies to help establish attributes for the new athletic director. An *ad hoc* committee of the Board of Trustees has begun reviewing responses to the presidential search RFP.

Continued discussion about the return to in-person XC meetings reiterated the *pros* and *cons* of in-person *versus* virtual meetings and resulted in a decision to try a format of an in-person meeting split between two audio-video linked locations, one on the Belknap campus and one at HSC.

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

March 23, 2022

Interim Provost Gerry Bradley visited and provided update and discussion on several topics, including changes in Covid-19 policy, enrollment as of the current semester, dean searches (including the plan to search for an A&S dean this coming fall), and the process and rationale behind potential A&S restructuring and progress made by the committee he created to develop alternatives and make recommendations. Provost Bradley also noted that research funding was at an all-time high, and he provided a recap of his ongoing 'listening sessions' in units across UofL. In response to a question about the perceived proliferation of gen ed courses by units trying to increase their tuition revenue, Provost Bradley requested that the particulars of examples of such proliferation be sent to him.

SGA was represented by Ugonna Okorie, who asked faculty to be gracious to students observing Ramadan and expressed concern about the change to online tools used by students to find course requirements and availability as they develop their schedules. Staff Senate representative Ginger Brown had nothing to report from the preceding week, and AAUP representative Michael Cunningham indicated the organization's continuing concern over the process regarding the presidential search and the potential restructuring of A&S.

Senate Chair David Schultz reported that the Master Plan Committee is evaluating three vendors after in-person presentations, and that the *ad hoc* committee of the Board of Trustees is setting up five or six in-person presentation in response to the RFP for the presidential search. A committee has been instituted to develop a new strategic plan as the current one approaches the end of its three-year span.

The XC received long-requested data to inform a recommendation on a proposed change of the current policy of pass/fail to one of pass/no credit, which would remove an F received in that modality from inclusion in the calculation of GPA. The proposal did not include a change in scope of the courses that a student can currently elect to take P/F, nor does it change the impact of an F in a course taken for a regular grade. After a much fuller and livelier discussion than those during recent virtual meetings, the XC narrowly voted to recommend maintaining the current policy and requested that Senate Chair Schultz convey the recommendation to the Provost's Office.

The standing committee reports followed, and details will be presented in the meeting minutes.