

Executive Committee (XC) Report to the University of Louisville Faculty Senate

June 5, 2024

Meeting(s) Report

The faculty senate executive committee met once in May (Wednesday, 05.15) during our regularly scheduled meeting time from 3:00-5:00 PM. The meeting minutes from April (04.17) were unanimously approved at the meeting on May 15, 2024. At the meeting, the executive committee reports, and standing committee reports were presented as information, the details are recorded in the meeting minutes. No motions were made at the XC meeting. There are no committee action items.

Discussion Items & Guest Reports:

1. Patrick Harris, Senator (SOM Physiology) and Chair of Planning and Budget Committee introduced and led a discussion on faculty governance based on the article, “Does This University Senate Have Too Much Power?” written by Megan Zahneis in *The Chronicle*, March 15, 2024. Harris made comparisons between the University of Kentucky (UK) faculty senate’s power and authority and UofL’s. The point was to show how UK’s faculty governance structure—under review by the Board of Trustees—is unique in that it has power and authority over academic programs and the budget. **Key Takeaway:** Although UofL’s faculty senate governance structure is different, Harris suggested this is suitable time to be proactive and reflect on what the structure and role of the UofL faculty senate is or should be.
2. Bonnie Fonseca-Greber (A&S Senator) and Chair of the Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee gave a presentation on the work of the committee. Fonseca-Greber reported that the committee took time to reflect on the committee’s understanding of its specific charge. Also, as a first step to executing its charge, the committee participated in a DEI education seminar led by Marian Vasser, Assistant Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Belonging in the Office of Institutional Equity, in February 2024. **Key Takeaway:** Commenting on the value of the DEI instruction, Amy Acklin (Music Senator and XC member) recommended that the faculty senate support (annual) DEI education as part of faculty professional development designed to equip and empower all faculty with the latest knowledge, skills, or resources needed to enhance and ensure success for all students.
3. Eugene Mueller, Faculty Senate Chair, presented background information and asked for feedback on potential new university expenses: a University Commencement Speaker and pending NCAA Antitrust Settlement/NCAA Settlement College Sports. The latter was information only. Comments were varied regarding the possibility of bringing in external commencement speakers. Most comments were about travel and honorarium expenditures for landing a “high-caliber” speaker and the impact/implication. Other comments were about the recent changes to the overall graduation ceremony that has made it less formal and less enjoyable for faculty, resulting in more reduction in participation. **Key Takeaway:** (Re)evaluate Commencement. Mueller will share comments with the President and Provost.

New Business:

1. Karen Hadley (A&S Senator) mentioned that there are “rumblings” among the faculty about the number of recent hires and appointments made at the administrative level without external or open searches, resulting in a lack of diversity. Action: Mueller will share with the President and Provost.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Sherri L. Wallace, Vice Chair