

**Statement of the Faculty Senate of University of Louisville**  
**July 7, 2016**

We, the Faculty Senate at the University of Louisville, want to express our concern over Governor Matt Bevin's recent Executive Orders regarding the University's Board of Trustees. We believe that these actions compromise the Board of Trustees' independence and may affect the institutional ideal of democratically-shared governance at the University of Louisville.

We uphold the principles of KRS 164.821 and its 1992 and 1997 amendments, which specify a separate nominating board, the removal of board members only for cause following specified procedures, a membership of seventeen appointees reflecting constituencies consistent with the state population (racial minority and political affiliation), and three members representing university constituent groups. We are wary of the possible unanticipated consequences for future boards at the University of Louisville and other universities within the state, potentially resulting in regular reorganizations when any impasse arises. In short, we uphold the fundamental principle of our Board as free from outside influence.

We invoke the principles codified in the University's governing documents, principles which specify the shared governance of student, staff, and faculty representatives. To the extent that such principles are threatened by the establishment of the recent board, we fear losing top-tier faculty, and along with them the quality student education which accompanies an environment of academic freedom. University accreditation approaches this year and we are mindful of the demand that university boards be independent. Faculty members are genuinely concerned that this rushed solution may compromise the independence of the University of Louisville and, as a result, may damage the long-term interests of the university.

As we continue to serve our campus and community, we look forward to a strong working relationship with our board. For the sake of all concerned, we hope for quick resolution of the outstanding legal issues, particularly regarding which board is authorized to act on behalf of the University of Louisville.