

**University of Louisville**  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2022

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on January 12, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. online on the TEAMS Platform, Vice Chair Eugene Mueller presiding.

**SENATORS REGISTERING ATTENDANCE**

**A&S:** Simona Bertacco, Michael Cunningham, Linda Fuselier, Karen Hadley, Ann Hall, Eugene Mueller, Natalie Polzer, Christopher Tillquist, Sherri Wallace, Gerard Williger **BUSINESS:** Robert Barker, Jose Fernandez, Kathleen Gosser, Dale McIntosh **DENTISTRY:** Wil Abshier, Kathleen Fischer, James Harrison, Brian Marrillia **EDUCATION:** Michele Foster, Evan Frederick, Susan Longerbeam **KENT:** Jocelyn Fetalver, Martin Hall, Jennifer Middleton **LAW:** Luke Milligan **LIBRARIES:** Robert Detmering, Tiffney Gipson, Terri Holtze **MEDICINE:** Yousef Abu-Kwaik, Kellen Choi, Joshua Choo, Geoffrey Clark, Jennifer Hamm, Kimmerly Harrell, Patrick Harris, Bethany Hodge, Vinay Puri, Ben Schoenbachler, Craig Silverman, Brian Williams **MUSIC:** Rebecca Jemian, Chad Sloan, Krista Wallace-Boaz **NURSING:** Kristin Baisch, Lynette Galloway, Candace Harrington **PART-TIME FACULTY:** Aaron Ellis, Roy Fuller, Joseph Gutmann, Tina Johnson, Rose Mills **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Lee Bewley, Ryan Combs **SPEED:** Roger Bradshaw, Olfa Nasraoui, Roman Yampolskiy

**GUESTS ATTENDING**

**INTERIM UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:** Dr. Lori Gonzalez  
**INTERIM UNIVERSITY PROVOST:** Dr. Gerard Bradley  
**UNIVERSITY CFO:** Mr. Dan Durbin  
**FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Mr. Keith Sherman  
**STAFF SENATE REPRESENTATIVE:** Ms. Ginger Brown  
**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Ms. Alexa Meza  
**ULARP REPRESENTATIVE:** Mrs. Elaine Wise

**ALSO ATTENDING**

Kari Aikins, Kim Butterweck, Douglas Craddock, Angela Curry, Gail DePuy, John Drees, Heather Fox, Erin Gerber, Joan Hammer, Cynthia Logsdon, Sarah Lopez, Jessie Murnock, Ian Norris, Matt Stanley, Robert Stenger, James Wooten

**SENATORS NOT REGISTERING ATTENDANCE**

**A&S:** Ann Hall, David Schultz **EDUCATION:** Carla Vidoni **LAW:** Enid Trucios-Haynes, Manning Warren **MEDICINE:** Saeed Jortani, MaryNan Mallory, Chin Ng, Katherine Pohlgeers, Guillermo Rougier **SPEED:** Jacek Zurada

**CALL TO ORDER - MUELLER**

**ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE [DECEMBER MINUTES](#) - MUELLER**

The minutes are online and linked above. They were unanimously approved as distributed.

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**REPORT: INTERIM UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT - GONZALEZ**

Dr. Gonzalez reported on the following topics.

- **Interim Provost Announced** – An announcement was made today that Dr. Gerard Bradley, Dean of the School of Dentistry will become the Interim Provost. Dr. Gail DePuy will become the Interim Senior Vice Provost. They will continue the initiatives that were started in the fall.
- **Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs** – Dr. Tracy Eells stepped down from the position in December, to return to teaching in the School of Medicine. The announcement of the result of that search will be made soon.
- **Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** – The search for the Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion was stalled a bit during the transition. Dr. Gonzalez will meet with the finalist and make an announcement soon.
- **Enrollment** - Students continue to enroll for the spring term with the final add drop day this Friday. Undergraduate enrollment is down from the previous year, as expected. There were some increases in the fall to spring retention that will help reduce the fall losses. Fall 22 enrollment looks good with applications up 6%, admissions up 14%, and, at this time deposits are up 30%.
- **Retention** – The fall to spring retention for first year students is back to pre-pandemic levels. The current rate is 91% retention over last year’s 86%. Getting students back in class and having the right kind of experience helped make the difference.
- **COVID** –With concern over COVID, and particularly the Omicron variant, Dr. Gonzalez shared the rationale for students returning to class in person. The classrooms are some of the safest places for students and faculty. Since Campus Health and the contact tracing team have been tracing infections or positivity, there is no record of cluster transmission from any classroom environment. Masks are still required, and K-95 masks are available for every person on campus. With the hybrid and online modalities, students had issues with academic performance that impact retention and grade point averages. These issues particularly hit black, Latin X, and 1st Gen students the hardest. There were also issues with mental well-being during the time in isolation. Those are some of the reasons it is important to be back in the classroom. Drive through testing will continue to be available, as well as the vaccination and booster clinics. Even without a vaccination mandate, the university has done very well. The plan is to stay the course and remain in person.
- **Course Contingency Plan** – In an effort to ensure that the academic mission is carried on should there be an event that prohibits travel to campus, faculty are asked to create a contingency plan. If, for some reason, an instructor is unable to deliver a class face to face a contingency plan in the syllabus will let students know what to do.
  - **Question:** Can we safely assume that students that are coming to class are either vaccinated or complying with the testing requirements? Are there consequences for non-compliance?
    - **Reply:** What happens is the monitoring of testing for students is handled in collaboration with Campus Health and Student Affairs. They follow up with those students. Also, everyone must remain masked.
  - **Question:** If the university decides to cancel classes due to inclement weather, can faculty not expect students to turn in work on Blackboard as they normally would that day? If things are being done digitally online, what is the expectation that we can have?
    - **Reply:** When everything was remote and we had inclement weather, classes went on. We now announce the ‘university is closed’. That means no classes are held and only certain

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employees come in (groundskeepers, ULPD, etc.). Students may upload assignments to Blackboard, but would not be required to do so. Another announcement will be sent out for clarification on this topic.

**INTRODUCTION: INTERIM UNIVERSITY PROVOST - BRADLEY**

Dr. Gerard Bradley, Dean of the Dental School, was selected as the Interim University Provost to serve until a new president has been chosen. Dr. Bradley is looking forward to working with Dr. Gail DePuy, the new Senior Vice Provost as they help Dr. Gonzalez navigate the university forward.

**REPORT: STUDENT GOVERNMENT – MEZA**

Ms. Meza reported on the following topics.

- **Final Semester Plans** – SGA leadership met with Interim President Gonzalez to discuss SGA’s plans for the next 100 days of the term.
- **SGA Elections** – Work is underway for the election of the next student leaders.
- **Cardinal Core Textbook Collection** – This is a collection of textbooks that will be housed in the library. Ms. Meza has been working with Dean Kiesling and Dean Fox on this project for the past few months.
- **Course Materials for Student Success** – Ms. Meza has been working in partnership with the Student Success Center to create a loan project partnership to give students more access to course materials. These include clickers, calculators and other items at no charge.
- **Masks** – Masks are available now, but some faculty and students have had issues finding them. The SGA has a large quantity in their SAC office that are available to students .
- **Covid Concerns** – The SGA leadership is very concerned about the current state of course delivery. When it comes to COVID, the SGA is hearing students’ concerns. There is currently a petition going around encouraging the university to make some changes in terms of course delivery and ensuring that frontline employees are protected and safe.

**REPORT: STAFF SENATE - BROWN**

Ms. Brown reported on the following topics. This report is online and linked above.

- **President Update** - The Staff Senate met on December 14 and received a similar update from Interim President Gonzalez.
- **Branding Campaign** - Ms. Kim Butterweck updated the Senate on the new university branding campaign.
- **Next Meeting** - The next meeting is February 8, 2022, at 2:30 on TEAMS.

**REPORT: FACULTY SENATE CHAIR - MUELLER**

As Chair Schultz was out today, Vice Chair Mueller presented his report.

This report is online and linked above.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM: UNIVERSITY BUDGET AND FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT - DURBIN/SHERMAN**

Mr. Dan Durbin, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration and Mr. Keith Sherman, Executive Director and COO of the UofL Foundation reported on the university budget and the foundation funds available to units.

- **Budget Revenue** - Mr. Durbin began by explaining key pieces of the university’s \$1.3B budget. On the revenue side, about 40% of the budget, shown in red on the pie chart, consists of unrestricted, or

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general funds. Unrestricted funds are made up of tuition and fees and state appropriations. Those unrestricted dollars are used to pay salaries, utilities and any unrestricted operating expenses. Internal and external factors influence tuition and fees and part of the state appropriations is based on performance. Every dollar of unrestricted funds is accounted for. If there is a funding increase in one area, it has to come from another area. There are no extra unrestricted dollars.

- **Budget Expenses** - On the expense side, like everything else, expenses are on the rise. Utilities, healthcare, building maintenance all continue to increase. The costs of infrastructure, technology, the needed compensation increase and the approaching demographic cliff that will impact future enrollment puts the university in a precarious position, unless something is done.
- **Possible Solutions** - There are options and alternatives available to address and that is the point of this presentation. The sliver of green on the pie chart shows \$56M in donated funds. Those funds already exist are available to help units.
- **The Foundation** – Mr. Sherman shared that the endowment hit an all-time high in December of \$890 million. And yet, since July 1st there sits \$82M of cash at the foundation that could be used. Not all those funds can be used at once. Some are reserved for future years, some funds are being saved for a piece of special equipment, for example. Mr. Sherman said deans and Lead Financial Officers (LFOs) are aware of these funds. The idea is to change behavior to not spending general funds first when there is restricted philanthropy that can be spent. It is a matter of changing habits and using existing philanthropy funds first instead of general funds. This will free up general funds for other expenses. The donor gives money to the university for a specific purpose, but there is a portion of the earnings of the endowment that is spendable. Mr. Sherman said that units with grant funding may be bound to spend those funds first, but this initial presentation was to show that funds currently exist that can be used now by the units.

This presentation is online and linked above.

**ACTION ITEM: SPHIS BYLAWS REVISIONS [TRACKED/UNTRACKED](#) – FIRST READING - DETMERING**

As this was the first reading, there was no discussion. At the second reading in February, questions and discussion are allowed. The documents are online and linked above.

**REPORTS: STANDING COMMITTEES**

- **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS - HARRINGTON**
  - This committee had no report.
- **[COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES & CREDENTIALS](#) – JEMIAN**
  - This report is online and linked above.
- **[EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE](#) - MUELLER**
  - This report is online and linked above.
- **PART-TIME FACULTY - FULLER**
  - This committee met and discussed an appreciation event for part-time faculty. With Dr. Gonzalez's support, it is hoped that this will become a new tradition.
- **[PLANNING & BUDGET](#) – HARRIS**
  - This report is online and linked above.
- **[REDBOOK & BYLAWS](#) – DETMERING**
  - This report is online and linked above.

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**OTHER REPORTS**

- **AAUP REPRESENTATIVE – CUNNINGHAM**
  - The AAUP has been responding to a variety of issues and continues to advocate for faculty autonomy in the choice of course delivery modality as a result of the current pandemic. The AAUP is also active in response to some of the pre-filed bills focusing on critical race theory and efforts to censor not only secondary schools, but postsecondary schools. The AAUP hereby registers its discomfort with the representatives in Frankfurt and will continue to advocate on behalf of academic freedom, faculty rights and opportunities for meaningful dialogue.
- **CODRE REPRESENTATIVE - HARRIS**
  - This committee had no report.
- **COSW REPRESENTATIVE – NASRAOUI**
  - This committee had no report.
- **ULARP REPRESENTATIVE - WISE**
  - This report is online and linked above.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Henry  
Faculty Senate Coordinator