

**University of Louisville**  
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2023

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on April 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Chao Auditorium in Ekstrom Library and online on the TEAMS Platform, Chair Eugene Mueller presiding.

**SENATORS REGISTERING ATTENDANCE**

**A&S:** Michael Cunningham, Karen Hadley, Eugene Mueller, Natalie Polzer, David Schultz, Christopher Tillquist, Sherri Wallace, Gerard Williger, Xiang Zhang **BUSINESS:** Ben Foster, Kathleen Gosser, Dale McIntosh **DENTISTRY:** James Harrison **EDUCATION:** Meg Hancock, Ann Herd **KENT:** Jennifer Middleton, Andrew Winters **LAW:** Lisa Nicholson **LIBRARIES:** Angel Clemons, Robert Detmering **MEDICINE:** Forest Arnold, Barbara Clark, Lauren Herrmann, Mary Nan Mallory, Jonathan Warawa **MUSIC:** Amy Acklin, Chad Sloan **NURSING:** Lynette Galloway, Candace Harrington, Amy Higdon **PART-TIME FACULTY:** Aaron Ellis, Roy Fuller, Joseph Gutmann, Tina Johnson, Ramie Martin-Galijatovic, Tim Roberts **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Ryan Combs, Kira Taylor **SPEED:** Tom Berfield, Roger Bradshaw, Robert Cohn

**GUESTS ATTENDING**

**UNIVERSITY PROVOST:** Dr. Gail DePuy  
**VICE PRESIDENT for DEI:** Mr. Lee Gill  
**VICE PROVOST for ONLINE STRATEGY & TEACHING INNOVATION:** Dr. Kelvin Thompson  
**CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER:** Mr. Ethan Yehud  
**STAFF SENATE REPRESENTATIVE:** Ms. Becky Patterson  
**STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Mr. Bryson Sebastian  
**ULARP REPRESENTATIVE:** Ms. Elaine Wise  
**UofL TODAY:** Mr. Chris Wooton

**ALSO ATTENDING**

Sarah Lopez

**SENATORS NOT REGISTERING ATTENDANCE**

**A&S:** Bonnie Fonseca-Greber **BUSINESS:** Jose Fernandez **DENTISTRY:** Wil Abshier, Kathleen Fischer, Justin Whitney **EDUCATION:** Susan Longerbeam, Carla Vidoni **KENT:** Martin Hall **LAW:** Enid Trucios-Haynes, Manning Warren **LIBRARIES:** Tiffney Gipson-Goodwin **MEDICINE:** Joshua Choo, Geoffrey Clark, Jennifer Hamm, Patrick Harris, Saeed Jortani, Chin Ng, Vinay Puri, Guillermo Rougier, Ben Schoenbachler, Scott Silva, Victoria Statler, Brian Williams **MUSIC:** Rebecca Jemian **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Lee Bewley **SPEED:** Olfa Nasraoui

**ACTION ITEM: [Special Election](#) – Gosser**

Senator Gosser, Chair of the Committee on Committees and Credentials announced the special election to fill two recently vacated seats on The REDBOOK Committee. Once it was determined that there were no nominations from the floor a link to the online ballot was emailed to senators. The ballot is linked above.

**ACTION ITEM: [Approval of the March Minutes](#) - Mueller**

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

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**REPORT: University Provost - DePuy**

Dr. DePuy reported that an announcement regarding the Interim Provost position would be made soon. She added that Dr. Gonzalez will make all the decisions on tenure cases before leaving UofL. The current dean searches are as follows:

- Dean of Arts & Sciences - Dr. Dayna Touron will begin July 1, 2023.
- Dean Kent School – Dr. John Miller will begin on July 1, 2023.
- Interim Dean School of Medicine – Dr. Jeff Bumpous will begin July 1, 2023.
- The search for the dean of Public Health is ongoing.
- In the fall, dean searches will start for Nursing (August), Education (September) and Medicine (October).
- The search for the College of Business dean will begin in spring 2024.

**REPORT: VP for Online Strategy & Teaching Innovation - Thompson**

After arriving at UofL in February, Dr. Kelvin Thompson has set a goal of having 90 conversations in 90 days to get to meet as many people as he can. In an effort to understand UofL culture and get an idea of the campus needs, he is building a contextual grid by talking to students, faculty and staff. Online strategy and teaching innovation are ultimately about current and potential students: *access* to higher education, making that education as *high quality* as possible, and *affordability*. Dr. Thompson is very engaged in finding ways to think about prospective students differently. How can online and other digital approaches help extend access to students not necessarily considered prospective students in past years? How can UofL serve current students as well as possible? He spoke about badges and micro credentials, and an upcoming upgrade to Blackboard called [Blackboard Ultra Course View](#) that will begin this summer and continue over the next five semesters. A group of instructors will try the upgrade over the summer. If their feedback indicates it is worthwhile to continue, the upgrade will be rolled out campus-wide over the next five semesters. Blackboard Ultra Course View is more user-friendly for mobile devices and allows faculty to monitor students' progress more easily.

**Question:** We have heard about initiatives with micro credentials and badging. Can you tell us more about that?

**Reply:** From what I understand the micro credentialing and badging efforts are under the Digital Transformation Center. There is a lot of potential in these non-credit digital online options to better serve employers/employees in the Louisville community. If done well, there will be a breadcrumb path back to credit programs. I think that is part of reframing our prospective learners.

**Question:** Have you heard any talk about returning financial incentives for developing online programs to departments? They were taken away a few years ago.

**Reply:** I have not been in those budget conversations about returning to that prior funding approach. I have been fairly vocal since coming to UofL that we will need a more complementary growth oriented approach to funding if we are going to lead rather than lag in this area by being dependent strictly on the hybrid RCM model.

**Question:** Do you have thoughts about offering hybrid courses?

**Reply:** The word hybrid is problematic in 2023 because there are at least four things that people mean by that word. I believe there is a role for a blended learning course design and course designations within our portfolio of course modalities. What I have found is that the dual mode approaches are rather exhausting and draining for the faculty member. But the well-designed blended courses

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outperformed in-person or online on any metric that I have ever seen institutionally. We call that the best of both worlds. If they are not well-designed and well-supported, less of that. It is not at the top of my list because I gather there has been some institutional resistance to that and I need to understand more about it, but I am in favor of moving in that direction.

**Question:** Will this new Blackboard interface have the ability to transfer existing information, PowerPoints, etc.?

**Reply:** That is called course conversion, and yes, it is possible to keep your existing information.

**REPORT: Information Security - Yehud**

Mr. Yehud comes to UofL with 22 years of experience in IT, cyber security, risk and compliance in several industries including healthcare and higher education. The goals for UofL are to build an optimized security program for the entire university, to improve day-to-day security, and to demonstrate the value of information security. Building an optimized security program is very much like building a house from a blueprint. When all the right components are in place, UofL will have cutting-edge, state-of-the-art program befitting a public state-funded university. Most cases of a security breach begin with social engineering or email/text phishing. It is very important for students, staff and faculty to stay vigilant and take the responsibility to protect the university's information and to report any phishing attempts. In the coming months, reminders to stay vigilant will be made by posters and email. It is often difficult to show a return on investment for cyber security, but the university has valuable information, including student records, financial data, intellectual property, and research information, all of which could cause untold harm if used for malicious intentions. The actual value of cyber security lies in what has been prevented, which few people see. Mr. Yehud does not see information security as cyber police setting rules to follow but as a partnership where faculty can safely teach and do research.

**Question:** How much will we see as day-to-day as faculty members of what you do? Is it going to be entirely invisible, or are you changing security protocols for passwords or different processes?

**Reply:** I am always looking for more efficient processes. Currently, your passwords are changed after a certain amount of time. Over the next few months, that will change. You [will have to] select a stronger password, but it will not change.

**REPORT: Student Government – Sebastian**

Mr. Sebastian reported that the SGA elections were held and the transition to the new leadership has begun.

**REPORT: Staff Senate – Patterson**

Ms. Patterson reported that the Staff Senate met on March 14, 2023. Mr. Gary Becker, Director of Parking Administration reported that the Floyd Street Garage had been paid off, and as a result, there will not be an increase for parking permits for the upcoming year. The report is linked above.

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**REPORT: Faculty Senate Chair - Mueller**

Chair Mueller reported that he had meetings concerning the trans student incidents and the search for an interim provost. He also reported that the Executive Budget Steering Committee will not meet this year, though updates will be made.

**INFORMATION ITEM: [Response to Recent Incidents](#) - Gill**

Vice President Gill began his report by restating that UofL is against any type of discrimination. UofL has always been a leader around LGBTQ issues, and that is something to be extremely proud of. However, being a leader does not mean problems do not arise. Vice President Gill continued:

Several weeks ago, one of our transgender students was chalking in a space where chalking is allowed. For whatever reason, a physical plant worker approached the student to say they were not allowed to chalk in that space and alerted ULPD. The student, thinking they had done something wrong, went to the Cultural Center, followed by the police officer. Ms. Marian Vasser, Executive Director of Diversity & Equity met the officer and explained that the Cultural Center is a safe place and following a student into the Center was not conducive to feeling safe. The next day, Mr. Gill heard about the incident and called Dan Durbin to bring Chief Green to meet with Mr. Gill and the student. The first thing Chief Green did was to apologize to the student and had the officer go to the Cultural Center within the following days to apologize there. We met with the student and two of his friends, and we talked through what happened. We addressed the issue, but we should have communicated that to the entire campus community, students, faculty and staff. Within days after the incident, we met with student government, university housing, ULPD leadership, the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW), the Commission on Diversity & Racial Equality (CODRE), the LGBT Center Director and the student. Some good has come out of this situation. All police officers and physical plant employees will be trained around this issue. In addition, Dean Michael Mardis addressed the current housing policies and how students are assigned housing. That is a very big issue with our LGBTQ students. All gender-identifying information (pronouns, etc.) will be removed from the housing application and students will be able to choose where they live instead of being assigned by the housing office.

**Question:** I heard from a student that there was a precipitating incident with a fraternity. Was that addressed?

**Reply:** Yes, that situation was addressed by Student Affairs, and the Director of the LGBTQ Center met with them. Training will also be available for them.

**Question:** I work on HSC, and I do not understand what you are talking about.

**Reply:** Let me back up a little. There is a policy about where (buildings, sidewalks, etc.) students are allowed to chalk (write with chalk) and what words they cannot use (profanity, etc.). A couple of weeks prior to this event there was a lot of chalking in places where it is not allowed and contained some profanity. When the worker saw this student chalking, he may or may not have been aware of the policy, but, for whatever reason he alerted campus police. When the police showed up, the student became fearful, thinking he had done something wrong and ran to the Cultural Center, with the officer close behind. Once in the Cultural Center Marian Vasser (Executive Director of Diversity & Equity) told the officer that this is a safe space and you are running in here as though there is a major crime when it is just chalking. The officer was not aware of the policy, as well.

**Question:** How will something like this be handled in the future?

**Reply:** We have developed a communication tree with SGA leaders, [the] Dean of Students, Dan Durbin, Angela Curry and John Drees so that once an investigation has been done we can immediately communicate accurate information to the campus community.

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**ACTION ITEM: [Support of Trans Students - Detmering](#)**

Senator Rob Detmering presented the Executive Committee's statement of support for trans students. There was substantial discussion by the Executive Committee on the details of the statement (attached), which was unanimously approved. The attached statement was unanimously endorsed by the full Senate.

**REPORTS: Standing Committees**

- **Academic Programs – Harrington**
  - This committee had no report.
- **Committee on Committees & Credentials – Gosser**
  - This committee held the special election, as above, and is preparing for the full election in May.
- **[Executive Committee](#) – Detmering**
  - Vice Chair Detmering mentioned that the Executive Committee has invited guests to report on services supporting student success and retention. Katie Adamchik from the Student Success Center and Bronwyn Williams from the University Writing Center spoke with the committee this month. He encouraged senators to look at the services they offer by visiting the links in the attached report.
- **Part-time Faculty – Fuller**
  - This committee had no report.
- **[Planning & Budget](#) – Harris**
  - This report is linked above.
- **[REDBOOK & Bylaws](#) – Cohn**
  - This committee report is linked above.
  - [Committee Chair Bob Cohn's presentation of committee work.](#)

**OTHER REPORTS**

- **AAUP Representative – Cunningham**
  - AAUP is moving forward on a variety of initiatives. The next general meeting is on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **CODRE Representative – Rougier**
  - There was no report.
- **COSW Representative – Nasraoui**
  - There was no report.
- **[Faculty Athletic Representative \(FAR\)](#) - Wallace-Boaz**
  - This report is linked above.
- **[ULARP Representative](#) - Wise**
  - This report is linked above.
  - The University Club will reopen with a gala on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Senator Gerry Williger (A&S, Physics and Astronomy) announced that an academic discussion will be held this evening at 7:00 p.m. at The Monnik Beer Company.
- Senator Lauren Herrmann (Family Medicine) announced that the [Family Medicine Clinic](#) works with many people in the LGBTQ+ community. If you have students or others looking for specialized care, it is available there.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Henry  
University Senates