

**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE**  
**Faculty Senate Special Meeting Minutes**  
**June 18, 2025**

A special meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on June 18, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. on the TEAMS Platform, Chair Eugene Mueller presiding.

**Senators Registering Attendance**

**A&S:** Tomas Edison, Bonnie Fonseca-Greber, Eugene Mueller, Rachel Neal, Natalie Polzer, David Roelfs, Christopher Tillquist, Sherri Wallace **Business:** Jose Fernandez, Ben Foster, Kathleen Gosser, Dale McIntosh **Dentistry:** James Harrison, Tiffany McPheeters, Jolene Zirnheld **Education:** Meg Hancock, Ann Herd, Jon Lee **Kent:** Emi Ramirez **Law:** Enid Trucios-Haynes **Libraries:** Rachel Howard, Courtney Stine **Medicine:** Forest Arnold, Robert Bert, Matthew Black, Geoffrey Clark, Jennifer Hamm, Saeed Jortani, Ben Schoenbachler, Victoria Statler, Brian Williams **Music:** Amy Acklin, Rebecca Long, Allison Odgen **Nursing:** Rudy Clark, Frances Hardin-Fanning **Part-Time Faculty:** Roy Fuller **Public Health:** Jelani Kerr, Michael Sekula **Speed:** Thomas Berfield, Adrian Lauf, Angela Thompson

**Guests Attending**

**Interim University Provost:** Dr. Kathryn Cardarelli

**Senior University Provost:** Dr. Gail DePuy

**Staff Senate Representative:** Ms. Becky Patterson

**Vice Provost-Faculty Affairs:** Dr. Cherie Dawson

**Also Attending**

Michael Cunningham, Matthew Biberman, Jeffrey Bumpous, Katherine Donner, Zachary Goldman, Margaret Hill, Anita Moorman, Kim Moss-Linnear, Winton Reynolds, Thomas Salter, Whitney Sweeney-Martin, Chin Ng, Dayna Touron, Vida Vaughn, Elaine Wise

**Senators Not Registering Attendance**

**A&S:** Karen Hadley, Gerard Williger **Dentistry:** Justin Whitney **Education:** Seth Eckler **Kent:** Shantel Crosby, Andrew Winters **Law:** Daniel Canon, Lisa Nicholson **Libraries:** Angel Clemons **Medicine:** Joshua Choo, Barbara Clark, Lauren Herrmann, Guillermo Rougier, Scott Silva, Hugh Shoff, Alexander Williams **Nursing:** Amy Higdon **Part-Time Faculty:** Aaron Ellis, Joseph Gutmann, Ramie Martin-Galijatovic, Tim Roberts **Public Health:** Kira Taylor **Speed:** Olfa Nasraoui

**Call to Order**

**Introduction:** Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Eugene Mueller called the Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate to order, stating that the main agenda item was the approval of changes to the documents governing units based on the requirements of House Bill 4. He emphasized the expedited nature of the process and the need to address any serious issues identified by the members. Dr. Mueller assured senators that all revisions had passed through legal and policy work groups, and the University Counsel's office deemed them appropriate.

Dr. Mueller mentioned that the policy work group had recently discussed the use of the word "diverse" in the context of the music department, concluding that it was not restricted to racial or gender distinctions but included various categories such as vocalists versus string players. He also noted that the university was considering definitions of diversity and equity, with the *ad hoc* Board of Trustees committee likely to vote on these definitions soon, and the definitions would apply to all university documents.

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**Action Item: Approval of Unit Document Revisions Aligning with HB4 - Mueller**

- [College of Business Personnel Document](#)  
The changes to the College of Business personnel document included striking out language that could be problematic regarding House Bill 4. The changes were reviewed by the College of Business Document Revision Committee and were approved by a substantial vote of the unit faculty.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote and two abstentions.
- [Kent School of Social Work & Family Science Bylaws](#)  
The Kent School of Social Work and Family Science bylaws revisions included renaming the Anti-Oppression Committee to the Committee on Ethical Practice and Inclusive Excellence. The changes also involved replacing the term "diversity and inclusion" with "inclusive excellence" and removing the word "equitable" from a list.  
Please Note: A suggestion was made to the Board of Trustees to correct a grammar error in one of the changes to the Kent School Bylaws.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with two abstentions.
- [School of Public Health & Information Sciences Bylaws](#)  
Changes to the School of Public Health and Information Sciences included striking out a sentence that was not compliant with House Bill 4.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with two abstentions.
- [University Libraries Bylaws](#)  
Changes to the University Libraries bylaws included striking out the word "diversity".  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with two abstentions.
- [School of Medicine Bylaws](#) and [School of Medicine Personnel Document](#)  
Changes to the bylaws were to rename the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to Inclusion and Belonging. The personnel document removed language regarding anti-racism activities, which are explicitly contradictory to House Bill 4.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with three abstentions.
- [Speed School of Engineering Bylaws](#)  
Changes to the Speed School of Engineering bylaws included striking the Diversity Committee and affirmative action efforts. It was noted that the changes were reviewed by the school's Faculty Council and approved by a majority vote. A discussion took place about the removal of affirmative action efforts, with Dr. Mueller saying this was considered necessary by the legal staff. Concerns were raised about the distinction between affirmative action and DEI. Dr. Mueller agreed to seek further clarification from the University Counsel's office.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with four abstentions.
- [School of Nursing Bylaws](#)  
Changes to the School of Nursing bylaws included removing the Diversity Committee and striking language from the Community and Campus Engagement Committee.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with three abstentions.

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- [Arts & Sciences Standing Rules Document](#)  
Changes to the Arts and Sciences standing rules included changing committee names and updating language to be compliant with House Bill 4.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with no abstentions.
- [School of Dentistry Bylaws](#)  
Changes to the School of Dentistry bylaws included changing the name of the Diversity Committee to the Community and Connection Committee and updating its description.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with one abstention.
- [School of Music Policy Manual](#)  
Changes to the School of Music bylaws, which include changing the name of the Diversity Committee (yet unnamed) and updating its description.  
The changes were approved by a majority voice vote with two abstentions.

**Announcements**

Dr. Mueller thanked the participants for their work and noted the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting, which would include approval of the changes discussed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.