

UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2026

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on February 4, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Chao Auditorium in Ekstrom Library and online on the TEAMS Platform, Chair Andrew Winters presiding.

Senators Registering Attendance

A&S: Matthew Biberman, Michael Cunningham, Tomas Edison, Eugene Mueller, Rachel Neal, Natalie Polzer, David Roelfs, Christopher Tillquist **Business:** Ben Foster, Zac Goldman, Kathleen Gosser, Dale McIntosh **Dentistry:** James Harrison, Tiffany McPheeters, Thomas Salter, Jolene Zirnheld **Education:** Jon Lee, Erica McClure, Anita Moorman **Kent:** Shantel Crosby, Emi Ramirez, Andrew Winters **Law:** Daniel Canon, Lisa Nicholson, Enid Trucios-Haynes **Libraries:** Rachel Howard, Courtney Stine, Vida Vaughn **Medicine:** Mustafa Al-Kawaaz, Robert Bert, Geoffrey Clark, Jennifer Hamm, Patrick Harris, Adianna Masters, Ben Schoenbachler, Hugh Shoff, Alan Smith **Music:** Rebecca Long, Allison Ogden **Nursing:** Debra Anderson, Rudy Clark, Karen Turner **Part-Time Faculty:** Aaron Ellis, Roy Fuller, Lance Gibson, Joseph Gutmann, Lynda Mercer **Public Health:** Lee Bewley, Jelani Kerr, Michael Sekula **Speed:** Adrian Lauf, Olfa Nasraoui, Angela Thompson

Guests Attending

University Provost: Dr. Kathryn Cardarelli

Senior University Provost: Dr. Gail DePuy

Vice Provost-Faculty Affairs: Dr. Cherie Dawson

Commission on Climate, Culture & Well-Being: Dr. Dwayne Compton

Provost Office: Dr. Kim Moss-Linnear

Staff Senate Representative: Ms. Becky Patterson

Student Government Representative: Ms. Kathleen Price

Also Attending

Bob Goldstein, Regina Roebuck

Senators Not Registering Attendance

A&S: Gerard Williger **Education:** Seth Eckler **Medicine:** Matthew Black, Joshua Choo, Barbara Clark, Venkatakrishna Jala, Christina Nnorolomele, Guillermo Rougier, Lauren Talley, Alka Tyagi, Zeng Wang, Alexander Williams **Music:** Katherine Donner **Part-Time Faculty:** Antigone Mehani **Speed:** Thomas Berfield

Action Item: Approval of the [January Minutes - Winters](#)

The January minutes were approved and are linked above.

Report: University President - Cardarelli

As President Bradley was in Frankfort, Provost Cardarelli gave his report.

Dr. Cardarelli provided comprehensive updates on legislative activities, including the monitoring of state bills affecting higher education, testimony against a transfer bill, the introduction of House Bill 490 regarding faculty removal for financial reasons, and advocacy related to the House budget bill.

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Report: University Provost - Cardarelli

Dr. Cardarelli reported on the following topics.

- **Dean Searches** – Dr. Cardarelli provided an update on the status of dean searches for the School of Public Health and the Speed School of Engineering, including the formation of search committees, leadership transitions, and plans for stakeholder engagement.
 - **Public Health Dean Search:** The search committee for the School of Public Health Dean has been finalized, chaired by Dean John Miller, with representation from faculty, staff, and the community; the committee will be formally charged on February 18th, and input from the school has been solicited.
 - **Engineering Dean Transition:** Dr. Emmanuel Collins has stepped down as dean of the Speed School of Engineering and will return as a professor after a sabbatical, with Dr. Kevin Walsh appointed as interim Dean; a town hall will be held to gather input from the school regarding the next dean.
- **AI Advisory Committee and Task Group Reports:** Provost Cardarelli announced the circulation of the AI Advisory Committee's final report and recommendations from a related task force, highlighting ongoing discussions about AI's role in university operations and education.
- **ADA Compliance for Final Assessments:** Provost Cardarelli discussed the upcoming ADA compliance requirements for final assessments, including timelines, available resources, monitoring plans, and potential impacts on faculty workload and teaching practices.
 - **Compliance Timeline and Scope:** New ADA guidance takes effect April 24th, impacting final exams and assessments but not regular semester content; faculty are urged to review and remediate materials in advance.
 - **Support Resources:** The Delphi Center offers tools, consultations, and drop-in sessions to assist faculty with compliance and remediation efforts.
 - **Compliance Monitoring:** Compliance will be monitored by a cross-office team, but there will be no dedicated 'watchdog'; faculty are expected to self-monitor, with remediation required if non-compliance is reported.
 - **Faculty Concerns and Impact:** Participants expressed concerns about increased workload, potential faculty attrition, and changes to teaching practices, particularly in health sciences, with Provost Cardarelli acknowledging these challenges and emphasizing the federal mandate and intent to improve accessibility.
- **Graduate Education Summit Planning:** Provost Cardarelli announced an upcoming all-day summit on graduate education scheduled for April 14th, inviting broad participation and outlining plans for student engagement and discussion of the future of graduate education.

This presentation is linked above.

Discussion item: - Blackboard Gradebook and Proposed Classroom Policies – DePuy

Dr. DePuy led a discussion on the importance of faculty participation in early alerts for students and the proposed requirement for undergraduate instructors to use Blackboard Gradebook, addressing student success, financial aid fraud prevention, and implementation questions from faculty.

- **Early Alert System:** Faculty are encouraged to submit early alerts for students who are struggling academically, as this information helps advisors intervene and support student retention.

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- **Blackboard Gradebook Requirement:** A policy is being considered to require undergraduate instructors to use Blackboard Gradebook to provide timely feedback to students and to help identify fraudulent financial aid activity.
- **Implementation Questions:** Faculty raised questions about the timing of grade visibility, the scope of required entries, and the burden on advisors, with administrators clarifying that only basic engagement and assignment data are needed early in the semester and that reports will be generated for advisors.
- **Student Perspective:** Ms. Price, the student representative shared that having access to overall grades in Blackboard reduces anxiety and confusion, supporting the policy's intent.

This presentation is linked above.

Information item: Committee on Culture, Climate, and Wellbeing - Compton

Dr. Dwayne Compton provided an overview of the Committee on Culture, Climate, and Well-Being, detailing its structure, thematic focus areas, data collection efforts, and plans for developing recommendations to university leadership by the end of April.

- **Committee Structure and Timeline:** The committee consists of a steering committee, advisory committee, and workgroups focused on six themes, with a mandate to deliver recommendations to the president and provost by the end of April.
- **Thematic Focus Areas:** Six themes were identified from climate surveys and stakeholder input: compensation and career development, communication and transparency, workload and morale, policy and culture, physical safety and facilities, and psychological safety and mental well-being.
- **Data Collection and Engagement:** The committee is reviewing existing survey data, conducting additional surveys, and engaging with university units to gather input and artifacts relevant to culture, climate, and well-being.
- **Coordination with Other Groups:** Efforts are being made to coordinate with similar committees in other units and to develop shared definitions for key terms, with feedback being solicited from faculty, staff, and student governance bodies.

Report: Student Government – Price

Ms. Price reported on recent and upcoming Student Government Association activities, including leadership exchanges, event sponsorships, the creation of a Commission on Undergraduate Advising, installation of charging stations, and advocacy efforts. The SGA participated in the Bellarmine Leadership Exchange, hosted the We Are 502 event, and began meetings for the Commission on Undergraduate Advising. Further, the SGA allocated funds for charging stations in residence halls, sponsored events such as Raise Red and library initiatives, and is preparing for advocacy days in Washington, DC and Frankfort.

Report: Staff Senate – Patterson

As the Staff Senate does not meet in January, there was no report. It will meet February 10th.

Report: Faculty Senate Chair – Winters

Dr. Winters reported on responses from General Counsel regarding policy questions, approval of the School of Public Health bylaws, and the university's strategic plan by the Board of Trustees.

This report is linked above.

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Standing Committee Reports

- **Academic Programs – Ng**
This report is linked above.
- **Committee on Committees & Credentials - Crosby**
This report is linked above.
- **Executive Committee – Tillquist**
This report is linked above.
- **Part-time Faculty – Fuller**
This report is linked above.
- **Planning & Budget – Harris**
To hear this report, [please go to the video.](#)
- **REDBOOK & Bylaws - Ramirez**
This report is linked above.

Other Committee Reports

- **AAUP Representative – Cunningham**
The recently approved Position Statement was shared with other AAUP chapters in Kentucky and was well received; still waiting for responses to its Open Records Request; will investigate the University's grievance process.
- **Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) - Wallace-Boaz**
This report is linked above.
- **Legislative Advisory Council – Bewley**
Senator Bewley reported that Senate Bill 6 proposes a \$150M research fund that will be used collaboratively between Kentucky universities. The allocation of funds would be on a competitive basis.
- **Sustainability Council – Anderson**
This report is linked above.
- **UCW Representative – Gast**
This report is linked above.
- **ULARP Representative - Wise**
This report is linked above.

Old Business – Winters

None

New Business – Winters

None

Announcements – Winters

None

Adjournment - Winters

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry