

UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on March 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 **Education:** Seth Eckler, 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 **Medicine:** Mustafa Al-Kawaaz, Robert Bert, Barbara Clark, Jennifer Hamm, Patrick Harris, Venkatakrishna Jala, Adrianna Masters, Guillermo Rougier, Ben Schoenbachler, Lauren Talley **Music:** Katherine Donner, Rebecca Long, Allison Ogden **Nursing:** 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:** Thoms Berfield, Adrian Lauf, Olfa Nasraoui, Angela Thompson

Guests Attending

University President: Dr. Gerry Bradley
University Provost: Dr. Kathryn Cardarelli
Senior University Provost: Dr. Gail DePuy
Graduate School Dean: Dr. Beth Boehm
AVP-External General Counsel: Mr. Nick Peak
Staff Senate Representative: Ms. Becky Patterson
Student Government Representative: Ms. Kathleen Price
Vice Provost-Faculty Affairs: Dr. Cherie Dawson
Provost Office: Mr. Bob Goldstein
Provost Office: Ms. Tammy Green
UCW Representative: Prof. Melanie Gast
ULARP Representative: Prof. Elaine Wise

Also Attending

Danielle Brown, Sarah Carter, Cara Cashion, Megan Clifton, Donald Dean, Robert Detmering, Kari Donahue, Melissa Eggen, Christine Ehrick, Leslie Exmeyer, Sarah Exner, Tabith Grier-Reed, Sarah Frankel, Anita Hall, Michelle Henderson, Siobahn Smith Jones, John Karman, Antonis Kyprianidis, Alycia Lackey, Maggie Leahy, Kevin Ledford, Sheron Mark, Brandon McCormack, Whitney Nash, Nick Paliewicz, Jeremy Raines, Debra Ramsey, Latisha Reynolds, Michelle Rodems, Clara Sears, Josie Simpson, Bethany Smith, Cara Snyder, Michelle Stevenson, Whitney Sweeney-Martin Dayna Touron, Mani Vangalur, Sherri Wallace

Senators Not Registering Attendance

A&S: Gerard Williger **Dentistry:** Jolene Zirnheld **Libraries:** Vida Vaughn **Medicine:** Matthew Black, Joshua Choo, Geoffrey Clark, Christa Nnoromele, Hugh Shoff, Alan Smith, Alka Tyagi, Zeng Wang, Alexander Williams **Nursing:** Debra Anderson **Part-Time Faculty:** Antigone Mehani

Action Item: Approval of the February Minutes – Winters

The February meeting minutes were approved and are linked above.

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Report: University President – Bradley

Dr. Bradley addressed the financial reasons behind the decision to cease university management of the Early Learning Campus (ELC), responded to questions from the Early Learning Campus Parents Coalition, and clarified the limited support options available to affected families and employees.

Financial Background and Decision Process: President Bradley explained that the ELC had been operating under a recurring and growing deficit, reaching approximately \$1.1 million by the current fiscal year. The university had attempted to address the shortfall through fee increases and other strategies, but costs continued to outpace revenues. The decision to end university management was made to protect the financial health of the College of Education and Human Development and the broader university.

Communication and Employee Considerations: Provost Cardarelli described the university's approach to communicating the closure, noting that forums were not held to avoid premature staff departures. Financial retention incentives were used to maintain staffing levels and accreditation standards until the end of the management period.

Support for Affected Families: In response to questions from the ELC Parents Coalition, the president and provost clarified that the university would not provide additional subsidies or relocation services beyond the existing *Thrive by 5* resource. They noted that a new vendor, contracted by Family Scholar House, would provide childcare at the ELC site for low-income families, but many university families would not be eligible.

Budget Alternatives and Strategic Priorities: When asked about alternative budget cuts, such as reducing coach or administrator salaries, Dr. Bradley explained that athletic budgets are managed separately and contractual obligations prevent reallocating those funds.

Legislative Updates and Advocacy Efforts: Mr. Nick Peak, the AVP-External General Counsel provided updates on state legislative actions affecting the university, including bills related to tenure and program funding, and described ongoing advocacy and educational efforts with lawmakers.

Tenure Bill and Budget Alignment Concerns: President Bradley and Mr. Peak discussed House Bill 490, which includes language about aligning budgets with program productivity and the potential for program closures. They described meetings with legislators to express concerns about ambiguous terms and the implications for university operations.

Senate Bill 279 and Program Funding Restrictions: Mr. Peak summarized Senate Bill 279, which would prohibit the use of public funds for programs deemed low income earning, referencing ongoing federal rulemaking. He reported that the bill's sponsor is open to delaying action until more information is available.

Ongoing Advocacy and Transparency: The president and provost reiterated their commitment to ongoing advocacy in Frankfort and to keeping the university community informed about legislative developments and their potential impacts.

Report: University Provost – Cardarelli

Provost Cardarelli reported on the following topics.

Dean Searches

School of Public Health & Information Sciences – The search committee has been charged, and a leadership profile is being finalized. Dr. Cardarelli encouraged senators to share the search information with colleagues.

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Speed School of Engineering – Dr. Emmanuel Collins recently stepped down as chair and will return to teaching. The provost and Dr. Cherie Dawson-Edwards visited the school and spoke with employees to explain the search process. The search committee will come together over the next couple of months, and proposal submissions from search firms should start coming in soon.

Enrollment

Dr. Cardarelli updated the senators on the various categories of enrollment. Numbers have increased in most categories, except readmits and graduate studies. The decrease in graduate enrollments is due to recent visa challenges impacting international students.

Graduate Student Success Summit

Dr. Cardarelli reminded senators that the Graduate Student Success Summit will take place on Tuesday, April 14 from 9-3PM in Bigelow Hall in MITC.

This presentation is linked above.

Report: Reallocation of Graduate Stipends – Boehm

Prior to this meeting, Graduate School Dean Dr. Boehm shared the following two documents [Reallocation Process Letter](#) and [Unit Stipend Count](#).

Graduate Stipend Reallocation and Doctoral Program Adjustments: Dr. Beth Boehm presented a detailed history and rationale for the reallocation of graduate stipends, described the process for implementing a 10% reduction and reallocation, and addressed questions about the impact on units, especially Arts & Sciences.

Historical Context and Policy Changes: Dean Boehm recounted the history of stipend allocation, noting that funds were originally distributed to units with little oversight, leading to varied uses. Since 2014, policies have required that these funds be used solely for graduate education, and recent efforts have focused on centralizing and standardizing stipend management.

Benchmarking and Rationale for Reallocation: A benchmarking study revealed that stipends had fallen below peer averages, prompting leadership to increase stipend amounts and to pull back and reallocate lines to ensure equity and alignment with doctoral program priorities.

Implementation of 10% Reduction: Units were asked to recruit 10% fewer doctoral students for fall 2026, with the goal of reallocating lines based on program performance metrics such as time to degree, attrition, and admissions data. The process was communicated to deans and graduate program directors over several years.

Unit-Specific Impacts and Flexibility: Representatives from Arts & Sciences expressed concern about the scale of reductions and the impact on instructional capacity. Dr. Boehm clarified that all units could request lines back based on need and performance, and that the process aimed to prioritize doctoral education while allowing deans discretion in implementation.

Report: University Budget for the 26/27 academic year - Mullaney/Schultz

This is a continuation of the presentation made in January and begins on slide 19 (Success and Challenges FY26 and Beyond).

Vice President for Budget & Finance, Ms. Jill Mullaney and Vice Provost for Finance & Special Initiatives, Dr. David Schultz provided an overview of the university's financial position, highlighting successes in enrollment and professional programs, ongoing challenges from rising costs and potential state budget cuts, and efforts to maintain transparency and structural balance.

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Current Financial Successes: Ms. Mullaney noted improvements in student retention, record-breaking freshman classes, stable cash liquidity, and renewed healthcare partnerships as positive developments for the current fiscal year.

Headwinds and Cost Pressures: Major challenges include potential reductions in Medicaid revenue, risks to research funding, rising personnel and operating costs, and the dynamic landscape of college athletics. The university is also facing a proposed \$5.3 million state budget cut in the first year, potentially doubling in the following year.

Expense Trends and Philanthropy: Salary, fringe, and financial aid expenses continue to rise, while alumni giving and endowment growth have stagnated or declined, adding to financial pressures.

Budget Process and Transparency: The university is conducting ongoing reviews of budget initiatives and workgroups, with faculty and student representation. Leadership emphasized that decisions are still in progress and committed to continued transparency and open dialogue through town halls and committee meetings.

Campus Renovations and Capital Project Funding: Ms. Mullaney responded to questions about ongoing campus renovations, clarifying that these projects are funded through state asset preservation funds with required institutional matching, and that project budgets are closely monitored to avoid overruns.

This presentation is linked above.

Report: Student Government – Price

There was no report.

Report: Staff Senate – Patterson

This report is online and linked above.

Report: Faculty Senate Chair – Winters

Dr. Winters reported on the following topics.

Faculty Senate Governance and Policy Review Initiatives: Dr. Winters outlined upcoming Faculty Senate initiatives, including the formation of ad hoc committees to review the faculty grievance process, faculty accountability policy, and Senate reapportionment, and encouraged participation from senators.

Grievance and Accountability Policy Reviews: The Senate will form ad hoc committees to review and recommend modifications to the faculty grievance process and the faculty accountability policy, aiming to align practice with current needs and improve clarity.

Senate Reapportionment: An ad hoc committee is reviewing Senate reapportionment procedures to address equity issues and ensure compliance with bylaws, with recommendations to be presented in April.

This report is linked above.

Standing Committees' Reports

- **Academic Programs – Ng**

This report is online and linked above.

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- **Committee on Committees & Credentials – Crosby**
There was no report.
- **[Executive Committee – Tillquist](#)**
This report is online and linked above.
- **[Part-time Faculty – Fuller](#)**
This report is online and linked above.
- **Planning & Budget – Harris**
There was no report.
- **REDBOOK & Bylaws - Ramirez**
There was no report.

Other Committee Reports

- **AAUP Representative – Cunningham**
Senator Cunningham reported that the AAUP continues to work on issues regarding the grievance process, the faculty accountability policy and the open records request on salary allocation.
- **[Sustainability Council – Anderson](#)**
This report is linked above.
- **Legislative Advisory Council - Bewley/Mueller**
- **[UCW Representative – Gast](#)**
This report is linked above.
- **[ULARP Representative – Wise](#)**
This report is linked above.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry
Senate Coordinator