

Staff Senate Report

April 1, 2020

The Staff Senate met on March 9, 2020 in the CTR Building 101 on the Health Science Campus. We had a report from Amanda Peter on the university wide web page project, they are working to update our look and the way our webpage functions. Additional information will be forthcoming. We had an update from Jason Beare on the Benefits Workgroup. We had an update on our By-Laws Revision, much discussion about the possibility of future teleconferencing as a way to participate in a Senate meeting. Little did we know how timely that discussion was. We then had officer reports and committee reports which may be found on our website under Meetings: <https://louisville.edu/staffsenate/meetings>

Then the pandemic hit. Our Senate leadership team has been diligently keeping us informed, for a while daily. Then today we received this note (below) from John about our April 13th meeting. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginger Brown

“Hi everyone,

Our EC met via Teams.

The Executive Committee has made a decision to extend all current senate seats, committee assignments and officers through the duration of dealing with the covid-19 pandemic. This will be until we are able to return to our campuses. The thinking was, it would be tremendously difficult to conduct elections for the 49 seats that would have come open this term when we don't know what types of platforms our constituents are using or even if they are staying connected. There was also unanimous support that changing committee assignments and leadership in the middle of the scenario we are in now, would not have be in the best interests of our constituents. Many of our standing committees are deeply involved with University responses to the covid-19 situation. Our elected officers are involved with the administration daily on different topics and concerns. Expecting someone to get up to speed and to be able to effectively represent our constituents in the middle of our current situation just did not seem prudent or reasonable. So, we are asking the 49 of you who would have had your seats expire this June to stay on until the end of this situation, whenever that is, and continue to represent and communicate with your constituents.

We are planning on having our full-senate meeting on Monday, April 13 at 2:30 PM as usual. The difference will be, this one will be on Microsoft Teams and will be completely online. There will be no in person component of the meeting available. Microsoft Teams is a free download. If you have not already installed in on a device, please do so. There will be an information sheet on the use of Teams that will be sent out prior to the meeting. You should have received an invitation to the Staff Senate Teams group already. Special thanks to Gretchen for setting the entire Senate up in that platform.

We will have the third reading of the by-laws during this meeting. Right now we are planning a roll call vote on those since depending on what type of device people are using for Teams, there may or may not be the chat function available to them. We are discussing using the chat function of teams though and more information will be included prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your continued support and representation of our staff during the most trying period of time any of us have ever dealt with.

John, Andrew and Rhonda”