

FACULTY SENATE MEETING SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2015

The Faculty Senate met in regular session Nov. 4, 2015 in Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library. Chair Pamela Feldhoff presided. The agenda and accompanying reports are linked [here](#).

Action Items

Approved minutes of Oct. 7, 2015. Minutes are linked [here](#).

Report Highlights

Faculty Senate Chair Pamela Feldhoff said she is discussing the drafting of a new sabbatical leave policy with the Executive Committee. She hopes to have the benchmark work done before bringing the policy to the Redbook Committee because Red book's year is already scheduled.

Dr. Feldhoff reminded senators they have until Nov. 19 to take the Get Healthy Now Health Assessment, which allows for a \$40 per month discount in health insurance premiums.

Alex Stewart, SGA, said students are working with the university on the issue of retention.

Senator Joe Steffen said the presidential compensation summary report was distributed to senators and has been posted to the Faculty Senate website. It can be found [here](#).

President James Ramsey apologized for the "mistake we made at our staff luncheon," saying he deeply regretted the incident. He pointed out that the [Commission on Diversity and Racial Equality \(CODRE\)](#) has been asked to broaden its discussion of diversity and racial issues on campus and he tasked Interim Provost Neville Pinto with that effort.

Dr. Ramsey added that he cannot comment on the NCAA investigation into allegations involving the men's basketball team. He said the university had asked the NCAA to add more resources to the investigation to help it move forward more quickly. He also said the investigation had gotten more complicated because of the additional Commonwealth's Attorney investigation ongoing simultaneously. He said those being interviewed are not speaking unless they get immunity from the Commonwealth's Attorney.

Elaine Wise, Faculty Athletic Representative, added that the investigation is a long process.

Dr. Ramsey said: "We are absolutely committed to finding out what happened."

Dr. Ramsey also gave an overview of state finances, saying the election of Republican Matt Bevin as governor would likely mean flat funding for higher education in the next budget cycle.

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Dr. Ramsey also briefed senators on a lawsuit recently filed against the Board of Trustees and Gov. Steve Beshear over the racial makeup of the board. The suit was filed by the Kentucky Justice Resource Center.

Interim Provost Neville Pinto updated senators on three dean searches: Kent School of Social Work, College of Business and the School of Dentistry. He said they are all moving along “robustly.”

He also updated senators on several 21st Century University Initiative goals that are in the beginning stages of being initiated. Dr. Pinto’s presentation can be found [here](#).

1. The new Belknap Campus instructional building: This will be built where Crawford Gym is located. The building’s theme is “Student Success” and it goes with the goal of “Improving Learning and Student Spaces.” The building will be 155,000 total square feet with 93,000 usable square feet. It will have 48 classrooms, 12 laboratories and spaces for student success support as well as common spaces. He said the building is on schedule to open in fall 2018.
2. Toward the goal of identifying areas for future investments, SIGS and the Office of Research will issue RFPs for grants of up to \$250,000 for multidisciplinary ideas.
3. Toward the goal of strategically growing enrollment, the university has established a Strategic Enrollment Management Steering Committee. Dr. Pinto will be the chair, stressing that “enrollment is our business.” He said an unexpected drop in enrollment this year has made this committee especially important.
4. Toward the goal of administrative enhancements, a Budget Allocation Steering Committee has been formed to look at financial models that will enhance budget alignment with academic goals.
5. Toward the goal of competitive compensation, a working group has been formed that is looking at updating the recent salary survey conducted by the university, study compression and inversion issues and study performance reviews.

The Faculty Senate is part of UofL’s shared governance system, which also includes the Staff Senate and the Student Government Association. Senators are elected by their peers. The Senate will meet again Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015 in the Dental School, Room 124.

*--Prepared for the Faculty Senate by Janet Cappiello
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