

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Faculty Senate Meeting Summary

Date: October 1, 2025

Time: 3:00-5:00 PM

Site: HSC/CTR Building

[LINK TO FULL MEETING](#)

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

The September meeting minutes were approved.

Update: University President – Bradley

President Bradley provided an update on the recent federal government shutdown, explaining to the group while Pell loans and financial aid remain unaffected for now, there may be future impacts on federal grants, and the university is monitoring the situation closely.

Financial Aid Continuity: President Bradley clarified that Pell loans and other forms of financial aid are considered 'encumbered money' and will continue to be distributed as usual during the government shutdown, with no immediate disruption expected for students.

Potential Grant Disruptions: Bradley noted that while there is currently no information about federal grant funds being stopped, particularly those from NIH and similar sources, the university is prepared to monitor and respond to any changes as the shutdown continues.

Communication and Monitoring: Dr. Jon Klein has prepared a fact sheet through the EVPRI office to keep the campus community informed, and the administration will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

Commission on Climate, Culture, and Belonging: President Bradley discussed the formation and objectives of the Commission on Climate, Culture, and Belonging, co-led by Duane Compton and Brian Buford, with a 15-member board and a 60-person advisory group, tasked with providing actionable recommendations based on campus climate survey data.

To hear more, [please go to the video](#).

Report: [Interim University Provost – Cardarelli](#)

Interim Provost Dr. Cardarelli reported record enrollment exceeding 25,000 students, highlighted improvements in retention rates, and outlined the ongoing development of the university's five-year strategic plan, inviting further feedback from faculty and staff.

Enrollment and Retention Data: The university has surpassed 25,200 students, with a first-to-second fall retention rate of 84.1%, marking a significant year-over-year improvement and reflecting the impact of targeted recruitment and student success initiatives.

Strategic Plan Feedback Process: Cardarelli encouraged continued feedback on the next iteration of the five-year strategic plan, which now includes detailed draft actions under each strategic pillar, and announced upcoming town halls and online opportunities for anonymous input.

Resource Allocation: The administration plans to allocate financial resources to support the strategic plan, urging stakeholders to identify areas where investment is needed to advance institutional goals.

Academic Readiness and Student Success Initiatives: Provost Cardarelli, with input from President Bradley and Gail DePuy, presented data on incoming undergraduate academic readiness, discussed the limited predictive value of standardized test scores, and described ongoing efforts to support student success and close achievement gaps.

Standardized Test Score Trends: Mean ACT and Accuplacer scores for incoming students have declined slightly, mirroring national trends, but UofL's averages remain above state and national benchmarks; the university is monitoring these metrics closely.

Correlation with Graduation Rates: President Bradley explained that ACT scores have limited correlation with six-year graduation rates except at the extremes, and that high school GPA remains the strongest predictor of student success.

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Student Success Programs: The university is expanding student success initiatives, including summer bridge programs and targeted support, to address achievement gaps and improve retention and graduation rates.

Communication with Students and Families: Faculty and administration discussed the importance of setting realistic expectations for students and families regarding time to degree completion, especially for those requiring developmental coursework.

U.S. News and World Report Rankings: Provost Cardarelli announced that the university improved its U.S. News and World Report ranking by 21 points overall and 13 spots among public institutions, breaking into the top 100, and provided an overview of the ranking methodology and areas for further improvement.

Undergraduate Student Success Symposium and Task Force: Dr. Cardarelli described the recent campus-wide undergraduate student success symposium, the university's new retention goal of 85%, and the formation of a weekly Student Success Task Force open to all faculty and staff.

This report is linked above. [To hear more, please go to the video.](#)

Second Reading: University Libraries Personnel Document Changes - Ramirez

Senator Ramirez summarized the University Libraries' revised personnel document, which includes 48 minor edits for clarity, updates to the annual review process, and references to virtual meetings and electronic processes; the revisions were unanimously approved.

To hear more, [please go to the video.](#)

Report: Student Government – Price

Ms. Price reported on leadership conference participation, ongoing efforts to expand Open Educational Resources (OER), bylaw amendments, and student involvement in curriculum and scholarship initiatives.

To hear more, [please go to the video.](#)

Report: Staff Senate – Patterson

This report is linked above.

Report: Faculty Senate Chair - Winters

Dr. Winters shared the continuing efforts to address HB4/KRS 164, members of the Faculty Senate's two ad hoc committees, one for the Senate's reapportionment, and the other to address federal actions impacting higher education. He also invited senators to participate in a group photo at the inauguration on October 10th and the home football game on November 8th.

This report is linked above. To hear more, [please go to the video.](#)

Information Item: Research Misconduct Policy – Ratterman

Dr. Ratterman Allison Ratterman presented updates to the university's research misconduct policy to comply with new federal regulations, including extended inquiry timelines, clarified processes, and the introduction of a parallel procedure for questionable research practices.

This report is linked above. To hear more, [please go to the video.](#)

Information Item: Revised Visiting Scholar Research Policy – Brill

Mr. Brill outlined revisions to the visiting scholar policy, including clarified roles, new background and sanction checks, an online application process, and consolidated agreements to enhance compliance and security.

This report is linked above. To hear more, [please go to the video.](#)

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Information Item: [Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#) – Bruszewski

Ms. Bruszewski delivered a presentation for Cybersecurity Awareness Month, covering phishing, social engineering, multi-factor authentication, reporting suspicious emails, and university security policies. This report is linked above. To hear more, [please go to the video](#).

First Reading: [REDBOOK Modification](#) - Ramirez

First Reading: [School of Public Health and Information Sciences Bylaws Changes](#) -Ramirez

First Reading: [A&S Revised Bylaws](#) -Ramirez

As these documents were presented for a first reading, there was no discussion. They will be considered for approval at the November meeting.

Report: [Annual Academic Report](#) - Mueller

Dr. Mueller discussed the annual academic report, highlighting concerns about the university's ratio of tenure-track to term faculty, which currently exceeds the 50% threshold, and the need for a strategy to return to compliance. This report is linked above. To hear more, [please go to the video](#).

Standing Committee Reports

- [Academic Programs](#) – Ng
This report is online and linked above.
- **Committee on Committees & Credentials** – Crosby
This committee had 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
This report is online and linked above.
- [REDBOOK & Bylaws](#) - Ramirez
This report is online and linked above.

Other Committee Reports

- **AAUP Representative** – Cunningham
A federal court ruling supported the rights of non-citizen students and faculty, with AAUP's involvement in the successful lawsuit. To hear more, [please go to the video](#).
- [Faculty Athletic Representative](#) - Wallace-Boaz
This report is online and linked above.
- [Sustainability Council](#) _____ - Anderson
This report is online and linked above.
- [UCW Representative](#) – Canon
This report is online and linked above.
- [ULARP Representative](#) _____ - Wise
This report is online and linked above.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

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Announcements

As a member of the university-wide AI Committee's subcommittee Teaching & Learning, Senator Dale McIntosh announced that the first ever Prompt-A-Thon will be held on Belknap Campus on Friday, November 7th. More communication will be forthcoming to faculty interested in prompt engineering and its applications in teaching. To hear more, [please go to the video.](#)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Henry
Senate Coordinator