

**Faculty Senate Meeting
Staff Senate Update [November 6]**

Staff Senate met on October 8

- a. Government and Community Relations Update: Nick Peak, Assistant Vice President for External Relations – State, represented Riggs Lewis at the meeting. Nick provided an update on the upcoming legislative session in January. This January will be a short session (30 days) compared to those held in even numbered years which are 60 days due to the budget. Nick also mentioned the new website for legislators (upliftky.org). Riggs Lewis partnered with the Office of Institutional Research, Analytics, and Decision Support who provided the data for this interactive website that illustrates UofL’s reach throughout the Commonwealth.
- b. Ombuds Update and Conflict Resolution: Diane Tobin provided an update on the Ombuds Office (<https://louisville.edu/ombuds>). Diane emphasized the confidentiality of issues discussed with her. Diane encourages all staff to seek out her assistance for mediation, as needed, in an informal, impartial, and confidential space. Diane’s direct contact number is 852-7359.
- c. University President: President Schatzel provided an update to the senate regarding several issues:
 - UofL had a record incoming class in fall 2024 – just over 3,100 students.
 - Fall to fall retention of undergraduate students starting in fall 2023 who returned in fall 2024 was 81.5%, a historic level.
 - UofL is investing \$2 million in a program to help Pell-eligible students with unmet need. Unmet need of over \$3,000 is inversely correlated with persistence.
 - UofL has a mentoring program of faculty and staff for first generation students.
 - President Schatzel applauded the efforts of staff in Admissions and Enrollment Management for their work on student success.
 - An announcement will be made soon regarding an important NIH grant. This will be a landmark grant for the Health Sciences campus that will set UofL apart.
 - Administrative searches:
 - i. The Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance (CFO) search is ongoing, and the goal is to have the candidate identified by the end of the fall semester.
 - ii. The Executive Vice President for Innovation and Research and the Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Relations searches are ongoing. The goal is to have offers out by the end of January 2025 with individuals starting by March 1, 2025.
 - iii. President Schatzel deferred the question about the status of dean searches to Provost Bradley.

- President Schatzel provided a recap of her testimony in Frankfort regarding UofL's DEI efforts.
- d. Cybersecurity Awareness: Danna Williams provided an update on Cybersecurity Awareness Month – Security Best Practices.

Submitted by,
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Staff Senate Representative to the Faculty Senate