

Faculty Senate Meeting
Staff Senate Update [April 3, 2024]

Staff Senate met on March 12

- a. **UofL Foundation:** Keith Sherman gave a presentation on the UofL Foundation. UofL Foundation is a separate not-for-profit entity that is not part of UofL. The Foundation's work is exclusively for the charitable and educational purposes of the University of Louisville and its affiliated entities. The Foundation receives all the philanthropic gifts that donors make to benefit UofL. Changes have been made to the way that the Foundation manages the money since 2017. Prior to 2017, the endowment accounts were underwater due to overspending. Much work has been put into these accounts to bring them above water. In March 2024, no endowment accounts are underwater. All accounts are healthy. The Foundation audits the spending from accounts every month to ensure the funds are spent as the donor wishes. Additional information about the money provided to UofL by the Foundation is outlined in the attached presentation.
- b. **Center for Military-Connected Students:** Dakota Walker provided information about the Center for Military-Connected Students. Mr. Walker highlighted the many services UofL provides to military-connected students. UofL is known nationally for being military friendly. The Center for Military-Connected Students, located in Brodschi Hall (between the School of Law and Ekstrom Library), will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony outdoors on the 8th of May from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM. Additional details about the Center and the services they offer are included in Mr. Walker's attached presentation.
- c. **Student Affairs (Free Speech):** Dr. Michael Mardis and Dr. David Parrott presented information about free speech. UofL has resources and policies in place. The best source of information is: <https://louisville.edu/freespeech/>. Because UofL is a public institution, non-university community members must be allowed on-campus. There are restrictions allowed by law about the time, place, and manner. Non-university community members can distribute materials on city property surrounding UofL without registering or notifying UofL of their intent. Dr. Parrott reminded senators that speech which some may consider as hateful is protected under the US Constitution. The US Constitution supersedes state and federal law. The 1st Amendment gives people the right to say provocative, offensive things that may anger others. All UofL employees are 'agents of the state' (which is the government). Dr. Parrott also reminded senators that the 1st Amendment protects speakers and hearers.
- d. **Staff Senate Chair:** Kevin Ledford provided an update as Chair. Searches for the Vice President for Human Resources and the Vice President for Finance and Administration are ongoing. The goal is to hire the Vice President for Human Resources by July 1, 2024. The search committee for the Vice President for Finance and Administration is currently reviewing applications.

Submitted by,
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