

FACULTY SENATE

Provost's Report

September 6, 2017

DACA statements from the university and various campus organizations will be collected and posted at a single site, to be announced by UofL Today later this week.

Beginning of term and the new academic year

- *First-year move-in and Welcome Week* in a new format were successful and well-organized. A good increase in the number of living-learning communities (Speed LLCs doubled in number with bundled scheduling, practically filling Community Park; Honors Program students now occupy Kurz Hall) also allowed their participants to settle in a day ahead of Move-in.
- *Enrollment and tuition revenue*
 - Headcount down about 400 compared to Fall 2106. The large graduating class of May 2017 reduced the number of continuing students, and, in the first-year class, a higher than usual proportion of Jefferson County "melt" may indicate the negative effect of intensive local news reporting, but otherwise no complete analysis of the enrollment is yet available. Tuition revenue impact of undergraduate losses was mitigated by a 20% increase in Brandeis enrollments and stable graduate enrollments.
 - Six-year graduation rate for GRS 2011 is 54.4% estimate, up from 52.8% the year before, and the GRS 2016 first-year retention rate is 80.6%, up from 79.7% the year before. If we can move the GRS 2017 cohort to 85% first-year retention, we can break 60% graduation rate in 2020 with no negative impact on our access mission.
 - Initiatives for traditional-age recruitment of Fall 2018 appear to be going well by the count in first applications in total and from the new targeted regions:
 - Fall 2017 Applications received: 802 (from TN, OH, IL: 84)
 - Fall 2018 Applications received (comparable date): 2237 (from TN, OH, IL: 300)
- *New initiatives*
 - Winter term: 37 sections from five units will be offered online between Fall Commencement and the beginning of Spring term from four units. Student interest in this compact term appears to be good already; the website announcing the program will open this week at louisville.edu/wintersession. Advisors will have enrollment information for spring priority registration later in the fall.
 - Resource stewardship and non-traditional prospect pools, an important source for rapid enrollment growth, will require our reconsideration of facility use and course offerings weekends, evenings, and at ShelbyHurst. Entrepreneurial development of new faculty contract models to support year-round, full-schedule offerings will also be explored as a means to increase enrollment.

BOT tenure and nepotism committee

The committee had one organizational meeting 12 July. Today was the second meeting at which the committee reviewed the nepotism policy and heard concerns from the staff trustee. After discussion, the committee recommended the endorsement for a draft policy from HR (with modest changes and disclosure provisions). The committee then considered the aggressive timeline proposed by the BOT action establishing the committee (which requires a report by 16 November) and agreed to work as hard as possible to come to a recommendation concerning REDBOOK changes on tenure policy, but probably not before the January BOT meeting. The committee agreed to proceed as with the nepotism policy, that is, to collect the REDBOOK-equivalent statements on tenure in the constitutional documents of the ACC and our benchmark schools; to review those statements (and any other proper guidance) for best practices; and to propose any appropriate changes to REDBOOK as necessary. University representatives on the committee noted that this breadth of research will result in way more pages of material than did the similar inquiry on nepotism.

University ombuds: Mindy Eaves (from JCPS) started August 14; her office is on the 2nd floor of the Administrative Annex (between Grawemeyer and Brigham). She will visit departments, conducting training sessions, and speaking with the senates and various committees over the next several months.

Speed decanal search continues in spite of distractions. Search firm used the summer months to solicit candidates and applicants for our open Dean search. On August 24, consultants with the entire Speed Search Committee for preliminary discussions about the applicant pool, with the goal to bring in final candidates late Fall. Nominations remain open. Meanwhile, interim Dean Gail DePuy and her staff give the school strong direction.

Budget Advisory Committee

- *Authorization to Hire* Process seems to be smoothed out since grants-funded positions have been integrated into the tracking scheme without approval required. Backlog is zero although some denials have been appealed. Depending on the October quarterly review, terms of approval may be revised.
- BAC has now turned toward a review of priorities for FY19 funding, aligned with values and principles culled from strategic plans and ordered by priority to inform investments and reallocations for the next biennium. Recommendations from the committee will be reported to the senates as they develop during this term.

New Construction ready for occupancy summer 2018

- Belknap Academic Building and SAC renovation are on schedule to be ready for move-in next summer, open for classes Fall 2108 to coincide with the promulgation of Cardinal Core, the university's revised general education program.
- At HSC, the Pediatric Medical Office Building (170K+ square feet) is also slated to open on time in July 2018.