

Staff Morale and Community Outreach

The SMCO Committee met via MS Teams on July 16, 2020

Attendees: Kenneth Allen, Bobbi Carlton, Jessica Key, Angela Ren, Melissa Taylor

Committee Business

There no expressed interest from the call to the Senate to fill our open seat

COVID-19

New training module will be received via email in a few days for all returning faculty and staff.

Preparation for campus return has varied greatly between departments.

Staff Morale

Statement of support from the Senate was approved. Departments are rethinking their organizational charts and focus of positions and beginning to make some changes before students return. High level diversity positions need to be filled to provide input and facilitate the changes.

It was acknowledged we often try to think of something big to have a major impact on staff morale when small things may be the answer we seek. Pride in our workplace, especially in the area of cleanliness, was discussed. Coming into a clean, well-kept workplace each day especially when meeting with students and the university or Louisville community can have a big impact on the pride one takes in their employer. Addressing ongoing custodial concerns in our buildings could go a long way in boosting employee morale. Another idea mentioned was providing UofL swag to staff on a regular basis. Students receive a number of UofL items (umbrellas, tshirts, sunglasses, chapstick, flash drives) during move in and campus welcome events. Senators receive items (tshirts, coasters, ponchos) at events with the President. Committee members mentioned appreciating items from previous employers such as these and the impact they could have when shared with a wider staff audience. The items would not need to be expensive, but just a show of appreciation and a way for the employee to show off their pride in their workplace.

Community Outreach

Christopher Tilquest has offered to assist in the New Employee Orientation informational flier project from the Faculty Senate side. The committee began discussion of what information should be included – how to contact the Senate and find out who your Senator is, how to get involved if interested, what committees exist and the role they play in the experiences of university staff.