

KENTUCKY ONE ACQUISITION, NEW HOUSING DISCUSSED AT STAFF SENATE MEETING

By IRA GREEN - NOVEMBER 14, 2019



The Staff Senate met November 11th in Chao Auditorium.

As it was Veterans Day, Senate Chair John Smith thanked all veterans and recognized Staff Senator Timothy Dill for his service in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES – The [October meeting minutes](#) were unanimously approved.

REPORT: FACULTY SENATE - Professor Reginald Bruce shared that at the Faculty Senate’s November meeting, the Academic Programs Committee brought forth [three proposals](#) and they were approved.

UPDATE: CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS – Mr. Gary Becker, Director of University Parking and Transportation Services, discussed a construction project set to begin on campus that will affect parking. Construction on New Residence Hall 1, which features approximately 450 traditional-style spaces, will start at the end of the 2019-20 academic year, with an anticipated fall 2021 completion date. It will be located between

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Miller Hall and the Student Activities Center, the current location of the visitor parking lot for the SAC. The reserved lot behind the Red Barn will be closed to allow for the parking of construction trailers and to provide construction vehicles access to the site.

Upon completion of that building, Threlkeld Hall will be razed at the end of the 2021 academic year. New Residence Hall 2, which also features approximately 450 traditional-style spaces, is set for a fall 2022 completion date, and Miller Hall will be razed at the end of that academic year.

REPORT: UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT - President Bendapudi said the acquisition of the KentuckyOne Health Louisville assets is complete. UofL is trying to respect the legacy of these facilities by keeping part of their names; for example, UofL Health – Peace Hospital, and UofL Health – Mary & Elizabeth Hospital. More information about the new names is [available online](#).

“We are trying to be sensitive to the communities we serve,” she said. “We feel good about turning things around.”

Dr. Bendapudi noted that Jewish Hospital was losing about \$50 million a year. UofL will receive \$33 million a year in funding just for being an academic health institution. UofL is also depending on a \$50 million loan from the state to help kick the turnaround plan in place.

“The loan is critical to the success of this turnaround. It will provide long-term stability and continued service,” she said.

The President added that the risks of not acquiring this system would have been significant. Jewish Hospital, for example, gets about 3,000 emergency visits per month. Further, UofL’s renowned transplant program would have to close, about 1,900 jobs would be lost, equating to about \$100 million annually in wages, 60 residents would have to be relocated, and there are additional ramifications.

Several hundred employees participated in the inaugural Cards Come Together event, held during Homecoming Week in October. She hopes this becomes an annual event.

Raise Some L, also held during Homecoming Week, raised a record amount of money – more than \$900,000. This compares to the about \$300,000 raised last year.

Finally, the Strategic Plan is in the implementation phase. There are three committees each under the Learn, Work and Invest focus areas, and two additional committees tasked with identifying our thematic charges (e.g. aging) and how to best implement our CARDINAL principles.

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UPDATE: HUMAN RESOURCES – Ms. Mary Elizabeth Miles, Interim Associate Vice President for Human Resources, spoke with the group about programs HR has implemented, including [HRTalks/HRListens](#), focusing on increasing two-way communication with employees. As part of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, the initiatives focus on personal growth and professional development to become a “Great Place to Work.”

Miles said there was a decision made regarding hourly, non-exempt employees that have to work during winter break and how the university will compensate them. She said HR is working with a consultant to study job titles and roles of staff to determine how positions at UofL align with those at parallel institutions.

OTHER REPORTS

BENEFITS DESIGN WORK GROUP - Staff Senator Jason Beare provided a report on employee benefits, which [is online](#) regarding decisions around what plans are offered and the relative investment.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – Ms. Joenima Wani noted that 1,800 pounds of food have been collected for the food pantry. It also was mentioned that students staying on campus during break should email Lydia Burns. SGA worked on an initiative about bike safety with UofL’s Police Department.

STAFF SENATE CHAIR’S REPORT – John Smith spoke about the opening of Chick-fil-A on the HSC campus and informed senators about the university’s settlement with John Schnatter for naming rights to Cardinal Stadium, which athletics paid. The rest of his report is [online](#).

STAFF SENATE VICE CHAIR’S REPORT - Vice Chair Andrew Grubb spoke about his involvement with the UofL Athletics Association and reviewing fees both for 300-level College of Business courses as well as online/distance learning classes.

The meeting agenda with more reports is available [online](#).

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The next Staff Senate meeting is December 9, 2019 at 2:30 in Chao Auditorium.