

Staff Senate Chair's Report

The following represents a series of activities, meetings, conversations and events at which I represented you, the Staff Senate, and our constituents during the month of October 2016.

October 7 – The first of two recognition luncheons was held. Vickie Tencer, Vice Chair, spoke as I was out of town. The next one will be held October 21.

October 10 – Our regular monthly meeting occurred. We unanimously passed a document affirming statements made by both the Faculty Senate and Student Government Association with regard to pending action on the March 2016 agreement between the KJRC and Governor Bevin.

October 12 – I attended a presentation to impacted employees who are transitioning from exempt to non-exempt status led by Helen Combs, HR/Compensation. There were many good, thoughtful questions asked by employees. This has been a very difficult, and at times, extremely frustrating experience for staff.

October 13 – The Board of Trustees again met. It seems that we've resumed a much more normalized course of meetings, agreeing to meet monthly now rather than quarterly. Among other items, we approved the naming of a Native Plant garden; updated personnel documents for the School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS); approved faculty appointments and refinancing of debt related to Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. We heard a presentation by former Staff Senator, Heather Parrino, who spoke about the purpose of the BRICC Coalition and efforts to educate students about the dangers of alcohol and other substance abuses.

October 14 – It was Staff Senate night during a surprisingly tense game. It was wonderful getting an opportunity to socialize with fellow Senators and experience a victory at home! I'm being biased here perhaps – but LAMAR!!

October 17 – I, and other members of the Senate, attended the ground breaking of the new Academic Building on Belknap Campus. I admit – it was weird to look out and not see Crawford Gym, but I am very excited about the future of this state-of-the-art educational facility and all that will be coming to U of L.

October 18 – The Staff Senate, and other constituency groups, were the guests of Dr. Pinto at Amelia Place. It was a lovely event and a fantastic opportunity for us to interconnect with University Administration and other members of the University community.

October 21 – I attended and spoke at the second of two receptions honoring years of dedicated, University service. It is a genuine thrill to be present as thousands of years of combined service are recognized. So many faces were well known to all of us.

October 24 – The Staff Senate Executive Committee met to discuss FLSA, equity adjustments and other pressing matters to come before the Senate, including revisions to the RIF policy and bylaws changes. These will come forward to the full Senate for consideration, hopefully in December.

Respectfully submitted,
Will Armstrong, Staff Senate Chair