

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 April 2017.

April 7 – Officers met with Lee & Jeanell. We received a head's up on items that were brought forward to the Staff Senate on April 10.

April 10 – Staff Senate regular meeting in the Chao Auditorium.

April 11 – Budget Development Committee met. This meeting was held to specifically reconsider the purpose of our group. We had originally been banded together by (then) Interim President Pinto to aid in the development of the FY18 budget. Given circumstances beyond our control, the FY18 budget came together through a much less organic process than had been intended. We are refocusing on creating a strategic, thoughtful process for the development of the FY19 budget instead and are adding members. Faculty will be adding members from their Budget Committee on the Faculty Senate; and Staff Senate will receive additional representation as well.

April 12 – Board of Trustees met where we approved the degree candidates for May graduation; approved tenure and promotion for members of the faculty; and approved the reappointment of Dean Fox of the University Libraries. The minutes for the Board Meeting are available online at <http://louisville.edu/president/board-of-trustees/minutes/2017/board-of-trustees-minutes-4-12-2017/view>.

April 18 – I was supposed to meet with the Budget Development Committee, but had a family emergency and was unable to attend. (Everything is fine now.) I received notes from another member, however, that indicated composition was still a discussion point. We've regularly set the expectation that Tuesdays, from 4-5, will be designated meeting times for our committee for the foreseeable future.

April 24 – The Senate officers met in advance of the SSEC as I was unable to meet the prior week due to my family emergency.

April 24 – Staff Senate Executive Committee met at MedCenter One. We discussed items that arose during the Human Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC). There are many ideas arising from various areas on campus as to how to address financial concerns, and the Staff Senate Executive Committee – as do the officers – insist that we collectively understand, as a University, the impacts of certain proposals, intended and unintended..

April 25 – The Budget Development Committee met again on Belknap Campus from 4-5. We had been tasked to review a number of documents – strategic plans, initiatives, etc. – and contemplate how they might inform our process to develop the FY19 budget. As Interim President Postel and others have stated, one of the ways in which our financial pressures may be alleviated is in the increasing of our student body. There are several ideas on how that might be accomplished and shows the great deal of commitment and creativity of the group gathered.

April 26 – Board of Trustees Special Meeting. A business proposal was discussed in executive session on which I cannot comment, although in open session interim President Postel gave a report. He addressed

ways to improve oversight of the Athletic Association board, which will include filling vacancies on the group. The board also heard in open session from members of the University of Kansas and Vanderbilt University health systems on how their academic operations and their health care missions intersect.

April 27 – Met with programmers to discuss ways to possibly automate our constituency lists, with C&N chair, and to get more timely updated distribution lists out to senators. One of the frustrations that I believe a number of Senators (and I suspect constituents) face is that there isn't a more up-to-date, timely process. With retirements, resignations and internal promotions, the once-a-year- update, all done manually, isn't cutting it. I believe that we can develop a plan that automatically assigns constituencies to individuals based on their department ID/reporting structures that would seamlessly capture those changes to our staff census. If we can get this process down, the Senate would have access to updated lists on a monthly basis, and would be able to get those updates to you just as regularly.