

Staff Senate Chair's Report

The following reflect major interactions I've had since our last Staff Senate meeting, along with my thoughts. I wish you and yours a very Happy New Year and happiest of holidays!

Presidential Search: The listening tour of the Presidential Search will again meet on December 11, 2017. This meeting is held in conjunction with our PSFCC (Presidential Search Faculty Consultative Committee), who provide faculty insight, per *The Redbook*, to the BOT. The last meeting was incredibly productive, I thought, and I look forward to further honest, open conversations as to how we can move our search forward in the most positive, open light possible. I have shared with this group, as well as with the BOT, and members of University leadership, the Staff Senate Resolution that was passed by the Executive Committee on November 27. All three constituencies are now on record supporting an approach that engages the University community and stakeholders.

Staff Senate Executive Committee: SSEC meet on November 27 and hear information on parking presented to us by Mark Watkins, Business Services. I've requested that a copy of the parking consultant's report, along with the Board of Overseers report, be presented as soon as possible to Staff Senate for our review. We will meet next on December 18.

Parking: Speaking of parking, a group will be created to deal with and beginning planning based on the consultant's study in the new year. I've been asked to provide names for Senate participation, and have requested that the Chair of Services & Facilities, be invited to participate. Members of the Parking Advisory Committee who represent Staff will also be invited should other staff be unavailable.

Ombudsman: The ombudsman is no longer with the University; and until a search is recalibrated and our needs reassessed, Dr. Cedric Powell and our own Sandy Russell will combine ombudsman responsibilities with their roles as the Faculty and Staff Grievance Officers. We thank them both for their commitment and their willingness to serve in this capacity.

Budget Advisory Committee: This committee continues to meet. Alex McWilliams and I sit on this representing staff. I have been unable to attend a few of the meetings with issues that have arisen in my day job; and several meetings have been canceled by the Provost as we vet not only a document outlining vision and principles intended to guide strategic budget development, but also a matrix that will allow for the scoring of potential new programs to see how they align with these principles. We are next scheduled to meet on December 12.

Board of Trustees: The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on December 14, 2017. Normally, this is a meeting for only members of the executive committee of the BOT, but the decision was made for this to be a general BOT. At this meeting, the BOT will review and approve the degree candidate lists.

COO Search Committee: This search is in process to wrap up soon, I believe. Two finalist candidates were identified and members of the Staff and Faculty Senate Executive Committees

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had the opportunity to meet with them on December 6, 2017. I would assume the University will be in a position to announce a preferred candidate before the end of 2017 and, if not, early 2018.

VP for ERM Search Committee: Two finalist candidates are meeting with members of the Faculty and Staff Senate Executive Committees on December 7, 2017. These opportunities to interface with candidates is always welcomed. Again, I would expect this search would be a position to wrap by the end of 2017 or early 2018.

Upcoming Staff Senate meetings: As a reminder, there is no meeting scheduled for January 2018; we will reconvene in February 2018. As always – I am available any time via email, office phone, cell phone or drop-in.