

## 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 March 2017.

March 9<sup>th</sup> – Budget Development Committee Workgroup – this group consists of several Deans, University Lead Fiscal Officers, as well as members of the constituency groups – Staff Senate, Faculty Senate and Student Government Association. This group's original charge was to help facilitate development and insight into priorities for the FY18 budget, but given the present fiscal situation, we have spent a great deal of time learning – and strategizing how to cope – with significant, current year budgetary issues. This initial meeting was an overview.

March 9<sup>th</sup> – Campus Climate Survey – this group met with MITC201 and represented a wide array of campus groups. WE heard a presentation from Institutional Research about a new model for deploying a campus climate survey, with a requirement that we develop as an institution an action plan based on the findings of the surveys. We anticipate engaging in this new model at some point in the Fall 2017.

March 13<sup>th</sup> – The regular Staff Senate meeting occurred at the CTRB. We've had a lot of positive feedback at the use of this venue for our HSC meetings, and are exploring making this site our preferred location for future HSC gatherings.

March 15<sup>th</sup> – The first presidential search committee meeting took place. It was covered in the media, but the primary point I'd like to make is that this group seems committed to selecting a leader who is transformational and transparent. The membership of this body includes the entire Board of Trustees, as well as other community members. This main search committee will break up into two subcommittees – one charged with identifying a search firm and the other with developed the job description/qualifications. The constituencies are represented on both subcommittees.

March 16<sup>th</sup> – The Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting. Discussion took place in executive session. Minutes are available online at [http://louisville.edu/president/board-of-trustees/minutes/2017/board-of-trustees-minutes-3-16-2017/at\\_download/file](http://louisville.edu/president/board-of-trustees/minutes/2017/board-of-trustees-minutes-3-16-2017/at_download/file)

March 17<sup>th</sup> – The Budget Development Committee met and began an analysis of some of the suggestions coming to the provost service account. Many are well founded, although I have asked that the list be distributed after appropriate theming and costing of the various suggestions.

March 21<sup>st</sup> – Health Plan Data was scheduled to meet, but I was unable to attend at the last minute. I had an opportunity to debrief with Jeanell Hughes on the matter and invited her to present the information at our Staff Senate Executive Committee meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The intent is to allow our third-party analyst, AON, do a comparison of claims data and health risk assessment data, to develop an overall profile of our community. This will be utilized, only at an aggregate level, to appeal to potential bidders in an RFP for the health plan.

March 24<sup>th</sup> – Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) invited me, along with other constituency/peer leaders to speak at their regular meeting. I provided some Staff Senate background, information on our current work, and touched on issues that seem to be on staff minds – concerning our present financial situation.

March 27<sup>th</sup> – The SSEC met, with Vickie Tencer in charge, because a scheduling overlap with the Board of Trustees occurred that precluded my attendance for the duration of the SSEC meeting. As indicated earlier, Jeanell Hughes arrived to explain the rationale for analyzing claims data to develop a profile of the overall health of our community; this will be used solely to inform would-be bidders so they can make the most advantageous bid for U of L. My overall feeling is that this purpose is useful provided it can keep health care premiums static or lead to a reduction; any other use of these data sets is a slippery slope. There was a robust discussion about this topic. Also discussed was the University's smoking policy, which also led to a health discussion. I had to leave at this point.

March 27<sup>th</sup> – The Board of Trustees met, followed immediately by the convening of the University of Louisville Research Foundation. The ULRF is comprised of the BOT; we elected a slate of officers. To mirror the constituency involvement on the BOT, I nominated Enid Trucios-Haynes as a member of the ULRF executive committee. This was a short meeting, as we addressed housekeeping issues. The major action item was the approval of updated signature authorities for the ULRF, in addition to approving a resolution to support ULRF's financial commitment to ULP. The minutes of the meeting are online: [http://louisville.edu/president/board-of-trustees/minutes/2017/joint-special-meeting-bot-and-ulrf-3-27-2017/at\\_download/file](http://louisville.edu/president/board-of-trustees/minutes/2017/joint-special-meeting-bot-and-ulrf-3-27-2017/at_download/file)

March 28<sup>th</sup> – the Budget Development Committee met again, where we were tasked with a new charge. We will be working on the development of the FY19 budget and associated strategies for revenue growth and other initiatives. This is necessitated by the time we spent dealing with FY16, it has created a rushed turn-around on the FY18 budget, which is due to be presented to the BOT by mid-May. As Dr. Postel has indicated, we'll be in an unusual place, so to speak – as we carefully watch actuals against budget. Therefore, planning for FY19 is crucial and is being taken very seriously.

March 29<sup>th</sup> – The Board of Trustees met in executive session to discuss a business proposal. I am unable to say more given the nature of executive session.