

Chair's Report  
December 2020  
Submitted by John Smith

Every month I have referenced Groundhog Day in my report. I really wish I did not feel like doing the same thing again. Recognize anything here?

**Provost Search:** It's funny. I had one of my regular meetings with Neeli coming up and put on the agenda for us to discuss the provost search. It was shortly after the search committee had submitted the names of whom we considered viable candidates to her. I was going to ask if she was close to starting negotiations with any of them. While I was typing on the agenda, I received a notice to the BOT that Dr. Gonzalez had accepted the position and an announcement to the entire campus would be coming out that same day. That changed my agenda! I am happy with the decision. Our EC was highly involved with the interview process and was able to have a significant amount of feedback/input into their thoughts on each of the candidates. I sincerely appreciate all the feedback I received from the EC and other senators and presented all of that into the search committee meetings.

**General Counsel Search:** The EC has gone from the provost the general counsel search process rather quickly. The EC interviewed each of the four candidates over the last two weeks. Each EC member who participated in the interviews submitted observations and comments for each candidate. We did not make a recommendation for any candidate as a group. I was personally happy with the pool. I think each candidate had some very positive attributes and could be successful in the role. The general counsel is not a position that is traditionally very visible on most campuses. It was encouraging to hear several of these talk about being more so if they were given the opportunity. I was also very happy with the EC. They asked very pointed and insightful questions that challenged each candidate.

**Emergency Operations Center:** Our university police are opening a new Emergency Operations Center. It is something we have never had at our university before and something that could prove very beneficial. The center will be housed on the Health Sciences Campus in the first floor of the Nursing Building. There will be an open house Wednesday, Dec. 9 from 9:00 AM to Noon. I

am excited to hear Chief Lewis speak to that center during our December meeting.

**Board of Trustees:** Our next meeting is a committee day that will be held Thursday, December 10. I am serving on the Human Resources Committee which I am happy with. I wanted on that specific committee. I will attend all of the committee meetings though. They will include Governance, Trusteeship and Nominating, Academic and Student Affairs, Finance and the Executive and Compensation Committee. I am a voting member of the Human Resources Committee but am able to attend any committee meeting and speak at any meeting. I have always attended all committee meetings and have spoken at many.

**Covid Advisory Group:** Our next joint XC and EC Covid Advisory meeting is tomorrow. I should have more to report after that.

**Tuition and Fees Committee:** I am serving on Tuition and Fees. The discussions are very interesting as we will be receiving many proposals and having to work within the CPE guidelines.

**Budget Model Workgroup:** I am serving on the Budget Model Workgroup. This group is working on moving the university forward from a traditional incremental budget process to a more incentivizing budgeting by academic instruction hours provided model for academic units. We have had several meetings so far and discussions are very detailed. There are so many variables and scenarios to consider. I am glad that Vicki Tencer is also representing us on this group.

### **Meetings Attended:**

**Monday, Nov. 9, 8:00, Provost Interview, Kosair Building**

**Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2:30, Staff Senate Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, Nov. 10, 4:00, Provost Interview**

**Wednesday, Nov. 11, 8:00, Provost Interview, Kosair Building**

**Thursday, Nov. 12, 1:00, Pivot to Fall Meeting**

**Thursday, Nov. 12, 4:00, Provost Interview**

**Tuesday, Nov. 17, 10:30, General Counsel Interview**

**Tuesday, Nov. 17, Noon, Provost Pivot to Fall Meeting**

**Tuesday, Nov. 17, 3:00, Staff Senate EC**

**Thursday, Nov. 18, Tuition and Fees**

**Thursday, Nov. 18, Provost Search Committee**

**Monday, Nov. 23, 11:00, Staff Senate Leadership**

**Monday, Nov. 23, 1:00, Budget Model Committee**

**Monday, Nov. 23, 4:00, Provost Fall Planning Committee**

**Monday, Nov. 30, 1:00, Student Involvement Interview**

**Tuesday, Dec. 1, 3:00, Senate EC Meeting**

**Wednesday, Dec. 2, Spring Planning Coordination Committee**

**Thursday, Dec. 3, 9:00, Budget Model Committee**

**Thursday, Dec. 3, 10:00, Student Affairs Marketing Committee**

**Thursday, Dec. 3, 2:00, Dr. Bendapudi Meeting**

**Thursday, Dec. 3, 2:30, General Counsel Interview**

**Friday, Dec. 4, 2:30, General Counsel Interview**

**Monday, Dec. 7, 9:00, Space and Appropriations Committee**

**Monday, Dec. 7, 11:00, Senate Leadership**

**Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2:30, Staff Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, Dec. 10, Spring Planning Meeting**

**Thursday, Dec. 10, 12:00, Board of Trustees**

