

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

To: Staff Senate
From: Christopher Tillquist, Faculty Senate Representative to Staff Senate

Re: Faculty Senate Meeting – December 2, 2020

Links:

- Link to recording of meeting: <https://bit.ly/37Kppqv>
- Link to agenda: <https://bit.ly/380CHPR>

Summary:

As per usual, my report primarily concerns academic issues covered during the meeting. The Academic Programs Committee (APC) sent two new programs to the Senate floor, proposals for a BA in Computer Science (J.B. Speed School of Engineering) and an MS in Health Professions (College of Education and Human Development). After vigorous discussions, both proposals were tabled to permit amendments suggested by the full Senate. As protocol requires, modifications must be reviewed by the APC before being once again submitted to the Senate floor; the APC agreed to expedite review of the revisions so as to permit (if approved) fall enrollment.

Prior to the report by the Provost, Mr. Barberie of the Student Government Associate presented results of surveys conducted to assess student experiences during the current, challenging semester. Comments reflected frustrations with perceived excessive academic work (cf. a relevant article in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#), by B. Supiano titled, “Teaching: What students are up against”) as well as psychological and emotional distress. The Provost urged faculty to reach out to students to encourage them; this, as we move forward towards spring enrollment (which is down 700 students compared to last year at this time). In other news, the A&S Dean’s search is coming to a close and a recommendation has been made to the Provost.

The Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation, Kevin Gardner, gave a report that included news of an institutional [ORCID](#) integration site license to improve grant and publication reporting for faculty and research staff, efforts to firm up our Carnegie R1 standing, and noted that the review procedure for Centers and Institutes is being revised (stay tuned!).

Staff Senate members may be especially interested in viewing the report by Jason Smith, System Chief of UofL Health. Our meeting began at 3:00 and his report was scheduled to begin at 4:30. Most heartening was his comment that UofL Health, Baptist, and Norton are collaborating to manage patient flow during this COVID emergency and are working together to create a plan to distributing forthcoming vaccines. You may be interested to know that UofL Health has sufficient PPE and that there are currently no issues with beds or capital equipment; there are issues with maintaining sufficient staff. Finally, he reviewed the current guidelines for immunization priorities: first immunized will be health care providers, individuals in long-term care facilities and those with severe co-morbidities; second immunized will be first responders and individuals with co-morbidities; third immunized will be teachers (broadly defined); finally, others. These guidelines are also reviewed in a recent New York Times article by S. Thompson titled, “[Find your place in the vaccine line.](#)”

That is all for now. Please feel free to contact me via email if questions or comments.