

**University of Louisville Staff Senate
Vice Chair's Report
Monday, December 9, 2019**

Even though we're past Thanksgiving, I really think of this as the season to feel thankful: we survived, and even flourished, through another semester of doing the university's work. We'll get another group of students out the door at December commencement, and we'll also—hopefully—get some time to slow down, rest, and take stock of (or even, dare I say, spend some time enjoying) what's important to us outside of the office. Thanks to everyone for your hard work, senate-related or otherwise, and best wishes for a happy holiday season as we turn the calendar over for another year.

Meetings Attended

- November 13: Working meeting on shared leave and TML @ HR
- November 13: Monthly Staff Senate leadership meeting w/Mark Watkins (feat. Gary Becker and Dan Durbin)
- November 14: C&N Committee meeting
- November 20: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- November 20: Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting (PED invited by Faculty Senate to hear budget presentation from Dan Durbin)
- November 21: SMCO Committee meeting
- November 25: Staff Senate Executive Committee Meeting
- November 26: PED Committee meeting
- December 2: Task Force on Tuition and Fee Setting
- December 2: President's Holiday Open House for Staff and Faculty Senates @ Amelia Place
- December 6: Provost's Advising Task Force Meeting
- **Ongoing conversations:** shared leave/FMLA/TML policies; benefit premium increases and outlook for future years; significance of Jewish Hospital purchase; Staff Senate by-law revisions and committee structures; questions about performance evaluations; shared governance writ large; collaboration with Faculty Senate; new construction on and around campus

Meetings I Missed

- November 11: Taskforce on Tuition and Fee Setting (running conflict with senate meetings)
- November 15: Provost's Advising Task Force Meeting (schedule conflict)
- December 4: Physical Plant *ad hoc* committee (unavoidable day-job conflict)

Mentimeter Questions from the October Staff Senate Meeting

November's Mentimeter questions included inquiries about the current status of the Get Healthy Now Program; the "consensual relations" policy; and the university's nepotism policy. I

am in the process of getting answers to these (and other questions), and I will send them out when I have them.

There was also a comment about managing time during Staff Senate meetings, particularly when the agenda is heavy and presentations run long. I think I can speak for the other officers when I say we appreciate this feedback and will try to be attentive to how this is playing out during the meetings. For myself, I'll say that our senate meetings do have to check a lot of boxes: they serve as conduits for information from all over the university; opportunities for senators to give feedback; and a chance for senators and other stakeholders to ask questions, listen, and, hopefully, to have some kind of dialogue. We will do our best to make sure we can do all of these things and more in as timely and efficient a manner as possible.

Committee work/looking ahead

- **Committee reporting and communication:** Please remember to submit reports from all staff senate and university-wide committees. If you have any news to report between full-body senate meetings, please let us know. If you are on a university-wide committee that has not been active (that is, met or reached out over email) this year or whose meeting schedule has become irregular, please let Andrew know. **Also, when you talk about your committees in the senate, please keep in mind that you're educating potential future committee members about what your committee does and why it's important to consider for their involvement.**
- **Task Force on Tuition and Fee Setting (TFTFS):** On December 2, after almost an entire semester of TFTFS meeting at the same time as Staff Senate, I was finally able to make it to another meeting of this committee. There were no new fee requests to consider, but the committee did talk about plans for the spring and also broader issues like online course fees and CPE's proposals for eliminating/mitigating them.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board:** There has not been a meeting since the annual meeting on October 18. I am trying to be involved with the effort to revise the ULAA board's by-laws, but the first meeting for that subcommittee is today during the Staff Senate meeting.
- **Provost's advising task force:** The committee met on December 6 and is charging forward with an ambitious agenda to issue recommendations to the provost by April 15. There are subgroups for advising roles/definitions; process mapping; and conducting focus groups of advisors and (hopefully) students. I am a part of the focus group subcommittee, which is making plans for conversations in advising units during January and early February.
- **Main job:** The deadline for Brown Fellows applications is Sunday, December 15. As we head into the holiday break, most of my energy will be focused toward getting ready to read applications; planning interviews (February 21-22, 2020); and planning some other BFP events for Spring 2020.

Getting in Touch

Please feel free to reach out to me at andrew.grubb@louisville.edu or (502) 852-1482. I can't promise an instant reply, but I enjoy hearing from people, and I'm usually up for a chat. If you have any topics you want to discuss—or suggestions for things to look into—please let me know.

--Submitted by Andrew Grubb