

**University of Louisville Staff Senate  
Vice Chair's Report  
Monday, February 10, 2020**

We're a little bit past the "Happy New Year!" phase of things, but it's our first senate meeting of 2020, so welcome back. I hope that your year is off to a good start and, if you do need a silver lining, spring break will probably start to come into focus soon. As advising season makes it up to full speed, please be mindful that this is a time of year when students across the board are making important decisions about their future: prospective students are scheduling those last campus visits and interviewing for scholarships, trying to seal the deal, and our current students are pondering course selections for next year or figuring out where they're going to land after graduation. So, in keeping with our theme from last fall, we have a lot of opportunities—some of which we may not expect—to positively influence students toward success. Happy new year, indeed.

**Meetings Attended**

- December 10: Lunch meeting with Staff Senate Vice Chair David Owen
- December 12: Called into ULAA executive committee meeting
- December 13: Meeting with John Smith and Dave Young to discuss Strategic Plan Grand Challenges committee
- December 16: Meeting about parking fees with Gary Becker and Staff Senate leadership
- January 6: Advising Task Force Focus Groups subcommittee meeting
- January 10: CoB Focus Group for Advising Task Force
- January 13: TFTFS Student Fee Review Committee Meeting
- January 15: CEHD Focus Group for Advising Task Force
- January 17: Called into ULAA board meeting (home with sick kid)
- January 21: Staff Grievance Committee mid-year meeting (late)
- January 27: Staff Senate Executive Committee Meeting
- February 7: Proportional formula and constituency determination meeting

**Meetings I Missed**

- January 17: Advising Task Force half-day retreat (home with sick kid)
- January 22: TFTFS meeting (schedule conflict)
- February 3: Staff Senate leadership meeting (home with sick kid)
- February 3: PED meeting @ HR
- February 3: Staff Senate leadership monthly meeting with Mark Watkins
- February 3: TFTFS meeting

**Committee work/looking ahead**

- **Committee reporting and communication:** Please remember to submit written 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):** The full-body meetings of the task force continue to occur at difficult times for my schedule, but the committee is good about polling for times, circulating information, and posting relevant items to CardBox. I have generally been able to attend the meetings of the student fee review subcommittee, and we have been conducting the regular, 3-year review of student fees in various units. In light of these reviews, some new questions have come up, and we are continuing with inquiries as the semester proceeds.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board:** I was unable to attend the January 17 meeting in person, but I was able to call in from home. The most important agenda item was approving revisions to the ULAA by-laws. The board approved the revisions, the most controversial of which included giving the university president veto power over the executive committee. This was considered necessary for NCAA-related, institutional control reasons, though it did raise the specter of past presidents and, therefore, questions about where this could possibly go wrong. The meeting also highlighted the achievements of the university's student athletes in the past year.
- **Provost's advising task force:** There has actually been a lot of work done on this committee since the last report, since we're driving toward an aggressive April 1 deadline for this endeavor. I am part of the subcommittee in charge of conducting focus groups with advisors in different units around campus; most of these meetings took place in mid-to-late January, and we are still scheduling the last couple of them. The meetings have yielded a lot of insights about how advisors spend their time; how they'd like to spend their time; and the resources that they need to foster success for their students and themselves. We'll begin going through the data soon, and the subcommittee stays in touch through email and regular in-person meetings.
- **Physical plant *ad hoc* committee:** Senate leadership has received a recommendation to bring this committee's work to a close. According to senate bylaws (VIII.2), such a recommendation regarding the committee's work is sufficient to disband it, but senate leadership has also agreed that this is the best course of action. The focus and initiatives from the *ad hoc* committee will continue to be addressed—and, hopefully, elevated—through living in senate standing committees. While SMCO is a natural place for many of these issues, PED and S&F will also have some responsibilities where relevant. I am currently discussing with those committee chairs how this might look going forward. In the meantime, senate leadership extends its sincere gratitude to committee chair Barbara Bishop and committee members Paul Eitel, Donna Hardesty, Meg Peavy, David Schlaegel, Bill Taylor, Rick Williams, and Dave Young.
- **Main job:** It's the busy season, no doubt. Honors starts advising today and that runs through the end of March. We're also coming up on the grueling stretch of the Brown Fellows Kentucky Connection trip (to Bardstown, February 15), Brown Fellows interview weekend (February 21-22), and the annual BFP networking dinner (March 4)—all within a span of 19 days.

### **Getting in Touch**

Please feel free to reach out to me at [andrew.grubb@louisville.edu](mailto: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