

**University of Louisville Staff Senate
Vice Chair's Report
Tuesday, May 12, 2020**

It's a tough time. The early days of the university's response to the pandemic were fraught with uncertainty, and now it seems like everything is even *more* uncertain as we wonder if or how much COVID-19 will wipe the fall semester off the board. Being home is nice for a lot of reasons, but it has lost its novelty. When we venture out for things we need, we have to re-learn complicated processes like choosing which supermarket door to enter. Everyone seems afraid; you can see it over their masks. The only way to go forward seems to be to go through it, though, and I am proud of everyone for facing and overcoming challenges of all shapes and sizes daily. Please, keep taking care of yourselves; keep looking out for each other—including faculty and students—and please, please, please stay safe. Thank you for everything you do for the university. Even if it feels invisible, it is making a difference.

Meetings Attended

- April 16: PED committee meeting
- April 17: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- April 20: ULAA board meeting
- April 20: University senior leadership meeting (COVID-19 response)
- April 21: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- April 23: PED committee meeting
- April 23: Staff Senate Executive Committee meeting with HR for info on UI benefits
- April 24: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- April 27: Task Force on Tuition and Fee Setting (TFTFS) meeting
- April 28: Staff Senate Executive Committee meeting
- April 30: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- May 1: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- May 4: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- May 4: Staff Senate leadership monthly meeting with Mark Watkins (feat. Mary Elizabeth Miles and Dan Durbin)
- May 6: Faculty Senate meeting
- May 11: Staff Senate leadership meeting

Committee work/looking ahead

- **Coronavirus spiel on committees and reporting:** Please remember to submit written reports from all staff senate and university-wide committees. I know I write this *every time*. Every aspect of our work at the university has been disrupted by a global pandemic. We are all still adjusting to working remotely, even as we enter the third month of doing it. The pandemic seems to be consuming everything. Still, the senate has to continue to operate—and we also need to *document* how it operated through this time. Although the COVID-19 response seems larger than and separate from the senate, our committees and representatives across the university will play a crucial role as the crisis plays out—and beyond. So, please, keep the lines of communication open, keep

making committee reports, and please let me know if/how university-wide committees are functioning.

- **Task Force on Tuition and Fee Setting (TFTFS):** The committee met on April 27. The committee discussed the CPE finance board's decision on the tuition rate ceiling; student technology requirements and the possibility of associated standards and fees across the university (the subcommittee recommended no changes to current policies); and the A&S technology fee. As of now, the committee has fulfilled its charge for the year and any other info/business will be handled through email.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board (ULAA):** The committee met on April 20. The board heard updates from Athletics about the financial and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Provost's advising task force:** The last meeting was on April 10 (see last month's report). At that time, the plan was to extend the committee's timetable into the fall and resume work in earnest by mid-May. Accordingly, the committee will meet this Thursday, May 14.
- **Main job:** The new class of Brown Fellows was settled next week, so now I'm turning toward taking our usual summer activities online in June. We're also preparing in earnest for orientation. This year, that will mean virtual advising appointments with incoming students as they select their very first classes in college. It's also impossible not to be brainstorming for what the fall semester could look like, even though we don't know what the future holds yet. Regardless, we'll be ready.

Getting in Touch

Please feel free to reach out to me at andrew.grubb@louisville.edu or (502) 852-1482 (forwarding), especially during this trying time. I am always glad to take questions or discuss current issues. In the meantime, stay safe, and hang in there.

--Submitted by Andrew Grubb