

**University of Louisville Staff Senate
Vice Chair's Report
Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

We are seven months into the COVID-19 pandemic, and it's tough to know what to say anymore. As we head toward the home stretch of our first full semester during the pandemic, and as we round out our first year (including our first holiday season) living in this world, I encourage you to be proud of your accomplishments (this includes getting out of bed every morning) and to reflect on what it's been like to live through this remarkable time. Regardless of what the world looks like in three months or three years, we are doing important work that will positively impact staff, the university, and the world. In the meantime, please keep up the good work.

Meetings Attended

- September 9: Staff Senate EC/Faculty Senate XC COVID-19 Advisory Group
- September 10: Fall Scenario Planning—Academic committee meeting
- September 11: Staff Senate *ad hoc* committee on U of L's anti-racism agenda
- September 14: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- September 15: Staff Senate Executive Committee meeting
- September 17: Staff Morale and Engagement (SME) committee meeting
- September 22: Scenario Planning—Academic: Student Survey subcommittee meeting
- September 23: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- September 24: PED committee meeting
- September 25: Fall Scenario Planning—Academic committee meeting
- September 25: Staff Senate *ad hoc* committee on U of L's anti-racism agenda
- September 28: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- October 5: Staff Senate leadership monthly meeting with Mark Watkins et al.
- October 6: New senator orientation
- October 8: Subgroup meeting to discuss anti-racism efforts in Staff Senate
- October 9: (Spring) Scenario Planning—Academic committee meeting
- October 12: Staff Senate *ad hoc* committee on U of L's anti-racism agenda
- October 12: Staff Senate leadership meeting

Meetings Missed

- October 6: Staff Senate Executive Committee (childcare overlap)

Committee work/looking ahead

- **NEW AND IMPROVED spiel on committees and reporting:** Please remember to submit written reports from all staff senate and university-wide committees. Okay, the “new and improved” part is mostly that this is shorter than it was. As one Teams meeting melts into the next, please remember to keep the information flowing, and thanks for your diligent efforts in doing so up to this point.
- ***Ad hoc* committee on anti-racism efforts:** Leondra Gully and I have co-chaired this group since early September. For the results of our work so far, please see the separate

report on the committee's recommendations. In the meantime, I'd like to extend sincere thanks to Leondra for her invaluable perspective and dedication, and to all of the committee members for being willing to take on an important assignment—and work through it brilliantly—with short notice and *wicked* turnaround time.

- **Fall/Spring Scenario Planning—Academic:** This group has decreased the frequency of its meetings since the early days of the pandemic and is now meeting about once every two weeks or so. The most recent meeting was Friday, October 9. Topics of discussion included a revised calendar for the Spring 2021 semester, which has since been approved by the deans, with a January 11 start to the semester and a reduced, spring break-ish long weekend (March 4-5). The committee also discussed regulating remote course accommodations for students and discontinuing the expansion of the pass/fail option for courses.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board (ULAA):** The first meeting of the year—including the Finance & Budget committee and full board meeting—will be Friday, October 23.
- **Provost's advising task force:** This committee has not met since early in the summer, ostensibly owing to COVID-related matters and preparations for the fall (and now spring) semester. The co-chairs were working on a report draft, and the next committee meeting date remains unknown.
- **Main job:** We're on the downslope of advising season (well, depending on your advising load). Priority registration begins October 30. At the same time, recruiting efforts are intensifying and I'm planning the first-ever virtual Brown Fellows interviews at U of L after a decade of staging them in-person. As always, it's an adventure.

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