

**University of Louisville Staff Senate
Vice Chair's Report
Tuesday, November 10, 2020**

Winter and its holiday season are the last part of our calendar to be touched by COVID-19. We spent November and December 2019, for the most part, blissfully unaware that all of this was coming. It's hard to know whether to look forward to this season as a familiar comfort, or to dread it for the changes and challenges it will now hold. At any rate, we're about to put a bow on the toughest semester in memory, and I hope everyone can find some time—even if it's just five minutes between the end of NTI and your next Zoom meeting, while you take out the trash and text your colleagues about your latest frustrations—to reflect on the hard work we've done and the way we have supported the university community (including and especially each other) during this trying time. And if you can actually find time to relax, even better. Thanks for your hard work, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Meetings Attended

- October 14: Staff Senate EC/Faculty Senate XC COVID-19 Advisory Group
- October 15: (Spring) Scenario Planning—Academic committee meeting
- October 20: Staff Senate Executive Committee meeting
- October 23: ULAA Finance & Budget committee meeting and full board meeting
- October 23: PED committee meeting
- October 26: Provost candidate #1 w/Faculty and Staff Senate Executive Committees
- October 26: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- October 28: Staff Grievance Committee (SGC) mid-year orientation/training meeting
- November 4: Provost candidate #2 w/Faculty and Staff Senate Executive Committees
- November 4: PED committee meeting
- November 5: (Spring) Scenario Planning—Academic committee meeting
- November 5: Staff Senate *ad hoc* committee on U of L's anti-racism agenda
- November 6: Staff Senate leadership monthly meeting with Mark Watkins, et al.
- November 6: Special meeting of ULAA Executive Committee
- November 9: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- November 10: PED committee meeting

Meetings Missed

- October 20: Staff Morale and Engagement (SME) committee meeting
- October 27: (Spring) Scenario Planning—Academic committee meeting

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:** On November 5, the committee met to discuss the prospect of creating a standing committee, which was one of the recommendations shared by the *ad hoc* committee with the senate on October 13, and also to consider how to spend its time implementing any recommendations during the (hypothetical) last few months of its existence.
- **Fall/Spring Scenario Planning—Academic:** This group continues to meet on a weekly basis, as agenda items call for it. Recent hot topics have included the numerous implications of using test-proctoring software; the possibility of mandatory COVID testing in January; and attendance policies and course modalities as we move forward through the pandemic.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board (ULAA):** The ULAA board met for the first time this year on October 23, with a Finance & Budget committee meeting followed by a full meeting of the board. The board discussed the annual financial report and the budget implications of COVID-19, including mitigation measures designed to limit staff impacts and use furloughs as a last resort (important: there are no current plans for furloughs). The board also discussed the new athletic residence hall on Floyd St., across from the Kueber Center (a.k.a. Little Yum).
- **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:** Advising season is done and done. As the days get shorter, the focus will shift to scholarship recruiting and selection for next year. With a temporarily relaxed ACT requirements, we expect Brown Fellows to match or break a record number of applications. At the same time, we’re looking ahead and doing a lot of event planning (well, brainstorming is more like it) as we turn the calendar over toward the second year of COVID.

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