

**University of Louisville Staff Senate
Vice Chair's Report
Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

A few years ago, back when I had zero idea what I was doing, I ran for the open secretary-treasurer position that was won—and has been occupied with distinction—by Rhonda Gilliland. I didn't know Rhonda at all. She projected competence and know-how, and it was clear that the senate had made the hands-down right choice. A year or so later, right after I was elected vice chair, Rhonda was one of the first people who came up to me after the meeting, and she said, "I look forward to serving with you." That was really when I started getting to know Rhonda and, over the past two years, I have received daily lessons in what it means to serve Staff Senate. It means thinking. A lot. It means paying attention more and—a challenge for me—talking less. On good days, it means quickly conjuring details that will immediately untie a knotted issue in favor of staff. It means being thoughtful, it means showing empathy, and it means being honest with others and with yourself about how you're approaching a situation. It means advocating fiercely, understanding the dimensions of that advocacy, and often it means recognizing that discretion is the better part of valor and living to fight another day. Above all, I think that successfully serving Staff Senate means living in respect for everyone you work with, on any committee or any issue, regardless of personal feelings about the matter at hand. Those are the things I have taken away from my work with Rhonda these past two years, and I don't mind writing here that I think she has been a paradigm-shifting officer who has set a high bar for her successors (and not just secretary-treasurers). I am grateful for what she has taught me, and I hope I can apply those lessons as we continue to work on behalf of all staff. Thank you, Rhonda, for exemplifying what a senate officer should be, and for all your support.

As we pass officer elections today, I also want to give special thanks to John Smith, who has also been a friend and mentor, helping me become a better officer and person over the past two years; to Virginia Hosono, Jason Beare, and Melissa Taylor, who chair the three committees that default to the VC, and who have each done such an impressive job in their roles; to Leondra Gully, for her work with me on the anti-racism *ad hoc* committee, and for carrying that torch forward with CARE; to Angela Lewis-Klein, Ginger Brown, and the incomparable Glenn Gittings, for their support at various points along the way; and to Will Adamchik, who inspired me to get involved with senate in the first place. Thanks also to everyone who has reached out with questions, comments, thoughts, ideas, encouragement, and everything else over the past couple years—just because I don't want this Word doc to hit ten pages, that doesn't mean you're not important to me, and I appreciate you. Thank you to everyone for your service.

Meetings Attended

- May 12: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- May 12: Staff Senate EC/Faculty Senate XC COVID Advisory Group meeting
- May 17: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- May 18: ULAA special meeting
- May 20: PED committee meeting
- May 25: Staff Senate Executive Committee (EC) meeting
- May 26: ULAA personnel committee meeting and budget workshop
- June 2: Staff Senate leadership meeting

- June 2: SME committee meeting
- June 2: Staff Senate leadership meeting with Mark Watkins, Mary Elizabeth Miles, Chief Lewis
- June 7: Staff Senate leadership meeting
- June 7: PED committee meeting w/HR

Committee work

- **Spring Forward Academic Scenario Planning Committee:** This committee is not meeting regularly. The provost has asked us to leave posted dates on our calendars (biweekly through June), but it is generally understood that the committee is no longer meeting unless a specific issue warrants it.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board (ULAA):** The finance committee and full board meet again this Friday, June 11. The board convened for a special meeting on short notice on May 18, and the board gathered again about a week later for a scheduled personal committee meeting and budget workshop. If you have any questions about ULAA matters, please let me know.

Getting in Touch

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

--Submitted by Andrew Grubb