

**University of Louisville Staff Senate  
Vice Chair's Report  
Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

I have told anyone who will listen that I think 2021 has been tougher than 2020. Furloughs have largely faded into a bad memory, and the release of vaccines to combat COVID-19 has saved countless lives and allowed us to resume some degree of what, once upon a time, was called normalcy. And yet, it seems like there is as much if not more uncertainty than ever as the pandemic lingers and the Omicron variant spreads, with its full impact still unknown. We have taken steps into a new world—especially with remote work—but even that new world keeps morphing and shifting and introducing new complications. Now, at that tipping point, another bad news avalanche: top administrators disappear; our friends and families and fellow Kentuckians in the western part of the Commonwealth are hurting after last weekend's tornadoes; and we learned this morning that we have lost a staff colleague, far too young. How much more can we take before we buckle? Where do we find the strength? We will persevere, as always, but what are the costs? Those answers belong to each of us and are different for each of us, and all I can say is that I hope everyone finds some rest and comfort in the upcoming holidays. I am proud of everything you have done as staff and as senators these past almost-two-years, and I will miss this community when my term is up in June. Until then, best wishes for a happy holiday season, and thank you for everything you do.

**Meetings Attended**

- November 10: Staff + Faculty Senates EC/XC COVID advisory meeting
- November 12: ULAA personnel committee
- November 16: SME committee meeting
- November 17: VP for Diversity & Equity interview #2
- November 18: VP for Diversity & Equity interview #3
- November 18: PED committee meeting
- November 19: VP for Diversity & Equity interview #4
- November 23: VP for Diversity & Equity interview #5
- November 30: Staff Senate/Faculty Senate/SGA leadership discussion about campus security
- November 30: Staff Senate EC meeting
- December 1: PED committee meeting
- December 1: SME committee meeting
- December 7: ULAA special meeting
- December 7: Staff Senate officers' monthly meeting with Mark Watkins et al.
- December 8: Staff + Faculty Senates EC/XC COVID advisory meeting
- December 9: Staff Senate EC special meeting

**Committee work**

- **COVID Academic Scenario Planning + Coordinating Committee:** This committee continues to meet biweekly (usually) at 4 PM on Monday. The provost usually gives key updates (e.g., status of mask mandate, status of vaccine/testing compliance, and so

on) and then asks for updates from various units (e.g., campus health, operations, student affairs) and shared governance constituency leaders.

- **U of L Athletic Association Board (ULAA):** The board convened for a special meeting on short notice on December 7, with the entire meeting held in executive session. A scheduled meeting of the ULAA executive committee to set football ticket prices for next year has been postponed and rescheduled for Thursday, December 16. 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](mailto:andrew.grubb@louisville.edu) or (502) 852-1482. I am always glad to take questions or discuss current issues. In the meantime, stay safe, and hang in there.

--Submitted by Andrew Grubb