

**UofL Staff Senate Services & Facilities Committee
Annual Report
August 2024 – May 2025**

Committee Chair: Mark Woolwine
Vice Chair: Katie Hasper

Members:

- Mark Woolwine
 - Dennis Thomas
 - Katie Hasper
 - Jessica Combess
 - Chris Cheatwood
 - David Henry
 - Zachary Williams
 - Carcyle Rochester Barret (Staff Senate EC Rep)
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Key Accomplishments and Activities

1. Campus Accessibility and Infrastructure Improvements

- Conducted a Services & Facilities Walking Tour (October 1, 2024) across Belknap and Health Sciences campuses.
 - Identified ADA compliance issues including a non-functional accessible door, rotten railing, and multiple tripping hazards like broken sidewalks and unmarked steps.
 - Coordinated with the UofL ADA Coordinator to document and report issues to the Physical Plant.

2. Response to Facility Emergencies

- Addressed significant office flooding at the Health Sciences Center (August 2024).
 - Raised concerns about communication protocols and the need for designated Building Emergency Coordinators.
 - Initiated follow-up to clarify roles and responsibilities during emergencies.

3. Promoting Transparency of Physical Plant Services

- In response to a Senate inquiry regarding building cleanliness and facility upkeep (January 2025), the committee initially discussed creating educational materials to help staff understand the roles of the Physical Plant and janitorial services.
- However, the Director of the Physical Plant requested that the committee not distribute any educational content, and instead direct all inquiries to the Physical Plant website.

- As an alternative, the committee proposed working with Marketing & Communications to support an email campaign that highlights the Physical Plant's website and services.
- It remains to be determined whether the S&F Committee or the Physical Plant will initiate this communication.

4. Campus Construction Monitoring

- Monitored major facility and construction updates, including:
 - Pedestrian walkway from Floyd Street Garage – expected reopening in time for orientation with structural repairs anticipated afterward.
 - Chemistry building renovations – committee requested updates on lab impacts.
 - Natural Sciences building – requested renovation status and timeline.

Emerging Issues for Future Committee Consideration

1. Environmental Conditions in the School of Music / Music Library

- Post-HVAC replacement, the Music Library has experienced high humidity levels (74%), creating health hazards and risking damage to priceless archival collections.
- Despite multiple heat tickets and Physical Plant involvement, the issue remains unresolved and appears beyond current technical capacity.
- Attempts to engage the university's HVAC vendor (Trane) have been unsuccessful.
- The next committee should:
 - Advocate for urgent vendor intervention.
 - Ensure staff and materials are protected.
 - Recommend an escalation plan for unresolved facilities issues.

2. Grounds Maintenance Concerns on the Health Sciences Campus

- Reports of invasive weed overgrowth, particularly Horse Nettle, at the Medical-Dental Research Building and nearby Baxter Research Buildings have raised concerns about landscaping neglect.
- Observations suggest a need for better oversight of contracted grounds services and improved visual standards on the HSC campus.
- The next committee is encouraged to:
 - Identify who manages HSC groundskeeping.
 - Propose a strategy for restoring and maintaining grounds appearance.

Meetings Held

- August 28, 2024

- October 1, 2024 (*Walking Tour; 9/25 meeting was canceled*)
 - January 29, 2025
 - March 26, 2025
 - May 28, 2025
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Ongoing and Future Priorities

- Finalize and distribute educational outreach strategy in alignment with Physical Plant guidance.
 - Continue accessibility assessments and track needed repairs.
 - Advocate for stronger emergency communication protocols.
 - Monitor facility construction and service project timelines.
 - Address unresolved environmental and groundskeeping concerns.
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Prepared by:

Mark Woolwine, Chair
Services & Facilities Committee

Date: July 2025