

Chair's Report

April 2021

Submitted by John Smith

Covid: We've had a lot of discussions in a lot of different forums about the vaccine plan. There have been a lot of turns in the road and in keeping with what things have been like during the entire pandemic, things have changed quickly and often. The University was happy that we were able to secure enough doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to allow any employee who had not already been vaccinated the opportunity to have that one as it was the most requested. Then this morning we hear reports on the news about it possible being paused due to blood clot issues. Our plan for the Cardinal Stadium vaccine site is to administer the Pfizer vaccine until we get to a point that people cannot have their second dose from that site. That would be in early May. At that point, the plan is to return to the Johnson and Johnson. The CDC is meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) to discuss the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. As usual, we will follow CDC guidelines.

Provost: Dr. Lori Gonzalez has started her time as our provost. She tried to clear her schedule to be with us today but was not able to do so. She is planning of being with us in May.

Miller Hall: construction is on schedule and we anticipate the new residence hall being in operation by the start of the fall semester. The hall is going to be a "game changer" given the financial option it will give many students and its' location right in the middle of campus and virtually next door to the SAC and the many student activities that take place there.

Tuition and Fees: We are in some extremely interesting discussions revolving around lower tuition and market driven tuition. The Nursing School lowered tuition in their BSN program and enrollment went up dramatically, more than enough to cover the cost of the lower tuition. We are looking at this in different scenarios, most notably in online education and in our out-of-state markets we traditionally recruit from. The Cost and Affordability sub-committee that I have been a member of submitted our recommendations to the full committee and will go over those in a full committee meeting Wednesday. That sub-group conducted a very deep dive into our out-of-state tuition and how we can become more

competitive in recruiting out-of-state students. We know the Commonwealth of Kentucky is going to have a declining number of graduating seniors for several more years.

Shared Governance Workgroup: I am happy to report that this project is moving forward again! Krista and I were just launching it when covid hit making it almost impossible to get the needed people together at any point in time. David Schultz and I are co-chairing along with Michael Wade Smith. Jake Beamer, now the Director of Governance and Strategic Initiatives is taking a larger role in the project and is helping to get things moving again. The three of us have just completed a very fruitful organizational meeting to get Jake up to speed on our vision and goals of the project. Jake is scheduling other meetings now.

Board of Trustees: We had committee meetings on March 18. The Human Resources Committee, of which I am a member, received an update from Mary Elizabeth Miles. It was largely about the vaccine plan and the reinstatement of the portion of our retirement benefits that were made. There was an update of fraudulent unemployment claims being made by people outside the university using employees names to try and collect payments. This is a statewide issue and not a UofL specific problem. HR is working with each person who may have this happen to them. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee heard and approved proposals that would create a new certificate in Horseracing Industry Business, a new Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science, a Doctorate of Social Work degree and the creation of a Center for Microbiomics, Inflammation and Pathogenicity. Microbiomics is an emerging common theme in many diseases, particularly those with inflammatory processes. The Finance Committee heard an update from Dan Durbin. The bottom line (nice huh?) is that revenues are at or slightly higher than budgeted and our cash position remains stable and relatively sound. Revenues are lower in Athletics due to the pandemic, which has been largely offset by expense reductions. The Research Foundation shows suppressed revenue of 5M which is owed to us by CARES so we know that is coming and will balance out.

Foundation Board of Directors: Our next meeting is Friday so I have nothing to report at this time.

Meetings Attended:

Wednesday, March 10, Joint Covid Task Force, 3:00

Monday, March 15, Tuition and Fees, Noon

Monday, March 15, Spring Forward, 2:00

Tuesday, March 16, EC Committee, 2:30

Thursday, March 18, Board of Trustees Committee Meetings, 1:00

Friday, March 19, Tuition and Fees Cost and Affordability, Noon

Monday, March 22, Spring Forward Committee, 2:00

Wednesday, March 24, Senior Leadership, 9:30

Wednesday, March 24, Tuition and Fees Cost and Affordability, 11:30

Monday, March 29, Huron Work Group, 9:00

Monday, March 29, Tuition and Fees, 10:00

Monday, March 29, Spring Forward Coordinating Committee, 2:00

Tuesday, March 30, Staff Senate EC, 3:00

Wednesday, March 31, Senior Leadership, Noon

Monday, April 5, Huron Work Group, 9:00

Monday, April 5, Spring Forward Coordinating Committee, 2:00

Tuesday, April 6, Neeli, 9:00

Tuesday, April 6, Tuition and Fees, 1:00

Wednesday, April 7, Senior Leadership, 10:00

Thursday, April 8, Neeli, 2:00

Monday, April 12, Huron Work Group, 9:00

Monday, April 12, Spring Forward Coordinating Committee, 2:00

