

**University of Louisville Staff Senate  
Vice Chair's Report  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

One of my colleagues referred to 2022 as “2020: Part III.” Obviously, some things have changed, but the lingering uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make life more complicated than it already was. It doesn’t help that the university is grappling with major vacancies in upper administration; that staff seem to be leaving in droves; or that the situation in A&S is so bad that the only solution seems to be to, as the song says, “rip it up and start again.” There is also hope in the new year. The forthcoming 1% pay increase is technically losing money in this economy, but it’s a start, and it was heartening to hear at least a faint signal that raises may no longer be tied to enrollment in the future. It was also reassuring to receive clarification on the remote work policy, and to get two *actual* snow days. It’s the season of the mixed bag. As we brace for advising and scholarship selection and more travel in better weather (and, hopefully, lower COVID transmission rates), it is the season of putting one foot in front of the other. And, as the COVID world melts and reforms into the post-COVID world, I hope you will also make it the season of making sure that *you* are okay. It’s easier said than done—I know from experience—but, as someone recently reminded me, you have to put your oxygen mask on before you can help other passengers. However this works for you, good luck, and thanks for everything you do.

**Meetings Attended**

- January 3: COVID ASP + Coordinating Committee meeting
- January 12: Staff Senate EC meeting
- January 21: ULAA Finance & Budget Committee and full board meeting
- January 25: SME Committee Meeting
- January 25: Staff Senate EC Meeting
- January 26: Special combined meeting of ULAA board and Board of Trustees
- January 31: COVID ASP + Coordinating Committee meeting
- February 1: ULAA Executive Committee meeting
- February 7: Staff Senate officers’ monthly meeting with Mark Watkins et al.

**Committee work**

- **COVID Academic Scenario Planning + Coordinating Committee:** This committee continues to meet more or less biweekly, (usually) at 4 PM on Monday. The university’s emergency response manager, Matt Stanley, 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. Recently, reports have focused on U of L’s effective response to the pandemic: the positivity rate has been lower than Louisville and Kentucky in general, and housing reports having more than enough capacity to deal with the few incidents on campus that require isolation.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board (ULAA):** It has been a busy start to the year for ULAA, with two special meetings following close on the heels of the regular January meeting. The regular meetings contained the usual updates on financials and a report

from the athletic director, in addition to the president's usual recap of major university happenings (since not all of the board members are otherwise affiliated with U of L). The first special meeting, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, was held entirely in executive session, so the news can tell you more about it than I can. The second meeting, of the ULAA Executive Committee, was similar (I was only there as a spectator; on EC members can vote). 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