

**University of Louisville Staff Senate  
Vice Chair's Report  
Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

I do not have a lot of these left to write, so I wanted to take the opportunity to put down some thoughts. When I first ran for vice chair three years ago, I talked a lot about raising the profile of staff and making connections with other constituencies. I think these things have happened, and in important ways, though I'm not sure I had much to do with them or that they would not have happened without me. I am also not sure what any of it has yielded in terms of major gains for staff—I don't mean the small-to-medium-sized victories on which we generally subsist, but big things like regular pay increases (and pay equity) and not having to live out our lives as the afterthought “*and staff.*” I remain optimistic these things will happen someday, but shared governance work has turned me into an incrementalist (being a medievalist has contributed to that, too), and I'm not sure I'll be around to see it. In the meantime, the only option is to walk forward in our humanity, persisting in our work and raising our voices when we can. I trust that we will always and should always have a seat at the table; without us, it is not legitimately *the* table. I trust that the future senate and its leaders will continue to highlight the staff experience and amplify its many voices to administration and to the rest of the university community. I trust more than ever that staff can and will continue to make the university a great place. And if you're the kind of person who needs the “for the students” part—well, I'll see you bright and early for orientation advising in a few weeks. Until then, enjoy the warmer weather and the quiet campus.

**Meetings Attended**

- April 19: SME Committee Meeting
- April 21: PED Committee Meeting
- April 22: ULAA Finance & Budget Committee and full board meeting
- April 26: Staff Senate EC Meeting
- May 9: Staff Senate officers' monthly meeting with Mark Watkins et al.

**Committee work**

- **COVID Academic Scenario Planning + Coordinating Committee:** This committee continues to hold time at 4 PM every other Monday, but the past couple of meetings have been canceled for lack of an agenda. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 23, 2022.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board (ULAA):** The finance committee and full board convened on April 22. The finance committee heard and approved a proposal to replace the turf for field hockey. The committee also heard a financial update: ticket sales for next year look promising, while costs from the Chris Mack buyout cast a shadow on an otherwise solid outlook. Interim Athletic Director Josh Heird highlighted various achievements by Athletics staff and student-athletes, emphasizing the following goals for the upcoming year:
  - Support student-athletes (e.g., with more funding for summer school)
  - Support coaches (e.g., in the rapidly changing NIL environment and through fundraising)

- Become more engaged in the Louisville community and giving back
- Appreciate fans (vs. first football game last year)

The ULAA personnel committee will meet on Tuesday, May 24, followed by the board's annual budget workshop. The finance committee and full board will meet again on Friday, June 10.

### **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