

**University of Louisville Staff Senate  
Vice Chair's Report  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

Thank you to the staff senators of the University of Louisville. I will not say thanks for tirelessly advocating for staff, because we have to advocate even when we're tired and worn down and we're wondering what we're even doing anymore. That just makes the work all the more important. My appreciation for you is everlasting.

Thank you to my colleagues and supervisors in the University Honors Program, who have supported me throughout my time in the senate. Thank you also to my constituents in the provost's office who saw fit to re-elect me and put me in a position to be a leader. I'm not sure the outcome is what anyone foresaw, but I remain grateful for the opportunity.

Thank you to Angela Lewis-Klein and the redoubtable Glenn Gittings, who both reached out to me about three years ago and suggested running for office. I am not sure I have done much to repay your confidence in me, but I wouldn't have embarked on this adventure without you, and I will always appreciate that opportunity and your support.

Thank you to Virginia Hosono, Jason Beare, Mani Vangalur, and Melissa Taylor. You made my job as *ex officio* on your respective standing committees easy, and it was consistently a pleasure to work with you. Thanks also to Leondra Gully, for our work together on the anti-racism *ad hoc* committee, and thank you to everyone who has been part of the executive committee over the past three years. It has been interesting, inspiring, and humbling to work with so many difference-makers.

Thank you to Gretchen Henry for keeping all of us on track. I appreciate your support and your empathy, and your perspective on senate matters past and present has been beneficial to me more times than I can count.

Thank you to Rhonda Gilliland, who welcomed me into senate leadership three years ago by saying, "I look forward to serving with you." It was really something to serve with you for two years, and I hope to some day be able to implement all the lessons I learned from you.

Thank you to Kevin Ledford, Rhonda's worthy successor as secretary-treasurer, and someone else who knows how to ask just the right question in just the right way at just the right time. Your support and camaraderie this year has been more important to me than you know.

Thank you to John Smith, who has done a lot of big things as chair but somehow always found time to reach out and talk. Thanks for listening to me, for considering my opinions, and for working with me (and so many others) on the eternal challenge of finding a better way forward for staff. I'm not good at envisioning a legacy for myself, but if people want to remember me as John Smith's three-year vice chair, I'm cool with that. Thanks for being a role model, a mentor, a colleague, and a friend. And for all of the *West Wing* quotes.

I came to U of L in 2001 with no scholarships, no connections, and no clue what I was doing (that last part has not really changed). Over the past twenty years, I've been lucky to be a student, an instructor, and—most proudly—a staff member at this university. My time in the senate has enriched the journey of my life beyond my capacity to talk about it, and I hope you know I'm always here for all of you. Thanks for everything, and best of luck to all.

### **Meetings Attended**

- May 11: Presidential search listening session for Staff Senate EC/Diversity Leaders
- May 24: Staff Senate EC Meeting
- June 3: ULAA personnel committee and full board meeting
- June 6: COVID ASP + Coordinating Committee

### **Committee work**

- **COVID Academic Scenario Planning + Coordinating Committee:** This committee continues to hold time at 4 PM every other Monday, and it met for the first time in a while to touch base on Monday, June 6. Discussion topics included international travel, prospects for the spread of COVID in the near future, and whether the university should start requiring sick notes from students again (i.e., when does COVID just become the flu?). The meeting time held for June 21 has been canceled as of June 14.
- **U of L Athletic Association Board (ULAA):** The ULAA board met on June 3 and approved the hiring of Josh Heird as the university's permanent athletic director. I was not able to attend the May 24 budget workshop or the June 10 regular meeting of the board and the finance committee.

### **Getting in Touch**

Well, for three years, I put my email address and phone number here and encouraged people to reach out to me with questions and concerns. This did not happen as often as I originally expected or as often as it maybe could have—but, if there's a conversation we ever need to have, if I can be helpful with anything, if you want to talk *Beowulf*, or if you just miss me, I'm still at (502) 415-8103 and [andrew.grubb@louisville.edu](mailto:andrew.grubb@louisville.edu).

--Submitted by Andrew Grubb, signing off as Staff Senate vice chair, 2019-22