

University of Louisville Staff Senate

Chair's Report

Tuesday, July 9th, 2024

Meeting Attended

06/12 Staff Senate Officers Meeting

06/12 VPHR Search Committee Meeting

06/13 CODRE Meeting

06/14 Process Touch-Base General Counsel

06/17 Staff Senate In-Person with VPHR Finalist

06/17 Search Committee In-Person with VPHR Finalist

06/18 Staff Senate In-Person with VPHR Finalist

06/18 Search Committee In-Person with VPHR Finalist

06/20 Staff Senate In-Person with VPHR Finalist

06/20 Search Committee In-Person with VPHR Finalist

06/21 Touch-Base with Provost Bradley

06/21 Staff Senate In-Person with VPHR Finalist

06/21 Search Committee In-Person with VPHR Finalist

06/24 Debrief with VPHR Search Firm and Committee

06/24 Meeting with President Schatzel

06/25 Quarterly Budget Meeting

06/25 Staff Senate Executive Committee Meeting

06/27 Board of Trustees Committee Meetings and Special Meeting of the Board

07/03 Staff Senate Officers Meeting

As you may notice from my list of meetings, my last month has been dominated heavily by the search for a new VPHR. While I can't give details around the various candidates, as this was a confidential search, I can share a bit about the process involved and how Staff Senate and I participated. The executive committee was given the opportunity to talk to the four finalists. We got to ask them questions and answer their questions from a Staff Senate perspective. I then collected the feedback

from our EC members who were able to attend the interviews, and passed that information along to President Schatzel, as well as gave an assessment of various skills and strengths of each candidate based on our interactions. We were not the only groups to meet with the candidates, Senior Leadership, CODRE, COSW, the search committee, HR staff and Staff Senate all met with the candidates and were given a way to share their feedback on the candidates. Once the President had all the feedback, the final decision was hers based on feedback from us and the various groups and her own meetings with each candidate. While I can't share individual details on the candidates, we had a strong group of finalists, and we look forwards to working collaboratively with the new VPHR to help them improve HR and the experience staff have with HR. There is a fair bit of information shared about Darrell Clark, our new VPHR as of August 1, on the UofL News website at this link: [Darrell Clark named UofL human resources vice president | UofL News](#) .

The other major thing that I have been focused on during this current month's cycle is the Board of Trustees meeting and the budget vote during that meeting. While we still hope to see continued improvement in staff compensation and investment in the human capital of our workers, I think this budget was a good first step. We'll continue to advocate for future investment, as we believe it is critical to our ability to both recruit and retain top talent for UofL. We hope to work with administration and our new VPHR to continue to keep this as a priority as we approach our budget, as well as look at the ways our workforce can grow and develop. We are looking at record numbers for our enrollment thanks to the great work by all those who have helped increase student retention and enrollment, and our staff are critical to supporting those efforts, and we must continue to see investment in them and their success.

Lastly, I want to give a warm welcome to our new incoming Senators. I want you to know that you can feel free to reach out to me at any time. I love meeting you all and helping you succeed as Senators in any way that I can. While we do not have a full body meeting of the Senate, we will have a New Senator orientation, likely during the slot we normally would have had an August meeting. Once the new EC approves the schedule for this term, we will share that out and get that meeting on your calendars. Welcome to the Staff Senate to all our new Senators and welcome back to all our returning Senators as well. I am looking forwards to a very productive year advocating and being a voice for our staff.

Kevin Ledford
Staff Senate Chair