

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee**  
**March 10, 2026 Report to Staff Senate**

**Faculty Senate Meeting: March 4**

- **University President – Dr. Bradley**

President Bradley addressed the decision to end university management of the Early Learning Center (ELC), citing a recurring deficit that reached approximately \$1.1 million. The decision was framed as necessary to protect the financial stability of the College of Education and Human Development and the broader university. Leadership discussed communication strategies used during the transition, including retention incentives for staff to maintain operations and accreditation through the management period. University leaders clarified that additional subsidies or relocation services will not be provided to affected families beyond existing community resources. Legislative updates were also shared, including discussions with state lawmakers regarding higher education bills affecting tenure, program productivity measures, and potential restrictions on funding for programs tied to income outcomes. University leadership indicated that advocacy efforts with legislators are ongoing.

- **Provost – Dr. Cardarelli**

Provost Cardarelli provided updates on several leadership searches, including the Dean of the School of Public Health & Information Sciences and the upcoming search for leadership in the Speed School of Engineering following recent administrative changes. Enrollment trends were also discussed, with increases in most student categories but declines in graduate enrollment attributed largely to visa challenges affecting international students. The provost also highlighted the upcoming Graduate Student Success Summit scheduled for April 14.

- **Graduate Stipend Reallocation – Dr. Boehm**

Graduate School leadership presented the rationale and process for a reallocation of doctoral stipends, including a 10% reduction in new doctoral enrollments for fall 2026. The initiative aims to redistribute stipend lines based on program performance metrics such as time to degree, attrition, and admissions demand, while also increasing stipend levels to remain competitive with peer institutions. Concerns were raised about impacts on instructional capacity in some units, particularly Arts & Sciences, and leadership indicated that programs may request adjustments based on demonstrated need and performance.

- **University Budget Outlook – FY 2026–2027**

Budget leadership provided an update on the university's financial outlook. Positive indicators include strong freshman enrollment, improved retention, stable liquidity, and continued success in professional programs. However, the university faces significant financial pressures from rising personnel and operating costs, potential reductions in Medicaid revenue, risks to federal research funding, and a proposed \$5.3 million state budget reduction that could increase in subsequent years. Leadership emphasized ongoing efforts to maintain transparency in the budget process through workgroups, town halls, and shared governance engagement. Capital projects currently underway on campus were noted to be funded through state asset preservation programs with required institutional matching funds.

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting: February 25**

This meeting was moved to Teams. The discussion item was the faculty accountability policy presented by Chair Dr. Winters. Standing committee reports were given as well. Staff senate did not have a report to provide the committee.

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting: February 18**

This meeting was held in the BAB. The inclement weather policy was discussed. This discussion was led by Senior Vice Provost Dr. DePuy.

UofL definitions of diversity and equity were discussed by Senator Ramirez.

Standing committee reports were given as well.

Respectfully submitted:

Senator Becky Patterson

Senator Michelle Blessett