

Subject: Letter From Staff Senate

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 10:02:39 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Smith, John D.

Dear University of Louisville Staff,

We hope you are well. The university is facing unprecedented challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and now we are living through the sacrifices required to see our institution through this trying time. It's scary. With recent announcements of furloughs and pay reductions, there is so much uncertainty, and the costs are not just financial. The university's bottom line is important, sure, but we can't forget that we're not just talking dollars and cents. We're talking about our lives, in all of their variety and nuance. We want you to know that, whatever difficulties you're experiencing, we care. We are here for you.

The Staff Senate has been working tirelessly to support staff across the university as the pandemic has unfolded. Senate officers have been part of the regular university leadership meetings over the past several weeks, and we have had a voice at the table for important decisions. The committees of the senate have been busy analyzing and providing feedback on the university's response to the crisis. Senators from each campus and from every corner of the university are advocating fiercely for all staff. The Staff Help, Assistance, and Relief Effort (SHARE) committee is fielding requests for assistance with coronavirus-related financial difficulties. We are constantly in touch with leaders among faculty, students, and administration as the university community bands together to make it through the coming weeks and months.

We encourage you to check your email and stay in touch with your [staff senators](#) as we feel the impact of the pandemic in our respective units and across the institution. If you wish to submit questions or comments anonymously, you may do so [here](#). If you need help with anything, from navigating temporary university policies to assistance with unemployment claims, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. If you need financial assistance during this time, please consider filling out the SHARE application. If you are in the position of being able to donate—and we definitely understand that not everyone will be—please consider making a contribution to support staff in need. Application and donations links appear at the top of the [senate's page of staff resources](#).

The contributions we have made to the university's greatness are beyond counting. The work we do touches everyone at U of L and enables their success along with our own, in good times and in bad times, and now more than ever. There are new uncertainties every day, and there's no telling what the future holds. We do know, however, that we will ensure a bright and enduring future for the university. Your part in that story matters, and we will not forget it.

Hang in there, and please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

John Smith
Chair, Staff Senate

Andrew B. Grubb
Vice Chair, Staff Senate

Rhonda Gilliland
Secretary-Treasurer, Staff Senate

John Smith
Assistant Director
Intramural and Recreational Sports
Chair, Staff Senate
Member, Board of Trustees
University of Louisville
502-852-6707

“Not everything that is counted really counts, and not everything that really counts is counted.”
Albert Einstein