

February 8th 2024 Open Forum Summary

The online Open Forum on HB228 had over 50 participants. The participants decided not to record the meeting or create a transcript. Instead, some notes were taken to be posted later.

Most of the faculty in attendance are not members of the AAUP, and this was not an official AAUP meeting. Several faculty members in attendance decided to join the AAUP, so there will be a meeting to elect new officers in about a month when they have had a chance to join on the national website. The local chapter at UK has a website at

<https://ukyonline.org/index.php/aaup-uk-chapter/>

That website has a link at the top of the page to the AAUP National website.

<https://www.aaup.org/membership/join>

Members of the university community are also invited to join United Campus Workers. Join UCW here: <https://ucwkentucky.org/join>

A video that explains some history of the academic governance structure at UK, including about the University Senate, is available here:

<https://universitysenate.uky.edu/additional-history-faculty-governance>

The open forum slides on the AAUP Local website were presented at the beginning of the meeting. Discussion ensued.

One motivation for HB228 apparently came from a case at Western Kentucky university. The Board at WKU denied a tenure revocation.

<https://wkuherald.com/67397/news/regents-vote-no-on-dismissal-of-tenured-professor/>

AAUP Kentucky Conference Officials

- President: Nancy McKenney, Eastern Kentucky University
- Vice President: Peg Pittman-Munke, Murray State University
- Secretary: Margaret Crowder, Western Kentucky University
- Treasurer: Michael Kennedy, University of Kentucky

A discussion of SB6 followed. The actual text text can be viewed at

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/24rs/sb6.html>

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| <p>Summary of Original Version</p> | <p>Create a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to define terms; provide that a student or employee of a public postsecondary education institution shall not be penalized, discriminated against, or receive any adverse treatment due to the individual's refusal to support or endorse any divisive concept; provide that a student or employee of a public postsecondary education institution shall not be required to endorse a specific ideology or political viewpoint to be eligible for hiring, contract renewal, tenure, promotion, or graduation and prohibit an institution from inquiring into the individual's political or social viewpoints; provide that any person aggrieved by a violation of this Act has a cause of action against the institution for damages and costs of no less than \$1,000 and no more than \$100,000 per violation; waive sovereign, governmental, and qualified immunity; require the job duties of any individual employed in a diversity, equity, and inclusion role to include the promotion of intellectual diversity; provide that nothing in the section shall be interpreted to infringe upon designated rights of an institution's ability to comply with state or federal law or accreditation standards; require each public postsecondary education institution to conduct a survey in 2025 and 2027 of the institution's students and employees to assess the campus climate with regard to diversity of thought and the respondents' comfort level in speaking freely on campus, regardless of political affiliation or ideology.</p> |
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If you would like to call and leave a message for your legislator, please call the Legislative Message Line at 1-800-372-7181. Depending on call volume there may be a wait. You can find your state senators here: <https://legislature.ky.gov/Legislators/senate> And your representatives here: <https://legislature.ky.gov/Legislators/house-of-representatives> The pages for individual legislators also have a link you can use to send email.

Then there was a discussion of the core curriculum revision. The Board of Trustees action behind this initiative is available here: <https://www.uky.edu/trustees/sites/www.uky.edu.trustees/files/CR%201%20Accelerate%20Growth%20to%20Do%20More%20And%20Be%20More%20for%20Kentucky.pdf>

President Capilouto's committees and plans in response are posted here:
<https://pres.uky.edu/accelerate-kentucky>

An update is scheduled to be presented at the March 2024 Senate meeting.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is Thursday and Friday, February 22-23, 2024
The agenda is

Thursday, February 22, 2024

1:00 p.m. Audit and Compliance Committee

1:45 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. Investment Committee

3:15 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. University Health Care Committee

5:00 p.m. Break

5:15 p.m. University Athletics Committee

6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Reception and Dinner

Friday, February 23, 2024

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Available

8:00 a.m. Executive Committee

8:45 a.m. Human Resources University Relations Committee

9:30 a.m. Break

9:45 a.m. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Finance Committee

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting