



September 2023

Dear Senators,

I hope that you have settled into the Fall semester and your classes are going smoothly. Since our last meeting in August, there are several items that I think would be of interest to you:

1. Board of Supervisors Meeting and Council of Faculty Advisers

The LSU Council of Faculty Advisors (CoFA), which is created by LSU PM-24, has representatives from each campus within the LSU system (A&M, Ag Center, Alexandria, Eunice, Health Center New Orleans, Pennington, and Shreveport) and presents a report directly to the Board of Supervisors at each of their meetings. Following passage of a Faculty Senate resolution last year, I—as Faculty Senate President—serve as the LSU A&M representative to the Council of Faculty Advisors and Vice President Tirone serves as our alternate representative. On September 8, 2023, we both attended the CoFA meeting. I was elected chair and provided the opportunity to present the report from our campus to the Board. The report addressed a number of issues, including thanking the Board for its financial support of our graduate students, the recent top-notch Promotion & Tenure ceremony hosted by Academic Affairs at the Capitol Park Museum in downtown, and the soon-to-be-established Provost's Steering Committee on AI I mentioned in my previous President's report.

The main thrust of the report, however, was to highlight the great initiatives and research occurring on our campus while we continue to carry the stain of AAUP's censures. I underscored that LSU is the only flagship institution on the censure list with double censures, which has a profound negative effect upon the way we are perceived nationally and abroad. I explained that we feel that these censures, imposed for decisions made by prior administrations before many if not all Board members had joined the Board, is not consistent with the scholarship-first institution. I have already contacted AAUP with a proposed plan and will be hearing from them soon. I will keep you apprised of all developments.

2. Graduate Student Evaluations

The FSEC was recently contacted by a number of faculty who were concerned what they viewed as an administratively complex process to annually review graduate students, which was detailed in an email from the Pinkie Gordon Lane Graduate School to all faculty on August 18th. Though this process is required by PS-21, the faculty were concerned about the amount of time and information which were required to complete the form and noted that some could possibly run afoul of our IT policies. The FSEC has extended an invitation to meet with representatives from the Graduate School to get to the bottom of this compliance and to see if there is any other, less onerous way to comply with PS-21.

3. Committee on Committees – Broadcast email

Our monthly broadcast email kicked off on September 7, 2023. In it you probably found familiar format of President’s report, “What Every Faculty Needs to Know,” and other pertinent items. I’d like to especially bring to your attention the last item in that broadcast email, which was a request from the Committee on Committees regarding vacancies on various Faculty Senate committees. Please revisit that email and see if you or a colleague would be interested in serving on any of the committees. This work is important and contributes to the strength of our shared governance. Most of the vacancies have been already filled; however, among the remaining vacancies are on Adjudication and Appeals Committees. If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the chair of the committee Louay Mohammed, louaym@lsu.edu.

4. Luncheon with New Senators

On September 6, 2023, we held a successful New Senator Orientation Luncheon at the Club. Seventeen new Senators were present along with the FSEC members. Vice President Dan Tirone and I led the presentation, involving the structure of Faculty Senate, Senator’s responsibilities, and Open Meetings Law. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion. We hope to keep this tradition alive, which we initiated last Fall. The New Senator Orientation Luncheon aims to strengthen faculty’s voices and their crucial role in shared governance.

5. Luncheon with Faculty Senate Committee Chairs

We will be replicating a similar lunch next week. On September 26, 2023, we will be holding an orientation for all chairs of our Standing and *ad hoc* Committees. The aim is to review our committees’ operating procedures and remind everyone about following Open Meetings Law. I will be leading the orientation and will be joined by some members of the FSEC.

I look forward to continuing to strengthen faculty governance. Please keep sending me your concerns, as you are our eyes and ears on campus. We are stronger together.

Sincerely,



Inessa Bazayev
President, LSU Faculty Senate