



March 24, 2025

Dear Senators,

I hope you are holding up well in these uncertain times and as we approach one of the busiest periods of the academic year. Please find a number of items which I believe will be of interest below.

1. Academic Freedom Event

The recent event “What Do Academic Freedom and the First Amendment Really Mean? A Conversation with David M. Rabban,” hosted by the Faculty Senate, was a tremendous success. Professor Rabban’s talk and the panel with LSU faculty which followed provided stimulating discussions of these two important tenets of higher education and citizenship, and the response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. We thank everyone involved in contributing to the event and hope to offer similar programming in the future. If you are interested in hearing Professor Rabban’s talk, a video is available on the [Faculty Senate YouTube channel](#). The Senate also has a number of copies of Professor Rabban’s book, *Academic Freedom: From Professional Norm to First Amendment Right*, to lend to those who may be interested.

2. Faculty Council Meeting

The 2024–25 Faculty Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, 2025, 3:30–4:30pm in the Royal Cotillion Ballroom at the LSU Student Union. Faculty Council members are encouraged to RSVP by Thursday, April 10 so we may assess whether the meeting is likely to meet our quorum requirement or will be converted into an end of the year meeting with President Tate. Information about the meeting and the registration link are available on the [Faculty Council page](#) of the Faculty Senate website. A full agenda for the meeting will also be posted at that location once it has been finalized.

This is arguably the most important Faculty Council meeting since 2020, and I hope that you attend and bring several colleagues to the meeting. The FSEC recently met with the members of the faculty to identify possible agenda items for the meeting, and I then brought these items to members of the President’s office for their consideration. Following these discussions, it is my understanding that President Tate will address the evolving landscape of higher education, including the challenges and opportunities currently present and anticipated to develop in the future. These are clearly turbulent times for colleges and universities, and we encourage all faculty to attend the meeting to hear the President’s vision for the next few years.

3. Attendance Survey

The FSEC’s survey of faculty’s perceptions of student attendance is currently under review at the Institutional Review Board following revisions implemented as a result of feedback received from the Office of Academic Affairs and representatives from student government. We hope to have clearance for the survey soon and to distribute it to faculty within the next few weeks.

4. Faculty Senate ad hoc Generative AI Committee

The Faculty Senate's ad hoc [Generative AI Committee](#) has begun its work and is already making excellent progress. I am thankful to each of the eleven committee members for their willingness to serve and look forward to their recommendations.

5. Library Committee

The FSEC recently met with representatives from the library to discuss an upcoming initiative for which they would like faculty assistance. They are seeking a representative group of faculty from various fields and disciplines across campus to help them develop metrics to aid in the prioritization of journal subscriptions and acquisitions. They anticipate this work can be accomplished in two meetings and would hopefully conclude around the end of the spring semester. If you or a colleague would be willing to serve on this committee, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

6. Student Success Initiative

The President's Office is undertaking a wholistic review of the multitude of factors which influence the progression of students towards their degree. As part of this effort the Senate has been asked to develop and execute a plan for increased professional development opportunities for faculty in instruction, including the identification and dissemination of pedagogical best practices and more ways to recognize and reward excellence in teaching. The FSEC is currently in the early stages of formulating our strategy and will be consulting with other units on campus, such as the Office of Academic Affairs, to identify existing resources on campus. We will also be asking for faculty assistance once we have a better understanding of our approach so more information will be coming soon.

7. Faculty Awards

LSU recently announced the winners of the [Rainmakers Awards](#) and the [2025 Faculty Awards](#). I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony this past Thursday for the presentation of the Rainmaker Awards and it was a fantastic reminder of the incredible work our faculty do. At a time when there are so many negative stories about and attacks upon higher education, it is more important than ever to recognize the dedication and accomplishments happening every day at LSU. We change lives in so many ways, from providing students with educations in our classrooms which open up new worlds and opportunities, creating discoveries in our labs which can be used to improve citizens' lives, and by creating artistic experiences which lead to richer and more fulfilling engagement with our society and each other, just to name a few. It is important to celebrate these accomplishments and the daily successes of our dedicated and professional faculty and remember why we are so fortunate to be able to do the work we do and why LSU is indispensable to the state of Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. Tirone
President, LSU Faculty Senate