



August 25, 2026

Dear Senators,

Welcome to those of you who are joining us for the first time, and welcome back to those of you who are continuing your service. I appreciate your dedication to shared governance at LSU and am very pleased to have you with us for this year.

1. Optional Retirement Plan Task Force

[House Resolution 352](#) by Representative Timothy P. Kerner, passed by the House in the spring regular session of the Louisiana Legislature, has created a task force to study the Optional Retirement Plan and to report its findings to the House Committee on Retirement prior to the 2027 regular session. The task force has been presented with a number of charges, including studying “the feasibility and potential design of granting pension service credit to long-term ORP participants, including those who have transitioned to the defined benefit plan and those who have not, based on actuarial years of service”, which could require the transfer of a participant’s ORP account balance and other measures. The LSU administration has appointed Sheantel Baker and Dr. Param Singh to serve on the task force and provided an opportunity to the FSEC to fill the third seat allocated to the system. The committee appointed me to fill this position and I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve. I will keep you updated on notable developments throughout the process and provide a link to the final report once it is available.

2. Artificial Intelligence on Campus

Many individuals have been hard at work to help the LSU community navigate the changes brought about by generative artificial intelligence. Among other efforts Provost’s Fellow for Artificial Intelligence Dr. Emily Elliott has created an Artificial Intelligence Council which brings together representatives from numerous campus stakeholder groups to address pressing questions about the technology and its role in higher education. LSU has also created a website, lsu.edu/ai, with resources for faculty, staff and students. There is also a Moodle course available for you and your students which will eventually be made available to the public at large. You can self-enroll in the course by entering “AI Literacy Essentials” in the search bar in Moodle.

3. Monitoring for “Ghost Students”

Higher education institutions across the country have seen an increase in the number of “Ghost Students,” or individuals who use stolen or fraudulent identities to enroll in courses to obtain financial aid, particularly in courses that are 100% online. Signs that a student may fall into this category include no early engagement; generic, voiceless writing; discussion posts that are merely copied from other students’ work; or a lack of response to communications from the faculty member, including to assigned grades of zero. If you suspect that you may have a ghost student please notify the Faculty Technology Center.

4. Faculty Senate Committee Volunteers Needed

Many of our Senate committees are in need of new members to replace individuals whose terms have expired. I have attached a list of the committees and their needs to this report and respectfully request that you review the opportunities available and consider serving if you are in a position to do so. We are fortunate at LSU to continue to have robust shared governance and as a faculty we must collectively continue to demonstrate its value by being active participants. If you have any questions about any of the committees, their charges or the time commitment involved please contact me.

5. New Senator Orientation and Member-at-Large Election

If you are new to the Senate please monitor your inbox for a scheduling poll for the upcoming New Senator Orientation run by the FSEC. We hope to hold this event prior to the September meeting and all new Senators are invited. As part of the program we will discuss the election to be held for the third Member-at-Large position on the FSEC from the incoming cohort of Senators at our September Faculty Senate meeting.

Best wishes for a good start to what promises to be an exciting and eventful year at LSU, and please feel free to reach out to members of the Executive Committee at any time with questions, concerns or information which you think we should know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. C. Tirone', with a stylized, cursive script.

Daniel C. Tirone
President, LSU Faculty Senate

Summary of Faculty Senate Committee Openings

Committee	Continuing members	Open positions	Representation needed
Admissions, Standards & Honors	7	5	Veterinary Medicine; HSS; Mass Communication; Art & Design; Law Center
Benefits Advisory	4 faculty + 1 emeritus	2	Balance of colleges and disciplines
Budget & Planning Advisory	5	3	Balance of colleges and disciplines
Courses & Curricula	7	4	Art & Design; Business; HSE; Mass Comm;
Enrollment & Digital Education	3	3 to 6	Balance of colleges and disciplines
Faculty Adjudication	7	2	Balance of colleges and disciplines, members must be tenured
Faculty Appeals Board	8	4 to 7	Balance of colleges and disciplines, members must be full professors
Integrative Learning Core	11	0	Committee is fully staffed
Internationalization	2	7	Balance of colleges and disciplines, candidates will ideally have experience with study abroad and other international programs
Library	1	4	Balance of colleges and disciplines
LSU Press	7	1	Balance of colleges and disciplines