



September 19, 2024

Dear Senators,

I hope you, your families, and your students weathered the recent storm well and life has now returned to normal. If there are any lingering issues with which the Executive Committee may be of assistance, please let us know. Below are brief summaries of notable items since our last meeting in August.

1. Remote Learning Plan

Hurricane Francine provided us our first opportunity to utilize the new [Remote Learning Plan](#) (RLP) as LSU moved to remote instruction on Wednesday and then closed completely on Thursday. I have received feedback from a number of faculty members about their experiences and it is clear that there are many positive aspects of this approach and some areas for improvement. I've shared the information I received with the Office of Academic Affairs and encourage you to complete the survey they have created to better understand the faculty's perspective. You can access the survey at https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezdX8jnnmhrEyHA. I will also continue to keep OAA informed of any additional information that I receive moving forward.

There are also a few elements of the broadcast email announcing the survey to which I would like to draw your attention. The first is the motivation for the creation of the remote learning option. If LSU cancels more than one and a half days of class, we are obligated to make up that time by rescheduling the missed sessions, which could possibly include the cancellation of scheduled breaks and class sessions held on Saturdays. Moving to remote instruction, including asynchronous when appropriate, allows us to meet our required instructional time and avoid having to make these changes. The second point is that faculty have many different options which qualify for remote instruction and are encouraged to choose the modality which works best for their course. In other words, do not feel obligated to move an in-person class to a synchronous Zoom session at your normally scheduled class period if there are other, better options available. Finally, while hurricanes are an extreme version of the events which require the utilization of the RLP, there are many more mundane situations in which it may be appropriate, such as a recent HVAC outage in portions of Coates Hall. Given that each situation will be different I encourage you to use your discretion about what will work best in those circumstances, and I am sure that as the policy is refined and we gain more experience with how to operate within its guidelines it will help us avoid having to make significant changes to the academic calendar.

2. Student Accountability and Educational Technology

The joint administrative and faculty committee formed in the spring semester to address questions on the use of Grammarly in student coursework has concluded its work and issued its report, including recommended best practices. We are working to line up a presentation to the Senate on

the report at one of our October meetings and will also look to distribute the report to the faculty more widely in combination with that presentation.

Given that Grammarly is only one example of the evolution of educational technology which affects instruction, the Executive Committee invited representatives from Student Advocacy and Accountability to meet with us to better understand how faculty can work with SAA on these issues. It was a very productive meeting, and it was clear that the most important elements in maintaining the integrity of instruction is setting clear expectations around the use of these tools, communicating them to students, and then providing as much documentation as possible when there is a suspected case of academic misconduct. When SAA evaluates an alleged infraction one of the critical elements is the guidance provided to students through the syllabus and other course materials. If the guidance is missing or unclear it is much more difficult to find a student responsible. Being as specific and transparent in our expectations will therefore help SAA help us in ensuring that the work a student submits meets our expectations for academic integrity.

3. LSU A&M Faculty Report at the Board of Supervisors Meeting

As Faculty Senate President I serve as our campus representative to the Council of Faculty Advisors, and I was pleased to be able to deliver the faculty report from all the campuses within the system to the Board of Supervisors at their recent meeting on September 6th. As part of my report, I was able to share the following items of note regarding the achievements of our faculty:

- Collectively LSU A&M, the Agricultural Center and Pennington Biomedical Research Center increased our research and development expenditures from FY20 to FY23 by 34%, with \$384 million in expenditures for the last fiscal year.
- When the expenditures from the Health Science Centers in New Orleans and Shreveport are added the equivalent increase in this time period is 37.5%, with total expenditures of \$488 million in the fiscal year.
- Our research productivity metrics are similarly impressive. During the period from 2019 through 2023 LSU A&M and Agricultural Center faculty:
 - Published 8,276 articles
 - Published 375 book chapters
 - Were cited 141,395 times
- Finally, our faculty published 435 books in the preceding ten years.

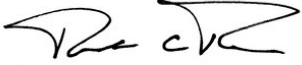
The report was very well received by the Board, who appeared impressed by the great work being done by you, our faculty. I would also like to extend my thanks to Vice President and Chief Data Officer Dr. Keena Arbutnot, Vice President for Research and Economic Development Dr. Robert Twilley, and Elsa Hahne in the Office of Research & Economic Development for their assistance in the preparation of the faculty report.

4. Upcoming Meetings

The FSEC is working to line up presentations on topics of interest to the faculty for our upcoming meetings and anticipate presentations on the aforementioned Grammarly Guidance and a separate session by representatives from Enrollment Management in October. If you have any

recommendations about other groups or topics which may be of interest to the faculty at-large
please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. C. Tirone". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a prominent flourish at the end.

Daniel C. Tirone
President, LSU Faculty Senate