



February 20, 2025

Dear Senators,

Please find the updates from this month's President's report below.

1. Higher Education at a Crossroads

I am sure I do not need to impress upon you the seriousness of this moment for higher education. Every day brings more troubling news and for many faculty their research and lives have been placed into a state of uncertainty, bringing with it anxiety about what lies ahead. If I can share any good news, it is that LSU is doing everything it can to adapt to these changing circumstances. I am on a taskforce with various members of the administration following the latest developments and formulating our response, and we are pleased to welcome Provost Haggerty to the meeting today to share information about how the university is handling these challenges. Faculty Senate leadership has also held a number of meetings with President Tate and members of his team about these matters. I have no doubt that they are pursuing every available option to improve our situation and put us in the best possible position to succeed.

I have also been asked by a number of faculty members about what we can do. My advice, formulated solely on my own experience as a political scientist, is that this is not a time to be shy or timid. We must be our own best advocates in spreading the news about the amazing work that we do on a daily basis and the importance of maintaining the conditions necessary to allow us to do so. Take advantage of every opportunity to spread the word and inform members of our community and state about the tremendous value we provide. I would also encourage you to work closely with your national organizations and advocacy groups such as the AAUP and UCW to follow national developments in higher education and identify opportunities for action.

I have also asked the General Counsel's office to provide information about the limitations placed on us as public employees with regards to individual political action. They are working on this request and I will share what they provide once it is available.

I do not believe it is hyperbole to say that this is a defining moment for higher education and the national scientific infrastructure which has long been the envy of the world. Working together to take care of ourselves and others will give us the best chance of surviving this profound challenge.

2. Academic Freedom Event

We are proud to announce that the Faculty Senate will be hosting [David M. Rabban](#), Dahr Jamail, Randall Hage Hamail, and Robert Lee Jamail Regents Chair in Law and Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. The lecture will be focused on his 2024 book [Academic Freedom: From Professional Norm to First Amendment Right](#). The event will be held during the afternoon of **Thursday, March 13**. Details are still being finalized but please notify any

colleagues whom you think may be interested in attending what should be an interesting and timely presentation.

3. Attendance Survey

The FSEC has developed a brief survey on faculty perceptions of student attendance which we anticipate will be distributed via broadcast email sometime in the next few weeks. This effort was prompted by discussions with faculty who personally perceived that attendance patterns may be changing, leading us to seek more comprehensive data. We encourage you to complete the survey and will share the results at a future meeting.

4. Summer Class Schedules

We were contacted last fall by a number of faculty concerned about the lack of a passing period between three credit hour courses in the summer 2025 course schedule. Following a series of discussions with the Office of the University Registrar and the Office of Academic Affairs, the summer schedule has been modified to allow for a ten-minute passing period between these classes. We thank them for their attention to this matter and will be working with them again in the fall on the summer 2026 calendar, so please let us know if you develop any recommendations or concerns based on your experiences this summer.

5. Nominating Committee

Article VI, Item 2 of the [Faculty Senate Bylaws](#) requires that a nominating committee consisting of four Senators in the last year of their term and representing different schools or colleges be constructed to gather nominations for the FSEC elections in April. At that time we will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large for next year. All Senators and members of the Executive Committee are eligible to stand for election. This year's nominating committee members are Gerald Baumgartner (Engineering), Michael Russo (Libraries), Edward Shihadeh (HSS), and Min Su (Business). Please contact them at your convenience if you wish to nominate yourself for a position. A roster of candidates will be published in the agenda for the March Faculty Senate meeting, and nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the March and April meetings. If you have any questions about the available positions, please let me know and I will be happy to provide more information.

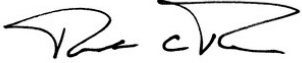
6. PM-79 Revisions

The FSEC was recently notified that the Board of Supervisors will be considering proposed revisions to [Permanent Memorandum 79 Freedom of Speech and Expression](#) at their meeting on Friday, February 21. We were informed that these updates are to incorporate recent changes to LA [R.S. 17:3399.31, et seq.](#) passed in [Act 584](#) during the 2024 regular legislative session.

7. Faculty Council Meeting

This year's faculty council meeting will be held on **Monday, April 14 from 3:30 to 4:30pm**. Please mark your calendars and I will share more information, including location and agenda, once it becomes available. We must reach a quorum to proceed with the Faculty Council meeting so encourage your colleagues to attend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Tirone". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a prominent "T".

Daniel C. Tirone
President, LSU Faculty Senate