

Hilary Tice

From: Jeffrey Anderson
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2024 9:04 AM
To: ULM FACULTY List Serv
Subject: Undertakings of the Faculty Senate

Dear Faculty,

It astonished me to realize that we are more than a quarter of the way through the semester, but it was a pleasant surprise. I hope that the term is proceeding well for all of you!

By way of update from the Faculty Senate, the following is a list of our noteworthy doings during September:

Among an extensive list of updates we received from Academic Affairs were the following:

- The university has over 8700 students, a substantial increase that includes a record high graduate and professional enrollment.
- Searches are underway for the new library director and dean of the College of Business and Social Sciences.
- Sugar Hall renovations are slated to begin in November.
- The SACSCOC Fifth-Year Review process is moving along smoothly.
- There has been an increase in student mental health issues in recent years, which the university is working to address.
- ULM has partnered with Carroll Junior High School and is putting together an advisory group to work on joint projects between the two institutions.
- The Board of Regents has asked the university to submit budget reduction contingencies if expiring taxes are not renewed. The Provost and President are hopeful that the cuts will not be as large as predicted, if they happen at all.

In addition, the Senate's notable undertakings are as follow:

- We elected Hilary Tice as our president and Mark Johnson as our secretary for the 2025-2026 academic year. Prior to that time, Dr. Tice will continue in her current role of secretary as well as filling the office of president-elect. Dr. Johnson will take on the office of secretary-elect.
- Pat McGuire was appointed Parliamentarian.
- Adam Traweek and Tyeshia Hardy joined the Senate as appointees to open seats in Construction Management and Allied Health, respectively.
- Following elections and appointments, President Berry addressed the senate. Most of his time focused on discussion of the potential sale of the former Lumen building and the previously addressed potential for budget cuts.
 - In response to senators' concern about a significant grant dependent upon use of the studio in the former Lumen building, Dr. Berry indicated that he hopes to move the equipment to campus if the sale goes through. A senator further requested that money from the sale be used to construct a comparable facility to house the equipment.
- Committee report time was limited, but we did hear from Fiscal Affairs and the Constitution and Bylaws Committees.

- The latter has prepared an account of its discussions about revisions to the bylaws, which is being reviewed by individual senators for discussion at the October meeting. The focus of the discussions has been to increase Senate membership and broaden direct contact between senators and upper-level administration.
- The Senate president posted a list of faculty concerns for review by the senators, which he will forward to the Provost during the next Executive Committee meeting.
- The Senate also accepted the following policies for review, requesting senators contact the Faculty Senate president with feedback by Wednesday, September 25, after which point the policies were forwarded to the Provost:
 - Credit for Prior Learning/Prior Learning Assessment Policy
 - Indirect Cost Return and Use Policy
 - Verification of Institutional and Program Accreditation Status Policy
- Along with the policies, the Senate reviewed proposals for the following, with a September 25 deadline for feedback, upon which they were returned to the Provost:
 - University Syllabus – To be automatically uploaded to Canvas shells in such a way that it contains useful information that will not overlap or interfere with course-specific material or need faculty editing.
 - Restructuring of the Professional Learning Center – With the proposal recommending a faculty advisory board in place of a director.
- The Draft Faculty Senate Handbook is under consideration by the Senate with a deadline for feedback of September 30. Depending upon the extent and nature of that feedback, the Senate will determine whether to vote electronically to approve it or whether it requires further discussion and/or revision.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your faculty senator. If you would rather comment anonymously or simply prefer electronic communication, feel free to contact us by clicking on the Contact the Faculty Senate icon at <https://www.ulm.edu/facultysenate/index.html>. Some other useful links are as follow:

- Minutes – <https://www.ulm.edu/facultysenate/meetings.html>
- Standing Committees - <https://www.ulm.edu/facultysenate/committees.html>

As always, I continue to have a great semester!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Anderson

Faculty Senate President