

## Hilary Tice

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**From:** Jeffrey Anderson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2024 10:17 AM  
**To:** ULM FACULTY List Serv  
**Subject:** Undertakings of the Faculty Senate

Dear Faculty,

If you are like me, I imagine that you are having a busy week, especially considering that Halloween is upon us. I hope it will be a good one, regardless!

Please keep in mind President Berry's open forum this Thursday, October 31, on the seventh floor of the library. This will be an excellent time to engage in communication with the administration while partaking of refreshments.

By way of update from the Faculty Senate, the following list details some of our noteworthy doings during October.

- On October 9, we met with Provost Arant to discuss positives and concerns brought to our attention by faculty. Among the noteworthy developments were the following:
  - Concerns about the future of Wintersession and Summer classes – Deans have been given the authority to make decisions about offering classes during Wintersession. Summer classes will be offered with a minimum enrollment of seven students. Allowing classes to run with a lower enrollment will be considered on a case-by-case basis when they are necessary for student progression.
  - Questions about communication with administration and faculty members' ability to provide feedback – Dr. Berry organized the forum mentioned above as part of his ongoing effort to communicate regularly with faculty.
  - Faculty workload – The Senate Faculty Welfare Committee is working to meet with the deans as it continues to develop a new workload policy.
  - Evaluations of deans – The annual evaluation tool is being revised to make it more beneficial in the feedback it provides.
  - Faculty attitudinal survey – The senate plans to put together and administer an attitudinal survey in Spring 2025.
  - ULM Mental Health Awareness Initiative – There were questions regarding a mental health initiative put together some years ago as a Moodle section. The senate has located the shell and has backed it up so that it will not be lost.
  - Facilities concerns – The senate received questions requesting additional whiteboards, a new satellite printing facility, and an upgrade to the elevator in Walker Hall. I have forwarded these requests to the appropriate offices on campus.
  - Questions regarding harassment from peers and administrators – These should be addressed according to the Unclassified Staff Grievance Policy.
  - We also had some requests for data regarding completion rates for incoming freshmen, enrollment, and the like. Dr. Arant and Allison Thompson are disseminating such information in the following ways:
    - Dr. Arant and Dr. Fields are planning to host joint sessions to address topics such as who our students are in regard to background, level of education, and the like.

- Dr. Arant and Allison Thompson set up a website at <https://www.ulm.edu/academicaffairs/data-resources.html> with links to useful university-wide data.
- Program and discipline specific data can be obtained through PowerBI, which can be accessed by visiting the web-based version of Outlook and clicking on the “waffle” of nine dots in the upper-left-hand corner of the window or by clicking on <https://app.powerbi.com/links>.

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

- o The Chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee updated the senate on the process of finalizing the handbook and reviewed the updates made following the faculty feedback period. Only a few items remain to be resolved before the handbook revision is complete.
- o The senate came to consensus that it will schedule each spring meeting in a different location associated with one of the four colleges. Doing so will help the senators familiarize themselves with locations they do not regularly visit, assist the senate as it seeks to represent all faculty, and bring meetings closer to faculty to facilitate non-senator faculty attendance.
- o The senate began considering a list of several proposed revisions to the constitution and bylaws. Technical issues and a lack of time hampered our discussion, but we will return to it during the November meeting.
- o We received a proposal outlining changes to the Foundation Awards for Excellence. Time constraints prevented us from discussing them during the meeting, but I have asked for feedback from senators prior to October 31, which I will then forward to the provost.
- o The senate has prepared a draft letter of congratulation to those who achieved tenure and/or promotion. We will return to it during the November meeting.

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>

I hope the remainder of the semester will be good for all!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Anderson

Faculty Senate President