

## Hilary Tice

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**From:** Jeffrey Anderson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2024 2:55 PM  
**To:** ULM FACULTY List Serv  
**Subject:** Undertakings of the Faculty Senate - November 26, 2024

Dear Faculty,

As I suspect is true for all of you, I am looking forward to some time off after a busy semester.

By way of update from the Faculty Senate, the following details some of our noteworthy doings during November. On November 15, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the provost. The following were some of the key points of discussion:

- ULM was advised against renewing its contract with TurnItIn because of some new provisions added to the document. Discussions between ULM and Turnitin are ongoing. The service, however, will remain in place until summer of 2025. If a satisfactory agreement is not reached, it will be replaced with a comparable product.
- The Chemistry Program will be closing.
  - o The state had designated it as a low-completer program. STEM programs are required to produce an average of eight students per year to be considered viable.
  - o Chemistry will become a concentration in Integrative Sciences.
  - o No faculty will lose jobs or tenure.
  - o There will be a teach-out for existing students.
- No further program closures are expected.
- The state is working toward a new funding formula. The current draft emphasizes completers more heavily than in the past and reduces the weight given to external research funding. If adopted as it now stands, it will be more favorable to ULM than past iterations.
- University faculty and staff are working to address observed deficiencies in math and reading among incoming freshmen.
- Following upon a suggestion from President Berry, there was a brief discussion of creating a University Senate, a proposal that will be further examined in Spring 2025.

During our regular meeting on November 21, the Faculty Senate also addressed the following:

- Football practices hampering students' ability to complete degrees – There is considerable concern that the current morning practice schedule of the football team will prevent athletes in some majors from completing required classes. This information has been relayed to the provost, who was already working with the faculty athletics representative to address the issue.
- 2024-25 Faculty Handbook – The senate reviewed and voted to approve the most recent draft of the handbook, which has been forwarded to the Office of the Provost. Preparation of the 2025-26 handbook is slated to begin in February 2025.
- Promotion and Tenure Congratulatory Letter – The senate reviewed and approved the mailing of congratulatory letters to those who receive tenure and/or promotion.
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee – The Constitution and Bylaws Committee has prepared a list of potential amendments for review by the full senate. The first of these, a proposal to decrease the ratio of faculty per senator from 20:1 to 15:1, was received favorably and will be up for approval during the January meeting.

- The Senate also received four policies for a second round of review. These included the 100% Online Course Policy, the 100% Online Major Change Policy, the Course Modality Policy, and the Credit for Prior Learning/Prior Learning Assessment Policy.

In addition to our regular meetings, the provost asked the Faculty Senate to review the proposed 2025-26 Academic Calendar. Senators provided substantial feedback regarding a draft supplied, and the revision process has completed.

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 semester will end on a high note, beginning with a nice Thanksgiving Break!

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Anderson  
Faculty Senate President