

Hilary Tice

From: Jeffrey Anderson
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 7:54 AM
To: ULM FACULTY List Serv
Subject: Undertakings of the Faculty Senate
Attachments: Constitution and Bylaws - For Potential Amendment - Draft.docx

Dear Faculty,

Spring is nigh. Let us hope it long stands between us and the heat of summer!

By way of update from the Faculty Senate, the following details our noteworthy doings during our February 20 meeting:

- Career fairs – Kellye Blackburn spoke to the senate regarding career fairs. Since the last non-specialized career fair saw a turnout of only about 40 students, she asked that faculty encourage students to attend.
- University budget – The president is working to make adjustments for a reduced budget during the 2025-26 academic year. Nonessential expenditures are frozen, though exceptions can be approved by the Provost.
- Senate budget use – The senate has decided to pursue opportunities that can be completed without cost.
- Repeal of the Kevin P. Reilly Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund – Notice was given of the upcoming March 29 vote on the repeal of this act and how it will impact funding for some state grants, professorships, and the like.
- Alumni Association Sign-Up Showdown – At the request of the Alumni Association, the senate discussed the upcoming drive to encourage faculty and staff to join the organization. The drive itself is set up as a competition between the colleges.
- *Ad Hoc* Faculty Attitude Survey Committee – The senate solicited volunteers for an *ad hoc* committee tasked with developing a two-part survey of faculty attitudes. The first part of the survey will address faculty concerns, interests, and desires regarding the soon-to-begin presidential search. The information thus collected will be submitted to the search committee. The second part of the survey will take place later in the Spring 2025 semester and will be a general survey of faculty attitudes, which will be delivered to the administration after the accession of the new president.
- Review of policies – The senate had the opportunity to review policies regarding Export Control, Verification of Institutional and Program Accreditation Status, Grade Appeals, and Faculty Credentials. At the request of the provost, earlier drafts of these policies were reviewed by the senate's president and secretary/president-elect in January.
- Committee Reports
 - Elections Committee – Senatorial elections will be taking place during the first half of March. The complete current roster is available at <https://www.ulm.edu/facultysenate/election-roster.html>. Those seats up for election/reelection are indicated with yellow highlighting.
 - Faculty Welfare – The committee is working on a proposal for a new Foundation Award for Excellence in Citizenship. A draft has been prepared and is being revised with an eye to clearly differentiate it from existing awards. The committee also continues to work on revising its Faculty Workload Policy with the next step being to meet individually with deans to gain their input regarding the differing needs of the colleges.
 - Constitution and Bylaws – A revised Constitution and Bylaws will be voted on during the March 20, 2025, meeting of the senate. The current text can be found at <https://www.ulm.edu/facultysenate/constitution.html>, and a version with the proposed

amendments highlighted in yellow is attached to this email. The two proposed amendments are as follow:

- Constitution, Article III – Revised to read “Full-time (75% and above) faculty with the rank of instructor or above are herein referred to as General Faculty. If you provide annual evaluations to faculty and/or are responsible for a budget, then you are not considered as part of the general faculty at the University. Membership in the Faculty Senate shall be restricted to General Faculty.”
 - This amendment reflects Faculty Senate’s longstanding definition of general faculty but clarifies some vague wording to more clearly indicate that those who prepare evaluations and oversee university budgets are not part of the general faculty.
- Bylaws, Article I, Section 2 – Revised to read “From each of the schools and the University Library, there will be one senator elected for every one to fifteen General Faculty members. Schools with sixteen to thirty General Faculty members are entitled to elect a second senator. Schools with thirty-one to forty-five General Faculty members are entitled to elect a third senator. Schools with more than forty-five General Faculty members are entitled to elect a fourth senator. If a sufficient number of candidates from a school run for election, preference will be given to have a senator from at least two programs/departments/studies/resources from that school. A school may exceed its normal representation if other schools from the same college do not provide a sufficient number of candidates.”
 - The amendment reflects the senate’s desire to increase the number participating in the senate and return to the ratio used prior to a change made in 2016. This should make it easier for the senate to accomplish multiple tasks, in part by increasing the pool of senators available to organize representative committees without overloading individual faculty. This change was approved by the senate during its January meeting but is being included in the vote on the full amended constitution in order to make sure all faculty have had a chance to review the proposed change.

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 approaching second half of the semester will be a pleasant one!

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Anderson
Faculty Senate President