

Hilary Tice

From: Jeffrey Anderson
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 4:58 PM
To: ULM FACULTY List Serv
Subject: Undertakings of the Faculty Senate - 3-27-2025
Attachments: Faculty Senate Presidential Search Survey - Summary - Names and Identifiers Redacted.pdf; 2024-25 Faculty Handbook.pdf

Dear Faculty,

Now that we are near the end of March, we are definitely on the downhill slope of the semester. I hope the remainder of the term will be a good one!

By way of update from the faculty senate, the following details our noteworthy doings during our March 20 meeting as well as a few items the executive committee discussed the week prior with the provost:

- Faculty Handbook – The senate voted to approve the finalized handbook, a PDF of which is attached to this email and which will soon be published to the ULM website. The handbook committee will begin revisions immediately. Therefore, please send adjustments to your faculty senator by April 7.
- Amended Constitution and Bylaws – The senate approved amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws. The whole can be viewed at <https://www.ulm.edu/facultysenate/constitution.html>.
- Committee Reports
 - Elections Committee – Senators for the 2025-2027 term have been elected. Because there was only one returning senator from the School of Sciences and no new nominees, an extra nominee from the School of Visual and Performing Arts will fill one of the three open seats. The third seat will be chosen by appointment at the beginning of the fall semester, subject to approval by the full senate. Until then, I will serve as a placeholder rather than acting as an at-large senator.
 - Faculty Welfare Committee – Senators Rowley and Anderson recently met with the Dean of the College of Arts, Education, and Sciences to discuss efforts to revise the Faculty Workload Policy. Dr. Pratte relayed the concern of the deans as a whole that the diversity of the colleges makes impossible the creation of a university policy that provides specific guidance on workload applicable to all. He recommended that the university policy remain very general and that schools develop their own workload policies. Following the report, senators suggested that doing so could leave faculty from some schools and colleges with significantly higher workloads than others. The Faculty Welfare Committee will continue working toward the creation of a document to address these concerns with the goal of preparing a new proposal following the installation of the new president.
- Foundation Awards for Excellence – The senate is currently evaluating nominees for the awards and will convene in a special executive session on Friday, March 28, to select the awardees.
- Presidential Search Survey – The senate recently conducted a survey of the faculty on the qualities they expect to see in the new president. A summary of the results—with the names and identifiers of specific persons targeted for critique redacted—is attached to this email. The same data will be forwarded to the members of the search committee, and the complete unredacted version will be submitted to the new president after he or she is selected.
- Consideration of Items Requested by Faculty Emails and Webform Submissions
 - Student Advising – The senate discussed faculty concerns about DegreeWorks' user unfriendliness compared to Flightpath. Per the provost, the registrar's office is working to improve its functionality, and I have also asked senators to relay to me any problems or difficulties they or their constituents

encounter with DegreeWorks for compilation and forwarding to the appropriate parties. Along similar lines, administrators and staff met on March 25 to address concerns about advising more broadly.

- Parking Shortages – Because of the renovation of Sugar Hall, there is a faculty parking shortage. The work should be completed by the end of 2026, but there is a possibility that as the work gradually moves completely to the interior of the building, some spaces may open back up earlier.
- Deans-Level Search Committee Policies – An anonymous faculty member expressed concern about associate deans serving on search committees for deans, primarily on the grounds that their presence in meetings could hamper discussion. I have asked senators to forward their thoughts to me regarding the proposal of a policy defining the participation of associate deans in the process. If there is sufficient agreement, the senate will pursue a policy proposal.
- Selection of Endowed Professors – Following a request from a faculty member that the selection of endowed professors be rendered more transparent, followed by discussion of the possibility with the provost, an ad hoc committee of senators volunteered to revise the current policy in order to institute a committee-driven selection process. Its goal is to produce the revision in time to apply it to the 2026 selection.
- Attendance Reporting Policy – The senate considered a policy defining attendance in online classes and otherwise aligning the university's practices with those mandated by the government. Following discussion, I asked the senators to forward any comments they would like added to the document by March 24.
- Budget for 2025-26 – Work on the budget remains ongoing.

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>

Enjoy the spring weather! Unless it storms, of course. In that case, head to an interior room.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Anderson
Faculty Senate President