

Hilary Tice

From: Jeffrey Anderson
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 4:57 PM
To: ULM FACULTY List Serv
Subject: Undertakings of the Faculty Senate - 6-2-2025
Attachments: 2025-2026 Faculty Senate Roster - Updated 6-2-2025.docx

Dear Faculty,

If you are at all like me, you feel uncertain about the future. As the deans have been communicating with their respective colleges, plans for a general 10 percent budget cut have been prepared. Please bear in mind, however, that these remain simply plans. The administration, system, and legislature are working diligently to address the budget shortfall in ways that will be the least painful to faculty and the university as a whole. Despite the fact that the exact contours of the budgetary situation remain unclear, I am confident that our institution is on the right track. We have solid leaders in place and will soon be welcoming our new president. There are challenges ahead, but we will overcome them.

Our last meeting of the semester, which took place on April 17, was devoted largely to necessary preparations for the fall. Among the items we discussed were committee membership, future meeting locations, and plans for communication under the incoming officers. An additional item we approved through an online vote was a resolution supporting the creation of a University Budget Advisory Committee, designed to work with the administration to address efficiencies, planning, and assessment regarding the institution's finances.

Over the course of the past year, the senate has undertaken a host of tasks. The following are some of the more notable:

- Hosted guests, who included the following:
 - o The President of the University
 - o Staff Senate President Dana Mejia
 - o Director of Employer Relations and Outreach Kellye Blackburn
- Reviewed twenty university policies, including ones involving faculty credentials, online courses, export control, ULM Foundation Awards for Excellence, assistantship administration, and grade appeals
- Heavily revised the Faculty Handbook
- Passed resolutions involving:
 - o Faculty preferred names
 - o Deletion of extraneous material from Canvas shells

- o Creation of a University Budget Advisory Committee
- Revised the Constitution and Bylaws:
 - o Clarified the definition of general faculty
 - o Changed faculty to senator ratio from 20:1 to 15:1
- Contributed to the presidential search:
 - o Gathered faculty input through a survey, which was distributed to members of the search committee
 - o Provided representation on the search committee
 - o Recommended incoming Senator James Boldin as host of the faculty and staff forums
- Developed “Undertakings of the Faculty Senate” email newsletter
- Began rotating meeting locations to make it easier for senators and guests to attend meetings in person
- Created an advising group for partnering with Carroll Junior High School
- Brought a variety of faculty concerns directly to the appropriate administrators, including but not limited to program directors’ participation in shared governance, lack of faculty parking and its effect on those with disabilities, potential loss of Turnitin.com, DegreeWorks’ limited effectiveness, athletic practices’ impact on students’ ability to progress academically, endowed professor selection processes, search committee policies for deans, and the academic calendar
- Jointly hosted with the Staff Senate an open forum with the ULM President
- Discussed the potential impact of the proposed repeal of the Kevin P. Reilly Louisiana Quality Trust Fund and other potential legislative actions
- Arranged opportunities for senators to gain AI and leadership training
- Selected winners of Faculty Foundation Awards for Excellence
- Subcommittee work
 - o Executive – Met regularly with the provost and served on numerous faculty emerita/us committees
 - o Constitution and Bylaws – Reviewed constitution to consider numerous changes and make recommendations for amendments
 - o Elections – Administered elections of new senators and officers and appointed a parliamentarian

- o Fiscal Affairs – Met with the Vice President of Business Affairs for a budget overview
- o Faculty Welfare – Reviewed multiple proposals, including those involving workload concerns and creation of a new Foundation Award for Excellence
- o Promotion and Tenure (*ad hoc*) – Created a congratulatory letter and purchased small gifts for those who received promotion and tenure over the past year
- o Faculty Attitude Committee (*ad hoc*) – Prepared faculty presidential preference survey
- Projects currently in the works
 - o Resolution supporting the creation of a University Citizenship Foundation Award
 - o Revision of the Faculty Workload Policy
 - o Preparation of a faculty attitude survey

On July 1, we will welcome our new senators and officers. A complete roster is attached to this email, and we will be updating the website over the summer to reflect current membership and committee assignments. The officers for the 2025-26 academic year are as follow:

- President Hilary Tice
- Secretary Mark Johnson
- Past President Jeffrey Anderson

It is a pleasure to welcome senators Tice and Johnson to their new roles, and I am looking forward to their leadership.

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, soon-to-be updated links are as follow:

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

Enjoy the much-needed break (or at least relative calm) of summer!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Anderson

(Soon to Be Former) Faculty Senate President