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**Subject:** Updates from the Faculty Senate

**From:** Jeffrey Anderson

**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:29 AM

**To:** ULM FACULTY List Serv <[faculty@ulm.edu](mailto:faculty@ulm.edu)>

**Subject:** Updates from the Faculty Senate

Dear Faculty,

Though we are still fairly early in the semester, Faculty Senate has gotten a chance to return to a couple of major projects and to speak with Provost Arant and President Berry about various items of interest to faculty. The following is a brief list of some of the noteworthy doings of the senate and administration:

- Current undertakings of the Faculty Senate:
  - Extensive revision of the Faculty Handbook
  - Research and development of proposal to address program needs, equity, and flexibility with a new Faculty Workload Policy
- Important information from the President and Provost:
  - Faculty identified communication for the administrative team as an ongoing issue, and Dr. Berry is taking steps to address it
  - In future, strategic planning will be examined every two years, and it will devote more effort to faculty issues than in the past
  - The policies and procedures regarding summer courses and schedules and deans' authority to regulate them will be reviewed this semester, in part with the goal of addressing faculty unease with the current system
  - A faculty and staff center is in the process of being created
  - Dr. Leigh Hersey is the new Faculty Athletic Representative
  - Staff and instructor hierarchies are being created and implemented, which will be similar to tenure-track ones
  - Creation of distinguished professors is being reviewed
  - The university is seeking a new Title IX Coordinator
  - ULM has signed MOUs with the following institutions:
    - Starr Homeplace
    - Christ University of India
  - ULM has signed a collaborative agreement with the Engineering Research Development Center of Vicksburg, Mississippi
  - The goal of hiring a Dean of Health Sciences is March 1
  - Alternatives for repurposing of old Starbucks is underway
  - University master plan should be released in February

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your faculty senator. A list of your college's senators can be found at <https://www.ulm.edu/facultysenate/roster.html>, but 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>.

Jeff Anderson

Professor of History and Faculty Senate President