



March 23, 2026

Dear Senators,

The final half of the Spring Semester promises to be busy beyond the usual business of teaching and research that accelerates at this time of year. This month's report includes a number of updates which may be of interest to you and your colleagues and I would ask that you please bring them to their attention.

1. Panel on Engaging Students in Large Classes

On February 25, the LSU Office of Academic Affairs and the LSU Faculty Senate hosted *Teaching at Scale: Engaging Students in Large-Enrollment Classes*, a campus-wide panel focused on strengthening student engagement in high-enrollment courses. Attendees had the opportunity to learn directly from colleagues who have demonstrated excellence in teaching large-enrollment courses and to participate in a Q&A that encouraged dialogue across disciplines. The session was recorded and is available on the Faculty Senate's "News and Events" webpage for faculty and graduate teaching assistants seeking to enhance engagement and learning outcomes in their own classrooms. I thank faculty panelists Dan Capron, Maribel Dietz, Zakiya S. Wilson-Kennedy, and David Young for their helpful guidance, Baylee Banta and Kelsey Brannon for assistance with coordination, and Dr. Jennifer Baumgartner and Vice Provost Jacqueline Bach for their efforts in organizing the event.

2. Senior Vice Chancellor & Provost Search Update

The search for the next Senior Vice Chancellor & Provost is now underway. It is expected that finalists will be meeting with stakeholder groups on campus in early May and most of the process will have concluded by the end of the Spring Semester. Information about opportunities to engage with and provide feedback about the candidates will be made available as we get closer to the beginning of May.

3. Attendance and Generative Artificial Intelligence Surveys

The Senate is preparing to distribute two important surveys to students in the next few weeks. One survey focuses on factors which impact students' class attendance and was developed by Dr. Kerri Tobin in the Lutrill & Pearl Payne School of Education in the College of Human Sciences and Education. This is a follow-up study to our pilot survey of faculty on their perceptions of student attendance last spring. The other survey was developed by the FS Generative Artificial Intelligence Committee and queries students about their use of this technology. All responses to both surveys will be anonymous and both will employ measures to ensure that only LSU students can participate.

We appreciate the support of Senior Vice Chancellor & Provost Blanchard and the other members of the Office of Academic Affairs in developing these surveys. Vice President Singh and I have also met with members of student government and Enrollment Management to seek their support and assistance in publicizing the effort to students and obtaining a high response rate. We hope to have the surveys available to students in early April and will provide more information as it becomes available.

4. Course Evaluation Committee

We are still in need of faculty to participate in the Course Evaluation Committee. This group will review our current method of course evaluations along with proposed alternatives, and develop recommendations for future improvement. We are in need of individuals with expertise in program evaluation generally and course and instructor evaluations in particular. Please reach out to me if you have interest in serving on the committee.

5. Geaux Big Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer LSU and Campus Life are hosting an upcoming Geaux Big event on Saturday, March 28th. The purpose of the event is to host a “Keep Louisiana Beautiful” cleanup at the Milford Wampold Park across from Sorority Row. They are in need of volunteers for two shifts that day; the first is from 9 to 11am, and the second is from 10am to noon. All faculty, along with their families and friends, are welcome to volunteer. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer or would like more information about the event and I will be happy to put you in touch with the organizers.

We look forward to seeing you at the final Senate meeting of this academic year on Tuesday, April 21, and as always if there is anything the Executive Committee can do to be of assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. Tirone
President, LSU Faculty Senate