



October 2023

Dear Senators,

Since our last meeting in September, there are several items that I think would be of interest to you:

### **1. Working Committee with Enrollment Management**

Recognizing the important role faculty play in student retention and recruitment, the FSEC has initiated discussions with Enrollment Management to explore opportunities for greater cooperation between critical stakeholders aimed at enhancing our students' experience, including in their pivotal first year on campus. To that end, Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Support Services Jackie Bach and I will be co-chairing a committee which will also include Danny Barrow, Vice President for Enrollment Management & Student Success, Keena Arbuthnot, Vice President and Chief Data Officer, and Brandon Common, Vice President for Student Affairs. The goal is to better understand students' needs and to build on the successes of the preceding few years. We are in the process of scheduling our first meeting and I will keep you apprised of its progress.

### **2. PS-21 and Graduate Student Evaluations**

The FSEC recently met with Associate Dean of the Pinkie Gordon Lane Graduate School Carol Wicks to discuss elements of the revised graduate student evaluation process mandated by [Policy Statement 21](#). It was a productive discussion and we will remain in contact with the Graduate School as we pursue a number of avenues for improvements identified in the meeting.

### **3. Syllabus Database**

For the past year, the FSEC has been in discussions with representatives from Student Government regarding their proposed initiative to upgrade LSU's syllabus database to better allow students to navigate classes prior to registration. The students presented examples from other institutions, including the University of Alabama's searchable syllabus database, which they would like to use as a model. There are several questions regarding the creation of such database, including its potential cost, maintenance, and prospective faculty participation. I have invited Calvin Feldt from Student Government to give an overview of this initiative at the Faculty Senate meeting on October 11 so that we may inform Senators about the proposal and get faculty input that can be incorporated in discussions to be held in a joint Student Government-Faculty Senate committee which will be addressing this matter.

### **4. Proposed Revision to PS-36**

The Office of Academic Affairs has contacted Faculty Senate leadership regarding inconsistencies across campus on the classification of online teaching, with some departments counting it towards service and others teaching in annual evaluations of faculty performance. They have provided a proposed revision to PS-36 which they believe would address this issue. For your review, we

summarized and forwarded the proposed revised language with the agenda for the Senate meeting on October 11. We will consider this at the meeting and decide how we would like to proceed.

### **5. Standing Committee Elections**

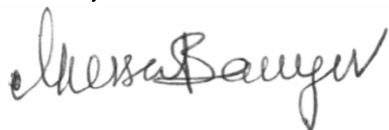
According to our bylaws, the membership of three of our Standing Committees—Budget and Planning Advisory Committee, Faculty Adjudication Committee, and Faculty Appeals Board—must be elected by the Faculty Senate. These elections will be held at our meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>, and while we have slates for candidates for each committee nominations we will be also taken from the floor. Self-nominations are strongly encouraged.

### **6. Luncheon with Faculty Senate Committee Chairs**

The Executive Committee hosted a luncheon for the chairs of Senate committees on October 3, 2023—a week later than originally scheduled as the Faculty Club had issues with their air conditioning. The luncheon consisted of a dozen committee chairs and some members of the FSEC in attendance. Secretary Param Singh gave a brief presentation on the new Minutes’ formatting recommendations discussed at our last Faculty Senate meeting and I led the presentation on committees’ operating procedures, including the Open Meetings Law requirements governing committee meetings. General Counsel Winston DeCuir was also in attendance, and I appreciate his assistance in addressing some important concerns of the chairs. The event was a success and I hope that we can continue this tradition every Fall.

We hope to continue strengthening faculty governance. Please continue keeping us informed about pressing matters and issues on campus. We are stronger together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Inessa Bazayev". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "I" and a long, sweeping underline.

Inessa Bazayev  
President, LSU Faculty Senate