



September 2022

Dear Senators,

I hope your semester is off to a great start and you have now settled into the routines of the Fall semester! Since our meeting on August 29, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) and I have been busy on many fronts.

We have divided Susannah Knoll's position between the Office of Academic Affairs and FSEC. This means keeping up with Senate emails, various scheduled events, website maintenance, among other responsibilities. The job posting for the Assistant to the Faculty President closed on Wednesday 14 September. Vice President Daniel Tirone, Emily Hatfield (Academic Affairs), and I will review the applications and will schedule interviews in coming weeks. We hope to make our hire by the end of the month.

Per Provost Haggerty's request Daniel Tirone and I are working with student government leaders and representatives from Academic Affairs to address some student concerns about class management issues including grade reporting. We met with Student Government President Lizzie Shaw, graduate representative Lyric Mandell, and Acting Vice Provost Jackie Bach to create better communication with respective departments' Directors of Undergraduate Studies (or equivalent) and students, LSU Cares reporting system, and evaluating possible revisions to policy statements that address the issues of concern, including PS-48¹ (Student Grievance and Appeals), PS-29² (syllabi statements), and PS-44³ (student grading). I will continue to keep you informed of further developments and solicit your feedback as we move forward.

We also held two orientations on September 14th. New Senator Orientation luncheon took place at the Faculty Club and we had fifteen new Senators in attendance. Daniel Tirone and I ran the orientation. We had prepared a presentation that summarized faculty governance structure, history of the Senate, senators' roles, and Open Meetings Law (OML), among others. The second orientation was held that same afternoon. The orientation was for Chairs of Standing Committees. We gave guidance on OML and how to move forward with their committees with these regulations. There were serious concerns expressed by some of the committee chairs regarding confidentiality issues that are often part of discussions on these committees. Dan and I will be working with the FSEC and General Counsel's office to try to figure out how to address these serious faculty concerns without violating OML. All the materials shared at both orientations will be emailed this weekend to those who couldn't attend them.

Finally, the Faculty Senate Guidebook is going to be distributed at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. The FSEC spent a large portion of the summer working on it and I hope that you will find it informative and helpful as we embark on the 2022–23 academic year. I'd like to thank my terrific

¹ https://www.lsu.edu/policies/ps/ps_48.pdf

² https://www.lsu.edu/policies/ps/ps_29.pdf

³ https://www.lsu.edu/policies/ps/ps_44.pdf

colleagues who worked with me so tirelessly on it. I am especially indebted to Daniel Tirone and Jeffrey Roland for sharing their infinite knowledge and expertise on Senate governance. I could not have done it without them.

The FSEC has also prepared a survey seeking faculty who are willing and able to serve on Senate and administrative committees which is to be distributed via a new broadcast email we hope to send monthly to all faculty. This survey will assist us in deepening and widening the pool of faculty available for appointment and elections to these crucial committees, and we hope that the new email will be helpful in informing the entire faculty about the efforts being undertaken on their behalf by their representative bodies including the Senate. Please be sure to complete the survey and to also encourage your colleagues to do the same.

In coming months, we have several plans that include Faculty compensation. I have already begun the conversation with President Tate and Provost Haggerty. I was encouraged by President Tate's comment at the most recent Board of Supervisors meeting when he highlighted his focus on faculty compensation. I will keep you apprised of the developments of this important issue, which affects not only our campus but the entire LSU system. If you have any special expertise on budget reading or any other skill that can help us better address this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. We are stronger together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Inessa Bazayev". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Inessa" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bazayev".

Inessa Bazayev
President, LSU Faculty Senate