

March 2024

Dear Senators,

I hope that you had a restful yet productive Spring break. Since our last meeting, the Faculty Senate leadership was involved with several important initiatives.

**1. Maintaining Instruction During Faculty Absence**

Vice President Tirone and I have engaged in preliminary discussions with various units within the administration about developing a policy for maintaining course instruction during periods of prolonged instructor absence, such as those due to illness. There is general agreement on the need for such a policy but no details have yet been determined. I am optimistic about the direction of these discussions will keep you informed as talks progress.

**2. Grammarly**

The discussion regarding acquisition of Grammarly licenses for students is on-going. As a result, the FSEC voted last week to form a small committee comprised of stakeholders that would include representative from the Office of Academic Affairs, Students Affairs, and faculty. I would like to ask you—Senators—to nominate or self-nominate faculty who would want to be part of this committee, which will aim to develop policies for students to use AI in their assignments. Please email me directly by March 25 with suggested names.

**3. Safety on Campus**

As we approach the last half of the Spring semester, we are all no doubt aware that this can be a stressful time for students and faculty alike. If you encounter any concern with struggling students, be sure to report them to [LSU Cares](#). I'd like to also encourage you to download the [LSU Shield App](#) and be sure that it is readily accessible on your phone. Other useful resources for remaining safe on campus are available on the [Stay Safe at LSU](#) website.

**4. International Visitors Policy**

Academic Affairs has implemented a new reporting requirement for international visitors following consultation with the Faculty Senate ad hoc Policy Committee and FSEC. Under the new policy an international visitor is defined as an individual who (1) is not a US citizen or permanent resident; (2) is not an LSU employee or student; and (3) will be on campus longer than 28 days. Unit heads of the host unit shall notify the Office of International Programs of these visitors using the web form available [here](#) at least one week prior to the beginning of the visit. Additional details of the policy are also available at that website and questions about the new policy can be submitted via email to [intlvisitors@lsu.edu](mailto:intlvisitors@lsu.edu).

**5. Faculty Council Meeting – Monday 22 April, 3–4pm**

The Faculty Council meeting has been scheduled at the above date at the Royal Cotillion Ballroom, Student Union. You can register [here](#).

Please continue keeping us informed about pressing matters and issues on campus. We are stronger together.

Sincerely,



Inessa Bazayev  
President, LSU Faculty Senate