

March 24, 2022

President's Report –

I begin my report on a somber note with sincere condolences to those who suffered unfathomable loss from natural disaster or criminal violence in our beloved state. My thoughts are also with family and colleagues in Ukraine whose lives have been forever changed by aggressive, hostile acts. Try to imagine the horror and despair of living in a war zone that was once your peaceful community. I request a moment of silence for our friends, family, and colleagues that we have lost and to express our solidarity with those who suffer consequences of the unconscionable actions of others.

As always, I thank you for your presence here. Time is valuable, and your efforts are sorely underappreciated. I'm grateful for the innumerable hours that our senators, standing committee members and leaders dedicate to the betterment of our LSU.

From the top, the Council of Faculty advisors met bright and early 7 am with Board of Supervisor chairperson Dampf and supervisor Mallet just prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 4. Chairperson Dampf again reiterated his unrelenting support of tenure. He further requested feedback on the Board of Supervisors Bylaws and Regulations that pertain to faculty. These were sent to you. A request has been made to form a committee to provide feedback to the Council of Faculty Advisors. Specifically, to review and decide on any necessary changes. Please volunteer or nominate your friends or nonfriends to serve on the committee. I suspect that the timeline may be short, so quick action is likely necessary. The Council also reminded Chairperson Dampf that the annual faculty council meeting is in the Board of Supervisor Regulations and that it is presided over by the President of the University (President Tate). As per the resolution passed at our last meeting, Vice President King is requesting faculty to join the ad hoc committee to, with administration, organize a Faculty Council meeting after our April meeting and before the end of the current semester. This has been an ongoing effort for at least a year and the meeting is an important activity that

should occur, according to the Board of Supervisor Regulations, at least once per year.

The Council of Faculty Advisors report to the Board of Supervisors during their general meeting included:

1) That the BoS initiate an effort to update their Bylaws and Regulations to reflect the contemporary organization of the LSU system and resolve any potential conflicts with Louisiana Open Meetings Laws. Further, they requested that a Board of Supervisors liaison work with campus senates to align governing documents. And the Council requested that the Board of Supervisors call and organize a meeting of the Baton Rouge faculty, in part to ratify the constitution that has been languishing since 2020 when the LSU Faculty Senate, after a year of line by line work, voted to approve the changes.

The resolution passed at the February 2022 meeting of the LSU Faculty Senate, 22-01 Call for Enforcement of LSU's PS 118 100% Tobacco-free Policy and Education Campaign for Students, was brought to the attention of the Board of Supervisors with full expectation of implementation.

Finally, ongoing concerns about campus safety and insufficient options to seek, render, or otherwise secure help or assistance were raised. Notably, the LSU Shield 'app' has since been reinvigorated and expanded should anyone think to use an app in a desperate time of need. The latest information about the LSU Shield app was shared with you. Please be sure to share it.

I again protest reliance on an app over police presence, security measures, and true commitment to safety. It is a matter, in part, of community culture. I urge you to be aware, thoughtful, and present as much as possible. And please, friends, while I don't ask you to be a hero, I do ask that you take notice of those in need and call for help, provide aid, or just be a presence. It is up to community members to make a difference.

As always, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been toiling away. Our agendas and minutes are available on the website and we will happily address any questions or provide additional information at your request. At our meeting yesterday, there were numerous topics of discussion, so I'll touch on some highlights.

*A protocol for preparation and submission of Faculty Senate Resolutions is in draft form and will be available, hopefully prior to our April meeting. Thanks to Professor Roland for his work on that.

*As I've mentioned, a committee to review the Board of Supervisors Bylaws and Regulations and suggest necessary changes was discussed at some length. All voices matter, and we hope that you will contribute as individuals or committee members with your feedback. As I mentioned in the email, this is a most unusual request from the Board of Supervisors, but it may be an excellent opportunity to avoid disruption and misunderstanding like that occurred earlier in the year. This is a chance to work together to align our governing documents that seem to have evolved independently, a scenario that can't possibly work.

*As I have mentioned far too many times, the most recent constitution passed by the LSU Faculty Senate in Oct .2020 after a full year of line-by-line work by the Senate has languished unratified for any number of reasons. Unfortunately, this pattern has repeated itself a multitude of times since 1973 and it really inhibits the ability to maintain the constitution as a true living document. Additional revisions to the document approved in 2020 have been suggested. The FSEC agrees that they are good suggestions. However, I ask that the Senate stay on point to move things forward. So, we will distribute the active constitution circa 2004, with the 2020 constitution, and the suggested revisions. We will vote on the revisions at our April meeting. I know days are full, time is short, and everyone is tired. But friends, please take time to review the constitution and proposed revisions. I remind you that the senate spent a year on the project already, and that it needs to be approved by the Faculty Senate prior to going to the Faculty Council for ratification. We need to do a better job of maintaining our governing documents, friends.

*Small changes were made to the operating procedures for the Courses and Curricula committee operating procedures, specifically to enlarge the committee slightly, add alternates to fill in when necessary, and to modify the experience requirement to serve on the committee. Our thanks to Professor Hopkins, chair of the Courses and Curricula committee, who led the discussion.

*Vice President of Strategy Mark Bieger met with the committee to discuss the strategic plan. I'm sure that you agree with meth that NO ONE, and I mean NO

ONE, wants yet another strategic plan. It was a lively and thoughtful discussion, and we are grateful for VP Bieger's time, commitment, and candor. He has requested to visit the faculty senate at our upcoming meeting and I hope that you will welcome him to share the status of the current strategic plan in the spirit of transparency that all strive for in our fine university.

Many faculty and staff have expressed concern, outrage, and sadness at some comments recently made by an LSU faculty member on social media. I empathize. Comments or actions by only one of us are frequently taken to apply to all of us. A consequence, I suppose of the first amendment rights, that protect each and every one of us. However, as requested by a substantial number of faculty and staff, I publicly and without hesitation state that the views and actions of one do not represent our LSU community, and they certainly do not represent the will or voice of this body, the LSU Faculty Senate.

And with that, another pervasive darkness lingers in the legislature in the form of resolution 6, by Senator Cathey of Monroe, I believe. A resolution is on the agenda for today confirming the protection of academic freedom and tenure. I can assure you that I have been affirming the importance of tenure at all levels of the administration, including during the first hour of the first day on the job of our very own President Tate, every Board of Supervisors meeting, and at virtually every meeting organized or not for well over a year. I am, however, only one voice, though that voice represents almost 2,000. So, I encourage you to request your faculty to reach out to their legislators and to the governor himself. He has a monthly community chat that I myself have participated in. President Tate has not backed down from his statement that he will die on that hill, that is, the hill of tenure. The Supervisors have made it abundantly clear that the necessity for tenure is unequivocally required for the survival of higher education. I again implore you to extend the conversation to the far-reaching impact of tenure – student and faculty recruitment, scholarly progress, discovery, academic and research programs, etc. We need to spread impactful information across the state. Please do your part to protect tenure at our institution.

Okay. This report is far too long, and I've barely touched upon the numerous meetings, emails, phone calls, messenger pigeons, etc. since our last meeting. I welcome your participation and feedback and truly value your time. Next month

will be my last Faculty Senate meeting as your President. Friends, it has been a long three years. I've postponed many things, sabbatical, book, research, writing travel... for the honor of serving the faculty, my faculty. Without question, I have been honored, glad and willing to do so. And I ask your forgiveness for my selfish desire to return to my other job. Most of all, I thank you for your support, candor, kindness, and outstanding service to your fellow faculty. I close as always, by thanking you. Remain fierce for the faculty, my friends.