



January 14, 2026

Dear Senators,

I hope you and your families enjoyed the holiday season and the new year is off to an excellent start. This promises to be an eventful semester as we continue the transformation of our campus and the LSU system started by the Board of Supervisors with the appointments of President Rousse and Chancellor Dalton. I anticipate there will be numerous opportunities for faculty engagement in this process and will keep you informed as things progress.

### **1. Faculty Colloquium**

Last Friday I had the pleasure of attending the Spring 2026 Faculty Colloquium, "[Teaching in Turbulent Times: Establishing Presence and Purpose](#)." The speaker, Marc Watkins, is a lecturer in Writing and Rhetoric at the University of Mississippi where he also directs the AI Institute for Teachers and is an Assistant Director of Academic Innovation. He presented a very helpful overview of the challenges generative artificial intelligence presents for higher education and had numerous recommendations for best practices and resources faculty can consult to assist them in teaching in this quickly evolving landscape. I recommend anyone who may be interested in learning more about this topic explore the colloquium materials, which are available at [LSU AI Aware Teaching](#). My thanks to Learning and Teaching Collaborative Chair Will Monroe and the members of the Office of Academic Affairs who worked to put on this timely and informative session.

It was also encouraging to see that many of the recommendations were consistent with the [Guidelines on the Use of GAI in Curriculum](#) created by the Senate's ad hoc Generative AI Committee, chaired by Vice President Param Singh and endorsed by the Senate at our last meeting. I strongly suggest reviewing these guidelines if you have not done so already.

### **2. Library Needs Survey and Newsletter**

LSU Libraries is currently conducting a survey to better understand teaching and research needs on campus. I highly recommend you complete the [LSU Faculty Library Needs Survey](#) at your earliest convenience to assist them in their efforts to support our campus community.

Anyone interested in staying up-to-date on the resources provided by the libraries should also [subscribe to LSU Libraries Research News](#), a newsletter which provides "news highlighting library-related services, tools, and opportunities designed to empower LSU researchers across disciplines."

### **3. Phased Retirement Task Force Report**

The Phased Retirement Task Force created by [HR 143 of the 2025 Regular Session](#) of the Louisiana Legislature, which was discussed in our last meeting, has released its report. The report includes the task force's recommendations and useful information about the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRS) and the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP). You can access the report via the following link: [HR 143 Phased Retirement Task Force 2025 Report](#).

#### **4. Faculty Senate Coordinator**

I am pleased to announce that Kelsey Brannon has been hired to serve as the new Faculty Senate Coordinator. She is an LSU graduate and has an extensive professional background which is well-suited for the eclectic nature of this position. We on the Executive Committee look forward to working with her and I am sure that you will also enjoy getting to know her as she settles into her new role.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. Tirone  
President, LSU Faculty Senate