



October 2022

Dear Senators,

As you read this report, I hope that you have already submitted your midterms grades and are enjoying the midpoint of the semester with less stress. The past month has been very busy on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC).

1. Senate Coordinator Position

I am happy to report that we have offered the position to Sarah Williamson-Richard, who has accepted the position. Her appointment started on Monday 17 October. Sarah comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and skills. She received her Bachelor's degree from University of Lafayette and a law degree from Southern University. We are thrilled to welcome her to Faculty Senate.

2. New Zero-Based Budget University Model

Last week, Provost Haggerty shared with FSEC the University's new zero-based budget, which will take into effect in Fall 2023. I have been appointed to a working group that is currently implementing the proposal from last year by the Graduate School to raise the floor of all graduate stipends to \$23,000 for four years. This is a one-size-fits-all model that is being implemented now, providing funding only to terminal graduate degrees, such as PhDs and MFAs. While this is a great model for recruiting and will make LSU the only university in the SEC to have such competitive stipends, it withdraws funding from successful Master's programs from our campus, most notably in visual and performing arts. Provost Haggerty will be joining us later in the meeting and will give you a broader picture of the University's new zero-based budget model.

3. SCR 6

The meeting of this task force to study tenure is scheduled for October 25 at the Capitol. Last week, Dan and I were part of an internal meeting at LSU to strategize about our position at the upcoming meeting. We put together dossier of various articles and policies that already exist at LSU protecting tenure. Based on the agenda of the October 25th meeting, it looks like it will be purely procedural—scheduling meetings for the rest of the year and appointing vice chair to the task force. All the meetings are open to the public and I encourage you to join me, if you are able. Contact me and I'll be happy to give you details.

4. Standing Committee Appointments

Thanks to the faculty at large who filled out our survey in committee participation, the FSEC made most of the faculty appointments to the standing committees as well as ad hoc committees that were requested by the upper administration. We were also in touch with Standing Committee chairs with some on-going business matters and are planning to have each committee give a brief report on the great work that they are doing. We will kick this initiative off at today's meeting by a brief

presentation by Vice President Daniel Tirone, which will be followed by a presentation by Brannon Costello, who is the current chair of LSU Press Committee.

5. Open Meetings Law

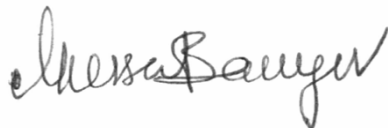
I have met with our General Counsel Winston Decuir to address some of the confidentiality issues for our Standing Committees that are also subject to Open Meetings Law. We have been advised that moving forward, particularly with LSU Press Committee and Adjudication and Appeals Committees, they should be going into executive sessions at each of their meetings.

6. Consulting Firm Bright Spot

LSU is moving forward with the planning of the new library. They have hired consulting group Bright Spot. This firm has spent the last year interviewing largely students on their vision for the new library. The firm has now moved to faculty. Faculty members were invited last week to attend the Zoom meeting with the firm. This is the beginning of a multiyear project of getting the new building off the ground. Although this project is way overdue, it is thrilling to see it taking shape.

I hope that you continue to be engaged with all issues on campus. Thank you for all your help in the past month with committee appointments. I also appreciate the feedback, concerns, and comments I receive from you. Please keep them coming, as you continue to be a great source of my eyes and ears. Thanks to you our job on the FSEC is more efficient and relevant to our continued efforts to active shared governance on our campus.

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