



Faculty Senate

LSU Faculty Senate Meeting

3:00 pm, August 25, 2026

Dalton Woods Auditorium

Energy, Coast and Environment Building

Draft of the Minutes of the Meeting

Attendance:

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)

P=Present

A=Absent

Name	Position	College	Attendance
Daniel Tirone	President	Humanities and Social Sciences	P
Inessa Bazayev	Past President	Music and Dramatic Arts	P
Ken Lopata	Vice President	Science	P
Rosemary Peters-Hill	Secretary	Humanities and Social Sciences	P
Kyla Kazuschyk	Member-at-Large	Music & Dramatic Arts	P
Kristen Healy	Member-at-Large	Kristen Healy	P

Senators

Name	College	Attendance	Name	College	Attendance
Basel Abuaita	Veterinary Medicine	P	Patty Lathan	Veterinary Medicine	P
Holly Andrews	Agriculture	P	Julia Ledet	Science	P
Hannah Bacon	Humanities & Social Sciences	P	Yong-Hwan Lee	Science	P
Scott Baldrige	Science	P	Donald Lund	Business	A
Kevin Benham	Art & Design	P	Giulio Mariotti	Coast and Environment	P
Trina Biswas	Agriculture	P	Carmela Mattza	Humanities and Social Sciences	P

Name	College	Attendance	Name	College	Attendance
Elias Bou-Harb	Engineering		Kevin McCarter	Agriculture	A
Ashley Bowers	Human Sciences & Education	P	Aly Mousaad Aly	Engineering	P
Juliet Brophy	Humanities & Social Sciences	P	Supratik Mukhopadhyay	Coast and Environment	P
Christine Bruening	Art and Design	P	Liliana Naranjo	Humanities & Social Sciences	P
Michael Burnett	Agriculture	A	Tracy Norton	Law	
James Canfield	Human Sciences & Education	P	Michael Ogundele	Veterinary Medicine	P
Summer Chandler	Law Center	P	Andre Pagliarini	Humanities and Social Sciences	P
Bin Chen	Science	P	Ray Pingree	Mass Communication	P
Haley Cobb	Humanities and Social Sciences	P	Leonard Ray	Humanities & Social Sciences	A
Robert Cook	Science	P	Cynthia Sampson	Humanities & Social Sciences	P
Jeanette Cremer	Veterinary Medicine	A	James Sauls	Science	P
Kirsten Cunha	Human Sciences & Education	P	Samuel Snow	Engineering	P
Jeffrey Davis	Agriculture	P	Phillip Sprunger	Science	P
Charles Delzell	Science	P	Casey Stannard	Agriculture	P
Noah DeWitt	Agriculture	P	Min Su	Business	P
Kunlun Ding	Engineering	A	Vanessa Uhlig	Music and Dramatic Arts	P
Peter Doran	Science	P	Bulent Unel	Business	P
Hallie Dozier	Agriculture	P	Ted Waldron	Business	A
Joshua Ellis	Human Sciences and Education	P	MJ Weerts	Humanities & Social Sciences	P
Ariel Francisco	Humanities & Social Sciences	P	Jian Xu	Engineering	A
Edward Gibbons	Human Sciences and Education	P	Seungwon Yang	Human Sciences and Education	A
Charles Goodman	Music and Dramatic Arts	A	Fan Zhang	Science	
Antonieta Guerrero-Plata	Veterinary Medicine	P			
Kim Harper	Science				

Name	College	Attendance	Name	College	Attendance
Kristen Healy	Agriculture	P			
Michael Holt	LSU Libraries	P			
Blake Howe	Music & Dramatic Arts	P			
Soo Jeong Jo	Art & Design	P			
Karim Johari	Humanities & Social Sciences				
Hartmut Kaiser	Engineering	P			
Seung Kam	Engineering				
Gerry Knapp	Engineering	P			

Guests

Name	Position	Attendance	Name	Position	Attendance
James Dalton	Chancellor	P			
Joseph Messina	Provost	P			
Kerri Tobin	Professor	P			
Roy Heidelberg	Professor	P			
Samba Dieng	Assoc. Vice-Provost, Global Engagement	P			

A regular meeting of the Faculty Senate convened at 3:06 pm on 25 August 2026, in the Dalton Woods Auditorium at the LSU campus, with the President being the Chair and the Secretary being present. There were no public comments. The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted.

In his report President Tirone spoke about the OPT Task Force, the AI Literacy Training Module in Moodle, and provided an update on “Ghost Students” and how to identify them. He also emphasized the need for volunteers for FS committees, including ASH and Courses & Curricula, and discussed the upcoming New Senator Orientation and September election for the first-year Member-At-Large of the FSEC.

Chancellor Dalton gave a welcome address. Dalton began by thanking Troy Blanchard for his service as Provost and his role in helping Dalton get acquainted with LSU. He spoke about enrollment, with grad student numbers making up for slightly fallen undergrad numbers. At the Pennington campus, the search for Senior Vice Chancellor and Executive Director has brought one candidate so far and is bringing three more over the weeks between now and 6 October. He encouraged senators to check out the candidate presentations. He then spoke about the transformation initiative going on with 29 committees. Some headline items are IRB adjustments and moving forward with SACSCOC process. He is encouraged by LSU’s progress and expressed hope about making the necessary investments to get LSU into the Top 50. A big factor in this accomplishment is the increasingly robust Health Sciences center in New Orleans, especially the cancer center. He emphasized the need to get more NCI [National Cancer Institute] funding, as well as state support; to support LSU’s academic goals with the dollars and leadership to make them happen. Having an NCI cancer center opens the door to have more advanced trials and treatment, cutting-edge care, to the state of LA. A senator asked about recent changes to the campus cultural centers, and Dalton answered that these centers remain open though they are now under the management of Student Affairs.

Following an introduction by Chancellor Dalton Provost Messina continued the introduction and presented a bit of his career trajectory. He spoke about the goals for the institution; new funding this year – roughly \$5M for faculty positions – to get LSU closer to Top 50 status. The institution is an administrative challenge, but he is looking forward to positioning LSU closer to its goals. A major area for improvement is the issue of instructor salaries, which are not even at market rate. He expressed enthusiasm about shaping the entering class – for example, bringing in fewer students from out of state /or on Pell Grants, focusing on students with above-30 ACT scores. A senator brought up the need for funding for library resources. Messina is sympathetic to the request and says he will take all most pressing requests to the Chancellor. Another senator brings up the question of deferred funding and the detriment to university facilities. Messina says he is too new to answer the question; though Chancellor Dalton spoke about prioritizing funding needs. A change in how the state allocates funds should make more money available within a time frame that benefits LSU. A final question addressed the problem of the out-of-sync LSU and EBR K-12 academic calendars, including the LSU Lab School.

Robert Cook from Chemistry moves to suspend the agenda to allow Associate Vice Provost Samba Dieng to present on the new Department of Homeland Security rules for student visas. The motion passed.

AVP Dieng spoke on the “Duration of Status” changes from 17 July 2026 and the implications of this new policy. The stated goal is to eliminate “forever students,” enhance oversight, program integrity, and national security. He also mentioned the pending OPT fee, the CPT Policy, and the H1B updates. Forms that used to allow students more time to stay in the USA for as long as you were taking classes (Form I-94) have been changed and that ability taken away. He also addressed which groups will be most affected, additional hurdles international students may face, and changes to students’ ability to transfer between universities or change degree programs.

Prof. Robert Cook moved to open the floor for nominations for the Faculty Appeals Board election. The motion passed and Tirone explained the composition of the committee, and the as-needed nature of the time investment. the motion passes. There were no nominations from the floor and James Sauls was re-elected to the committee.

Kerri Tobin presented the results of her survey from Spring 2026 on barriers to attendance. Student absences are an international trend; somewhat improved since 2020. The survey was open to all LSU undergraduates. 2.3% of UG students responded ($n=686$), evenly distributed over year of graduation and college. 69% missed 1 week of same class; 52% missed 2 weeks of same class. Main barriers identified were (1) exhaustion, physical and mental; (2) transportation; (3) lack of interest in the class. Senator questions included the challenges associated with having students scan a QR code to have themselves counted for attendance and the differences in federal requirements to document student participation in class versus recording attendance as part of the course grade. Tirone explained the federal requirement is not about attendance for grading but rather creates a record for financial aid purposes.

Roy Heidelberg presented the results from the course evaluation committee. The committee, which included representation from the Faculty Senate, Office of Academic Affairs, and Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) met from 14 April to 12 May 2026 and had many robust discussions. Their charge was “how best to conduct course and instructor evaluations to address the needs of the various stakeholder groups represented on the committee.” The committee decided upon three shared questions : (1) structured to support learning (2) course expectations were clear (3) course expanded my knowledge of the subject. They also established a 5-point grading scale: Yes, Mostly yes, Neutral, Mostly no, No. The focus of these questions is on course, not the instructor. Additional questions can be added by departments and colleges. Tirone thanked the course eval committee, OAA, and OIE for this work.

Scott Baldrige moved to adjourn and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm with a reception to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemary Peters-Hill, Secretary