



February 2023

Dear Senators,

I hope you have now settled into the Spring semester and your classes are going well. Below

1. Campus Safety

It is with a very heavy heart we continue to learn more details about the tragic death of undergraduate student Madison Brook. We have heard from a number of members of the LSU community who were concerned about President Tate's comments and approach to this matter, particularly his focus on underage alcohol consumption. We communicated these concerns to the administration and asked that they be provided to President Tate.

The Executive Committee had already been attempting to meet with President of Inclusion, Civil Rights & Title IX Todd Manuel even before the recent heartbreaking event, and after a prolonged period of attempts to set a time we can confirm that he will be joining us at a FSEC meeting on February 23rd. We anticipate a far-ranging discussion touching on each of the offices under his purview.

Members of the Executive Committee also understand the concerns surrounding safety for students, faculty and staff. We will be meeting with representatives from the Title IX office later in the week to see if there may be any opportunities for a collaborative effort to address these concerns. We are also in touch with both staff and student leadership to be sure that all voices are heard. I hope that we can identify ways in which safety can be improved on campus and in the surrounding community. We will keep you informed about our initiatives to keep the LSU community safer for all.

2. Zero-Based Budget and Graduate Student Stipends

Faculty continue to express confusion and concern over elements of the new graduate student funding model, including how and if graduate students will be provided with health insurance as part of the new packages. The FSEC recently met with the President of the Graduate Student Association Lyric Mandel to learn more about the status of the health insurance proposal. Our understanding is that the Graduate School is looking into some possible options for health insurance, but as of now nothing has been settled for the Fall 2023. Given the significant interest among the graduate students for effective and affordable health insurance, we are aware that the uncertainty surrounding this aspect of graduate student funding is creating a tremendous deal of anxiety. We support our graduate students in their request and will continue to do what we can to advocate on their behalf in this regard.

3. Need Prioritization Advisory Working Group on Zero-Based Budget

Vice President Tironi and I met with Provost Haggerty last week and reminded him of the strong desire among the faculty that an Advisory Working Group be established. The Provost thanked the committee members for their service and said that he was planning on meeting with

7. ChatGPT

As most of you are probably already aware, artificial intelligence-powered chat