

January 29, 2025

Dear Senators,

I hope you were not significantly impacted by last week's unusual weather and had an opportunity to enjoy the snow. Please find the updates from this month's President's report below.

### 1. Speech in the Classroom

As you are likely already aware a faculty member has been temporarily removed from their course and an investigation is being conducted into comments made during a class which some participants feel may have been inappropriate. I have been in contact with him and discussed the ways in which the Senate may be of assistance including the option to meet with representatives and possibly at a later time, though I will continue to monitor the situation and remain available as appropriate.

As awareness of this situation has increased, I have been contacted by several faculty members who are understandably concerned about the possibility of repercussions. Some of these concerns may be alleged to be political as they teach their classes. In discussions with the current administration about these concerns they confirmed their commitment to our established policies on academic freedom and speech, including [Public Academic Freedom](#).

[Tenure PM-79 Freedom of Speech and Expression](#), and Article X, Section 2 Academic Freedom in the [Board of Supervisors Bylaws](#). The administration will also evaluate each case relative to prevailing professional standards, such as those laid out in the AAUP's guidelines on academic freedom and free speech discussed in [November's President's Report](#).

I appreciate the tension many feel around this subject and share their concerns. At this time the best advice I can provide, based on the numerous discussions I have had on this topic with the current administration, is to teach your courses guided by your best professional judgment about what constitutes appropriate content and methods for your field. The restriction on teaching contentious material or topics which may be understood as political so long as the material is germane to the course and, to quote from the [Bylaws](#) referenced earlier, instructors refrain "from insisting upon the adoption by students or others of any particular point of view as authoritative in controversial issues." Furthermore, do your best to avoid introducing material which is not relevant to the course as recommended by the American Association of University Professors' [1940](#)

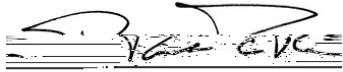
## 2. Annual Reports and PS&T CVs

As we approach the deadline for submission of our annual reports using Elements, we want to make you aware of a number of resources the Office of Academic Affairs has made available to assist you in this process. There is a dedicated page on their website providing trainings for [Faculty Annual Reviews via Elements](#) including the timeline and a number of guides. There is also a separate page with resources on [Elements & Discover](#). The [Faculty Activities in Elements](#) page may be of particular interest as it provides an overview of how to

6. Faculty Council Meeting

I am working with the President's Office and the Office of Academic Affairs to identify a date and location for this year's annual Faculty Council meeting and hope to more information to share soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Tirone", is written over a set of three horizontal lines.

Daniel C. Tirone  
President, LSU Faculty Senate