

January 2023

Dear Senators,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are well recharged to embark on another semester. Below are some items that I'd like to update you since our last meeting.

1. Zero-Based Budget and Graduate Student Stipends

Faculty have expressed their appreciation for last month's *Town Hall* meeting, although questions still remain regarding the details of the implementation of the new budgeting model and Graduate Student Stipends plan. I have heard from several of you across campus with questions regarding 9- vs. 12-month offers, summer pay, and health insurance and have brought them to Provost Haggerty's attention. The process is ongoing with both the Stipend Implementation Committee chaired by Jim Spencer, of which I am a member, and also the Provost's Advisory Working Group, which is due to submit its report today, Friday January 20th. Your voices are important, so please continue being in touch with me and the FSEC with your feedback about the proposals. We will make sure that faculty are as informed as possible about the various proposals in a timely manner.

2. Extreme Building Temperatures

Building temperatures across our campus remain a major problem with many either too hot or too cold. It is not only the matter of comfort, but it is affecting our productivity and mission of the University. Back in December, several faculty members were told to work from home due to the unbearable extreme temperatures in their buildings and some STEM faculty had experiments affected by extreme conditions in their labs. During an ensemble rehearsal in December, one of the oboes cracked due to temperature of the room that was below 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

This extreme temperature problem continues to be the norm at LSU even now in the Spring semester. We are working with Facility Services and Academic Affairs to improve communications around the source of the problems and anticipated timelines for improvements. As part of this effort, we have invited representatives from Facility Services to provide answers to these questions and engage with Senators on other comments and concerns at our February meeting.

3. Fall 2022 Student Evaluations

Due to an overwhelming concern from faculty regarding an extension of the teaching evaluation response period into the exams' week, I met with David O'Brien in the Office of Testing & Evaluation Services, as well as Provost Haggerty. As you know from the email sent on December 22, 2022, it was decided that only evaluations submitted prior to the original deadline will be released as part of the normal report. Any faculty that wishes to get copies of their evaluations beyond that date should contact Testing & Evaluation Services directly.

4. PM-11: Outside Employment Disclosure

Several faculty reported to us last semester that there was a serious delay (in one case, over a year!) on outside employment disclosure approval process. We addressed this with Academic Affairs and believe that everything should now be straightened out. Moving forward the process should work smoothly and you should get approval in a timely manner. If you know someone who is still experiencing an unreasonable delay in the process, please let us know.

5. Faculty Senate Website

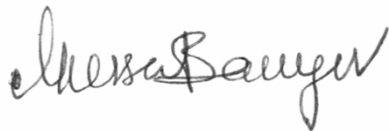
I am very happy to report that our new website is up and running. I'd like to deeply thank Sarah Williamson-Richard for her tireless work on it. The new website is easier to navigate, and all pertinent documents are readily accessible. I encourage you to visit this beautiful website and check it out [here](#).

6. Sarah Williamson-Richard Departure

I am saddened to report that Sarah, our Faculty Senate Coordinator, has accepted a position with a New Orleans law firm. Her last day is Tuesday 24 January. Please join me in wishing Sarah well in her new venture. In the short time that she was here, we had developed a great rapport with her and we will miss her terribly. We have already started the process with HR for her position. I will keep you informed of its developments.

Please continue being the eyes and ears for us. It strengthens our advocacy for you, your departments, and colleges. We are always stronger together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Inessa Bazayev". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Inessa Bazayev
President, LSU Faculty Senate