



December 4, 2025

Dear Senators,

The final report for this semester includes an overview of a few processes which have unfolded over the preceding months and some items to look forward to in the spring.

1. Courses & Curricula Checklist, Modern Campus and the Curriculum Cycle

The Faculty Senate's Courses & Curricula committee has created a proposal checklist to assist faculty with the preparation of submissions. The checklist, which is now available on the [committee's website](#), highlights required elements which must be included in every submission and provides guidance to help facilitate timely approval by the committee. I encourage all faculty who may be preparing submissions to utilize the checklist and the syllabus template which is also available on the website.

As you are likely aware LSU has transitioned to the Modern Campus Curriculum (MCC) platform for submission and routing of course proposals. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) reports that the transition has gone well, with a total of 209 proposals entered into the system prior to the closing of the AY 2026-27 Curriculum Cycle on December 1.

The AY 2027-28 Curriculum Cycle will open no later than April 15, 2026, and the OIE will make refresher trainings and 1:1 appointments available in spring for faculty and academic administrative staff to assist with the next round of submissions. Updated training materials will also be available on the [MCC Support website](#).

2. Phased Retirement Task Force

[HR 143 of the 2025 Regular Session](#) of the Louisiana Legislature, which was authored by Representative Bacala, created a task force to study the possibility of establishing a phased retirement program for Louisiana's public post-secondary education institutions. Phased retirement is a process by which employees who are eligible for retirement can sign an agreement with their employer to retire at a set time in the future and reduce their workload prior to that date. This eases the transition for employers while also allowing for the retention of experienced employees at a time when they may be looking to lighten their workload. I and three additional representatives from LSU have been serving on the task force, which has met monthly since July and will have one more meeting in December to finalize our recommendations which are due by December 31st. While potentially subject to change, I anticipate that the final report will include a recommendation that each public system develop a phased retirement program which is appropriate for their needs, though enrollment in the program will be voluntary. The report will also include a list of suggested conditions for participation. More information about the committee, including membership, meeting agendas, and presentations can be found on the [Phased Retirement Task Force website](#).

3. Higher Education Reform Task Force

[Executive Order No. JML 25-083](#) created a task force to study accreditation reform for public postsecondary institutions within the state. LSU was represented on this task force by Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott Ballard. At its meeting on November 13 the task force approved the following recommendations:

1. Propose legislation allowing public higher education institutions the ability to choose any accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
2. Propose legislation removing all statutory references to SACSCOC as a named accrediting agency and replace with “any accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.”
3. Propose legislation prohibiting an accrediting agency from compelling any public higher education institutions to violate state law.
4. Propose legislation requiring public higher education institutions to post on their website relevant documentation submitted to their accreditor to gain or maintain accreditation.
5. Request that the Board of Regents revise their academic affairs policies and procedures to remove all references to SACSCOC.
6. Request that the Board of Regents make a formal request to the Division of Administration for an appropriation to gain CPHE membership and a CPHE board seat.

The CPHE referenced in the recommendations is the [Commission for Public Higher Education](#), a newly formed accreditor not yet recognized by the Department of Education. CPHE has released its [Accreditation Standards](#), which were developed by the commission and went through a public feedback process. Input was also provided by the group Faculty for Responsible Education and Accreditation (FREA), a voluntary association of faculty from the original six CPHE member states which I joined earlier in the semester after receiving an invitation from the group. While it is recommended that the Board of Regents make a formal request to join CPHE’s board, my understanding based in part on my work with FREA and CPHE representatives is that the choice to be accredited by the organization will fall to each university system. Additional details on the state task force, including membership and meeting agendas, can be found at the [Higher Education Reform Task Force website](#).

4. Student Success Spring Forums

The [Student Success Initiative](#) is planning to offer a series of events in the spring to assist faculty in increasing engagement in large courses. More information about this effort, which will be offered as a collaboration between Communication Across the Curriculum, the Office of Academic Affairs, the Faculty Senate, and other groups, will be forthcoming early in the spring semester.

5. HR Engagement Survey

The HR Engagement Survey will close tomorrow (12/5), so please remind your colleagues to participate using the link sent to them by HR via email if they have not done so already. As a reminder, all responses are confidential and cannot be associated with the faculty member who submits them.

I wish you and your students the best of luck with the upcoming final exam period and hope you and your families have a restful and enjoyable break. Safe travels and happy holidays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. C. Tirone". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a prominent flourish at the end.

Daniel C. Tirone
President, LSU Faculty Senate