

## **LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 10-14**

### **No Confidence in the Budget-Cutting Process; Reclaiming Faculty Authority over the Curriculum; and Recommending an Across-the-Board Furlough over Layoffs**

Sponsored by Senator Dominique Homberger, and  
Endorsed by the LSU Chapter of  
The American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

*Whereas* the Regulations of the LSU Board of Supervisors delegate the Board's authority to "establish curricula" on the LSU A&M Campus exclusively to the LSU Faculty Senate, and not to any campus administrator or to any committee appointed by campus administrators,<sup>1</sup> and

*Whereas* the Faculty Senate's authority over "establishing curricula" includes at least a shared authority to decide which academic programs should be created, reorganized, or closed, and

*Whereas* in August 2010, 14 instructors in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures were notified that their employment, and theirs alone among all LSU faculty, would not be extended beyond January 2011, and hence the LSU curriculum would no longer include instruction in several foreign languages, and

*Whereas* this action has serious impact on students already admitted in allied programs, such as International Studies and Business Administration, as well as on LSU's national and international reputation, and

*Whereas* such allied programs received no warning or notice of the termination of programs, and first learned about them from the newspaper, even though the elimination of the language programs in question has significant impact on the allied programs' curricula, and

*Whereas* the Provost and the Chancellor have declined to say how these 14 faculty members were chosen from the entire LSU faculty for termination,<sup>2</sup> contrary to the AAUP's Recommended Institutional Regulations,<sup>3</sup> which require that administrators give a faculty member, upon request, the reasons for a decision not to reappoint, and

*Whereas* the FY12 Budget Crisis Committee has proposed terminating 389 faculty members, furloughing zero faculty members, eliminating 50 degree programs, reducing the student population by

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<sup>1</sup> At the level of each campus of the LSU System, the Board Regulations declare: "The faculty or Faculty Council [of the campus] shall *establish curricula* [emphasis added], fix standards of instruction, determine requirements for degrees, and generally determine educational policy, subject to the authority of the Board. It ... may delegate its own authority to an elected Faculty Senate and/or to standing committees, whose authority shall be limited to matters which are proper to the faculty and which have been specifically delegated by the faculty." In 1973, the LSU Faculty Council (i.e., the entire body of all faculty members at the LSU A&M campus) delegated its authority over the above matters to the LSU Faculty Senate.

At the college level, the Board Regulations further declare: "The faculty of each college or school not within a college shall define and recommend degree programs for units under its jurisdiction."

And at the department level, the Board Regulations declare: "The departmental faculty shall have jurisdiction over matters concerning its educational policies insofar as these do not conflict with the policies of other departments, [or] the rules and regulations of its own college or school, the campus, or the University System."

<sup>2</sup> See "Classics instructors fired, questions remain unanswered," by Andrew Robertson, *The Daily Reveille*, LSU, Sept. 22, 2010: <http://www.lsureville.com/opinion/cancel-the-apocalypse-classics-instructors-fired-questions-remain-unanswered-1.2337948>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/RIR.htm>

8000, “substantially” reducing income generated from tuition, leading to a secondary “layoff of hundreds more faculty and staff”<sup>4</sup>—all of which, in combination with the recent and projected tuition increases, will hurt current and future students, and

*Whereas* programs and curricula, once terminated, cannot easily be re-established when the budget stabilizes in the future, and

*Whereas* a budget crisis should not be an opportunity for the administration to make major structural changes to the university, especially in the absence of a declaration of financial exigency, and without adequate faculty involvement in shared governance on programs and curricula, and

*Whereas* other options for handling the budget cuts should first be explored, such as an across-the-board furlough of all administrators and faculty members at LSU (analogous to the across-the-board furloughs imposed throughout the University of California System and the University of Illinois System<sup>5</sup>), which would protect more of the curriculum than the Budget Crisis Committee’s plan would,

1. *Therefore be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate has no confidence in the current budget-cutting process, including the Realignment Taskforce, the Right Sizing Advisory Committee, the FY12 Budget Crisis Committee, and any other such committees, known or unknown, none of which were appointed by the Faculty Senate, and none of which have shared with the Faculty Senate the rationale for their various recommendations (such as their recommendation to abolish from the curriculum the study of various foreign languages, to be followed by the abolition of 50 other degree programs), and none of which have asked the Faculty Senate or its Courses and Curriculum Committee to evaluate and vote on any of their proposals to change the curriculum, and

2. *Therefore be it further resolved* that the Faculty Senate inform the LSU Board of Supervisors, through channels, that the campus administration has been violating the Board’s Regulations as described above, and

3. *Therefore be it further resolved* that the Faculty Senate recommends that no faculty member at LSU be terminated due to budgetary cuts:

(a) until the Faculty Senate has voted to accept the repercussions on the curriculum that the terminations will cause, and

(b) until other options, such as furloughs of all administrators and faculty, to absorb cuts and thereby avoid faculty terminations, have been examined by a committee with substantial faculty representation, including representatives from all the major colleges, as prescribed, for instance, in the campus exigency policy.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> FY12 Proposed Cuts (Sept. 15, 2010), Level Three: <http://www.lsu.edu/FY12BudgetCrisis/listings.shtml>

<sup>5</sup> [www.UniversityOfCalifornia.edu/news/article/21511](http://www.UniversityOfCalifornia.edu/news/article/21511) ; [www.uillinois.edu/our/news/budget/2010Furlough.cfm](http://www.uillinois.edu/our/news/budget/2010Furlough.cfm)

<sup>6</sup> “If the Chancellor is considering a declaration of financial exigency, a Steering Committee (here[in]after referred to as the SC) shall be convened by the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost. The SC shall consist of the following personnel: four faculty members to be appointed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee; the two elected faculty representatives on the University Budget Committee; two regular faculty members of the Graduate Council (to be named by the Provost after the members nominated by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee are named to the SC); the respective presidents of the staff senate and student government association; two deans to be named by the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs; and the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Economic Development. One of the faculty members nominated by the Faculty Senate will chair the SC and participate in its deliberations. The Provost will not vote. The Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs and the Director of Budget and Planning will also serve as non-voting *ex-officio* members of the SC.”

[http://www.lsu.edu/senate/campus\\_exigency\\_procedures\\_with\\_FSEC\\_revisions.pdf](http://www.lsu.edu/senate/campus_exigency_procedures_with_FSEC_revisions.pdf)