

## **LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 10-14.2 Reclaiming Faculty Authority over the Curriculum and Recommending Considerations of Alternatives over Layoffs**

*Sponsored by Senator Dominique Homberger*

*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,<sup>2</sup> even though the elimination of the language programs in question has significant impact on the allied programs' curricula, and

*Whereas* the FY12 Budget Crisis Committee has proposed cut to degree programs, course offerings, faculty, and staff,<sup>3</sup> all of which, in combination with the recent and projected tuition increases, will hurt current and future students, and

<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 Andrew Robertson "Classics instructors fired, questions remain unanswered" (*The Daily Reveille*, LSU, Sept. 22, 2010 <http://www.lsureveille.com/opinion/cancel-the-apocalypse-classics-instructors-fired-questions-remain-unanswered1.2337948>) and "Administration at odds with faculty, war of the protocols begins" (*The Daily Reveille*, October 6, 2010 <http://www.lsureveille.com/opinion/cancel-the-apocalypse-administration-at-odds-with-faculty-war-of-the-protocols-begins-1.2355525>)

<sup>3</sup> Under the 23% cut scenario (Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Jack M. Hamilton at the Faculty Senate meeting of October 4, 2010, <http://www.lsu.edu/senate/meeting%20videos.html>), LSU would be reduced to the status it had in 1974. Under a 32% cut scenario (FY12 Proposed Cuts, Sept. 15, 2010, <http://www.lsu.edu/FY12BudgetCrisis/listings.shtml>), 389 faculty members would be terminated, no faculty members would be furloughed, 50 degree programs would be eliminated, the student population would be reduced by 8000, which in turn would "substantially" reduce income generated from tuition and lead to another "layoff of hundreds more faculty and staff".

*Whereas* programs and curricula, once terminated or “defunded”, 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* LSU Chancellor Michael Martin declared<sup>4</sup> that he would take twice the amount of furlough administrators and faculty would if furloughs were to be instituted, and

*Whereas* other options for handling the budget cuts should first be explored, such as salary reductions or furloughs of administrators and faculty members at LSU (analogous to the furloughs imposed by the University of California System<sup>5</sup> or the University of Illinois System<sup>6</sup>, or the voluntary temporary salary reduction schedule encouraged by former LSU Chancellor Bud Davis in 1992, which would protect more of the curriculum than the Budget Crisis Committee’s plan would, and

*Whereas* distributing the pain and burden of budget cuts more equitably instead of concentrating it on the least powerful programs and faculty will strengthen the faculty and student body, which have been demoralized by recent budget cuts and the continuing uncertainty of the nature of future budget cuts,

*Therefore be it 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

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

- (a) until the Faculty Senate has voted to accept the repercussions that the terminations will cause on the curriculum, 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, such as the steering committee prescribed in the campus exigency policy.

<sup>4</sup>[Video, Faculty Senate-Chancellor Forum, 28 September 2010, “The Budget: Paying for a Great University”](http://tigerbytes2.lsu.edu/users/wwwfacsen/web/Chancellor-Budget-Forum-Sept-28-2010.wmv), <http://tigerbytes2.lsu.edu/users/wwwfacsen/web/Chancellor-Budget-Forum-Sept-28-2010.wmv>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/21511>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.uillinois.edu/our/news/budget/2010Furlough.cfm>