

**Louisiana Higher Education Funding Senate Resolution**  
**Prepared by Thomas D. Lynch, Faculty Senator, with input from the**  
**Faculty Senate**  
*Approved by the Faculty Senate February 10, 2003*

Whereas, LSU is a large and highly regarded public university in America; and if adequately funded, LSU could be ranked in the top quartile of public universities in America;

Whereas, the highest ranked public universities attract significant research funding and new business and employment opportunities for the citizens of their states;

Whereas, the current Louisiana state higher education formula, which defines the amount of money going to LSU, fails to encourage LSU to focus on being a nationally prominent flagship. In particular, the current formula does not encourage LSU to focus on research and graduate education, which defines the uniqueness of being a national flagship university;

Whereas, the Chair of the Board of Regents, the President of the LSU System, and the Chancellor of LSU have expressed their dissatisfaction with the present state higher education formula;

Whereas, LSU should not be encouraged to increase its undergraduate enrollment at the expense of research and graduate education in an attempt to maximize its annual support through an inadequate higher education funding formula;

Whereas, a comparison with LSU's peer institutions shows that LSU is seriously understaffed in tenure track faculty and does not sufficiently stress graduate education and research;

Whereas, the present funding scheme does not provide sufficient resources for LSU nor allow LSU to properly fulfill its national flagship responsibility within the state; and

Whereas, the Faculty of LSU has the expertise and the means to recommend improvements in the funding scheme to the policy makers within the State.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Faculty Senate establish a Task Force to recommend an alternative or an improvement in the current formula approach used in funding higher education in Louisiana. The goal of the Task Force would be to facilitate LSU's effort to become a nationally prominent flagship research university and educator of graduate students while maintaining an outstanding undergraduate education.

**GUIDELINES TO THE TASK FORCE**

After the resolution is adopted, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) will appoint the members of the task force and monitor its progress. The task force will consist of five to seven members that reflect the faculty distribution within LSU. In

appointing members to the task force, the FSEC should seek to find individuals with knowledge of public program funding, the workings of state governments, and the application of state expenditure formulae. The final report is due 18 months after the Senate passes this resolution, but a preliminary assessment is due before the end of the Fall Semester, 2003.

In preparing the final report, the Task Force should focus not only on fact gathering but also on identifying and assessing the policy positions on this topic of the various key groups in this state. In particular, the Task Force should solicit the views of other public university faculty senates to determine the type of task force recommendation that would receive broad base support within the state's university community.

The final task force report would include an examination of higher education funding practices in the United States and a recommendation on how the State of Louisiana should support higher education. The recommendation would include a consideration of additional fees, expansion of existing fees, an examination of other alternative means to finance higher education, and suggestion of a better formula for distribution of higher education funds in the state.

After the Task Force submits its final report to the President of the Faculty Senate, the Chair of the Task Force shall present the Task Force Report to the Faculty Senate. Then the President shall seek comments on the report from the Faculty Senators. Based on those comments and its own view, the FSEC shall recommend a public resolution on this question to the Senate for its deliberation and approval. After the Senate approves the public resolution, the Faculty Senate President would forward this Faculty Senate resolution and possibly the Task Force Report to the Chancellor, the President, the Board of Supervisors, the Governor, and the State Legislators. In addition, the Faculty Senate President and others appointed by the President would work with other universities in the state to inform the public and state leaders on the critical importance of this policy recommendation for the betterment of the state's higher education system and the proper funding of this state's flagship university.