



LSU A&M FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 22-07

University Participation in Consortium of Universities Studying Slavery

Sponsored Faculty Senate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Carceral Studies Group, the Department of History, Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

Whereas Louisiana State University and A&M College has added Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the strategic challenges of the LSU Strategic Plan 2025¹, and

Whereas it is a fact that the present Baton Rouge campus is on the site of three former plantations², and

Whereas the funding for 1860 land grant universities was from writs, grants, and/or sale of Indigenous American lands³, and

Whereas it has been reported that the Student Health Center was constructed on the site of a known slave cemetery⁴, and

Whereas numerous LSU faculty members, their graduate students, and undergraduate students are conducting scholarly investigations related to LSU and its connections to underrepresented groups, including more details of the cemetery site, plantations that preceded the moving of LSU to its present location, archaeology of the Indian Mounds, linkages to prison labor, descendant communities, memorialization of historical buildings and individuals, and the individuals for whom campus buildings are named, and

Whereas the University of Virginia hosts a consortium of Universities Studying Slavery, which is a "multi-institutional collaboration focused in sharing best practices and guiding principles about truth-telling projects addressing human bondage and racism in institutional histories. Member schools are all committed to research, acknowledgment, and atonement regarding institutional ties to the slave trade, to enslavement on campus or abroad, and to enduring racism in school history and practice," (5) and

Whereas the Universities Studying Slavery consortium connects scholars and campuses nationwide and currently has over 70 member universities, including the premiere research universities in the country, and there is no cost to participating universities, and

Whereas the participation of LSU in the Universities Studying Slavery consortium would show university support for the many scholars on campus who are doing research to recover the

forgotten past relationships of LSU to slavery and the colonization of indigenous lands, and it will also expand the university diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts,

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate requests LSU President William F. Tate IV and his staff contact the University of Virginia President's Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation⁶ and request that LSU join the Universities Studying Slavery consortium, which would allow LSU scholars access to UVA Collab, a password-protected course management and collaboration platform and participation in consortium annual meetings.

References

¹<https://www.lsu.edu/strategicplan/> accessed October 24, 2021.

²LSU Library Archives <https://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/archives/historical-information> accessed October 24, 2021.

³How the United States funded land-grant universities with expropriated Indigenous land at <https://www.landgrabu.org/> accessed October 7, 2021.

⁴LSU Reveille article LSU professor says Student Health Center built atop plantation cemetery at https://www.lsureveille.com/news/lsu-professor-says-student-health-center-built-atop-plantationcemetery/article_c8236728-f24f-11eb-beec-4fd47f92987e.html accessed on August 3, 2021.

⁵<https://slavery.virginia.edu/universities-studying-slavery/> accessed Jan 27, 2022.

⁶<https://slavery.virginia.edu/universities-studying-slavery/> accessed Jan 27, 2022.