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F13RS SGR No. 8 (Plus/Minus Grading)

Schwartzenburg

Buven

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STUDENT SENATE

F13RS

SGR No. 8

BY: SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE SCHWARTZENBURG AND SENATOR BUVENS

A RESOLUTION

TO REAFFIRM LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OF OPPOSITION TOWARD THE SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM AND TO ADVOCATE FOR CONTINUED STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN DISCUSSIONS ON THIS TOPIC.

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT PASSED STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION TWENTY SEVEN (27) IN THE FALL 2011 REGULAR SESSION AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION NINE (9) IN THE FALL 2012 REGULAR SESSION BOTH OF WHICH OPPOSE THE CREATION OF A PLUS/MINUS OR SUFFIX GRADING SYSTEM FOR LSU, AND;

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, UPDATED RESEARCH INCLUDING THE LSU FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLUS/MINUS "SUFFIX" GRADING AS WELL AS CONTINUED STUDENT RESPONSE HAS COME FORTH SINCE FALL 2012, AND;

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, CURRENTLY LSU USES THE FOLLOWING QUALITY POINT SCALE:

- A 4.0 QP
- B 3.0 QP
- C 2.0 QP
- D 1.0 QP
- F 0.0 QP, AND;

PARAGRAPH 4: WHEREAS, THE FACULTY SENATE HAS PASSED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NEW PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF QUALITY POINTS THAT RESEMBLES THE FOLLOWING:

- A 4.0 QP
- A- 3.7 QP
- B+ 3.3 QP
- B 3.0 QP
- B- 2.7 QP
- C+ 2.3 QP
- C 2.0 QP
- C- 1.7 QP
- D+ 1.3 QP
- D 1.0 QP
- D- 0.7 QP
- F 0.0 QP, AND;

PARAGRAPH 5: WHEREAS, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE LSU STUDENT BODY IS IN STAUNCH OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED PLUS/MINUS GRADING SYSTEM, AND;

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54 **PARAGRAPH 6:** WHEREAS, SINCE JANUARY 2012, STUDENT GOVERNMENT HAS
55 DIRECTLY RECEIVED MORE THAN 200 EMAILS FROM STUDENTS ON
56 THIS TOPIC. APPROXIMATELY TWO PERCENT (2%) OF THOSE
57 EMAILS WERE FROM STUDENTS WHO SUPPORTED PLUS/MINUS
58 GRADING, AND;
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60 **PARAGRAPH 7:** WHEREAS, THE LSU FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE
61 IMPLEMENTATION OF PLUS/MINUS "SUFFIX" GRADING
62 CONDUCTED A SURVEY IN SPRING 2013 TO GATHER DATA ON THE
63 POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF SUFFIX GRADING ON STUDENT'S GPA,
64 AND;
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66 **PARAGRAPH 8:** WHEREAS, THIS SURVEY PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:
67 "IN THE FACULTY SURVEY, 2,056 GRADES REPORTEDLY CHANGED
68 WITH ADDITION OF A SUFFIX (676 INCREASED, 1,380 DROPPED)"
69 AND "OF THE 2,770 GRADE ESTIMATES PROVIDED IN THE
70 STUDENT SURVEY, 228 WERE EXPECTED TO INCREASE WITH
71 ADDITION OF A SUFFIX AND 1,253 WERE EXPECTED TO
72 DECREASE," AND;
73

74 **PARAGRAPH 9:** WHEREAS, 224 STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THIS SURVEY
75 PROVIDED THEIR PERSONAL COMMENTS ON SUFFIX GRADING. OF
76 THESE 224 STUDENT COMMENTS, 82.6% WERE AGAINST
77 IMPLEMENTATION OF SUFFIX GRADING, 9.4% SUPPORTED
78 IMPLEMENTATION AND 8.0% WERE INDIFFERENT, AND;
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80 **PARAGRAPH 10:** WHEREAS, THE RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY PRESENT A
81 WIDESPREAD NEGATIVE IMPACT ON STUDENT GPA IF SUFFIX
82 GRADING WERE IMPLEMENTED, AND;
83

84 **PARAGRAPH 11:** WHEREAS, STUDENTS' MAIN OPPOSITION ORIGINATES FROM
85 THIS POTENTIAL TO LOWER GPA, AND;
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87 **PARAGRAPH 12:** WHEREAS, CURRENTLY A LARGE NUMBER OF LSU STUDENTS
88 SUPPLEMENT COST OF TUITION AND FEES WITH TOPS, AND;
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90 **PARAGRAPH 13:** WHEREAS, TOPS REQUIRES A MINIMUM 2.3 GPA FOR THE FIRST
91 ACADEMIC YEAR AND A MINIMUM 2.5 GPA FOR ALL REMAINING
92 YEARS TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP, AND;
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94 **PARAGRAPH 14:** WHEREAS, AS SHOWN IN THE COMMITTEE SURVEY, A LARGE
95 PERCENTAGE OF GRADES DROPPED DUE TO SUFFIX GRADING,
96 AND;
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98 **PARAGRAPH 15:** WHEREAS, THIS DROP IN GPA COULD EASILY AFFECT MANY
99 STUDENTS ON THE BORDER OF TOPS ELIGIBILITY DROPPING
100 THEM BELOW 2.3 OR 2.5 GPA, AND;
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102 **PARAGRAPH 16:** WHEREAS, LOSING TOPS AND OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS WILL
103 CAUSE UNNECESSARY HARDSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AND CAN
104 ULTIMATELY NEGATIVELY AFFECT RETENTION RATES AT LSU,
105 AND;
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- PARAGRAPH 17:** WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED SYSTEM WILL HAVE THE GREATEST NEGATIVE IMPACT ON HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS STRIVING TO ATTAIN SUPERIOR GRADE POINT AVERAGES, AND;
- PARAGRAPH 18:** WHEREAS, LOWERING GPA WILL DECREASE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF LSU GRADUATES SEEKING ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS, AND;
- PARAGRAPH 19:** WHEREAS, IN SPRING 2012, THE LSU FACULTY SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PLUS/MINUS GRADING CONCLUDED THAT "THE USE OF GRADE SUFFIXES SHOULD BE THE PREROGATIVE OF INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTORS AND NOT MANDATORY," AND;
- PARAGRAPH 20:** WHEREAS, IMPLEMENTING A GRADING SYSTEM THAT IS OPTIONAL FOR INSTRUCTORS WILL CAUSE CONFUSION ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY; AND
- PARAGRAPH 21:** WHEREAS, THIS CONFUSION WILL STEM FROM THE LACK OF UNIFORMITY IN REGARDS TO QUALITY POINT DISTRIBUTION AMONG INSTRUCTORS, PARTICULARLY INSTRUCTORS TEACHING EQUIVALENT COURSES, AND;
- PARAGRAPH 22:** WHEREAS, CONFUSION WOULD ALSO ARISE TO ANYONE TRYING TO COMPARE TWO LSU TRANSCRIPTS DUE TO THIS LACK OF UNIFORMITY, AND;
- PARAGRAPH 23:** WHEREAS, STUDENTS WILL LIKELY AVOID SCHEDULING CLASSES THAT USE THE PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM CAUSING UNWANTED SCHEDULING BIAS, AND;
- PARAGRAPH 24:** WHEREAS, ACCORDING TO THE REGISTRAR AND IT SERVICES, THE COST OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUFFIX GRADING INTO THE LSU MAINFRAME IS APPROXIMATELY \$15,000 - \$20,000, AND;
- PARAGRAPH 25:** WHEREAS, WITH RECENT UNIVERSITY BUDGET SHORTFALLS, THIS COST OF IMPLEMENTATION IS NOT JUSTIFIED, AND;
- PARAGRAPH 26:** WHEREAS, THE OPINION OF THE LSU STUDENT BODY REGARDING THIS GRADING SYSTEM MUST BE CONSIDERED AS THIS WILL HAVE PROFOUND EFFECTS ON THE ACADEMIC LIFE OF STUDENTS AND THEIR FUTURE CAREERS, AND;
- PARAGRAPH 27:** WHEREAS, A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD ALWAYS BE PRESENT IN DISCUSSIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED GRADING SYSTEM.
- PARAGRAPH 28:** THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE URGES AND REQUESTS THAT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY KEEP THE CURRENT QUALITY POINT EVALUATION SYSTEM AND THAT

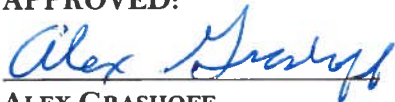
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STUDENT INPUT IS CONTINUALLY CONSIDERED IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER.

PARAGRAPH 29: FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT A SUITABLE COPY OF PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED F11RS SGR 27 AND F12RS SGR 9 BE FORWARDED TO F. KING ALEXANDER, PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR OF LSU; STUART BELL, UNIVERSITY PROVOST; JANE CASSIDY, VICE PROVOST OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS; GIL REEVE, VICE PROVOST OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS; KEVIN COPE, PRESIDENT OF THE FACULTY SENATE; MANDI LOPEZ, CHAIR OF THE FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PLUS/MINUS "SUFFIX" GRADING; AND DON CHANCE, FACULTY SENATE PLUS/MINUS RESOLUTION SPONSOR.

PARAGRAPH 30: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A MAJORITY (1/2) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT; UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION; OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE.

APPROVED:



ALEX GRASHOFF
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



JOHN S. WOODARD
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: 10/17/13

DATE: OCTOBER 18th, 2013