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FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 14–11

Management Processes and the Primacy of the Faculty

Introduced by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Whereas the achievements, contributions, and standing of universities arise from the teaching, research, and service of universities;

Whereas the pressure to recruit and retain undergraduate students has distracted attention from the primacy of the faculty in University life and from the centrality of research and service to the building of great institutions of learning;

Whereas faculty members are helped or hindered in their accomplishments by the processes in and management techniques deployed by the many administrative units that supervise the daily operations of LSU;

Whereas the impending merger of LSU A&M with the Agricultural Center and with the Law School provides an opportunity to update, repair, or otherwise revise an array of operating procedures;

Whereas the imminent implementation at LSU A&M of an “Enterprise” business system for the university will require an adjustments of a wide range of business and office practices;

Whereas faculty members frequently encounter an infelicitous assortment of obstacles to the fulfilment of their duties, obstacles including but not limited to inordinate delays in the processing of retirement fund withdrawals; difficulties in the insuring of advisors to student groups; access to offices and laboratories on athletic game days; challenges in the area of patenting and technology transfer; blocking of meeting space by administrative entities; and chronic problems with the state travel agent;

Whereas continued success and advances in the processes of teaching, discovery and service depend on efficient, knowledgeable and consistent administrative support;

Whereas pleasant, easy, and efficient interactions with the University and with its management and business systems promote good morale and aid in the retention of high-quality faculty members;

Whereas the Vice-President for Finance and Administrative Services, Dan Layzell, along with efficiency expert Mary Stebbing, have already taken bold and appreciated steps to address, in collaboration with faculty representatives, a wide range of problems with the business practices of the University;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU A&M Faculty Senate asks the Chancellor, Provost, and pertinent Vice-Chancellors and Vice-Provosts to establish the improvement of the faculty experience of LSU as a new goal for the University;

And therefore be it further resolved that the University establish a working group to examine and to seek relief from state regulation in those areas, such as travel, that remain under state control.