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Fall 2012

### F12RS SGR No. 9 (Plus-Minus)

Schwartzenburg

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## STUDENT SENATE

F12RS

SGR No. 9

BY: SENATOR SCHWARTZENBURG

**A RESOLUTION**

**TO REAFFIRM LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OF OPPOSITION TOWARD THE PROPOSED PLUS/MINUS GRADING SYSTEM AND TO ADVOCATE FOR 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 WHICH OPPOSES THE CREATION OF A PLUS/MINUS GRADING SYSTEM FOR LSU; AND

**PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, UPDATED RESEARCH ALONG WITH OVERWHELMING STUDENT RESPONSE ON THE ISSUE HAS COME FORTH SINCE FALL OF 2011.

**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

**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
- A<sup>-</sup> - 3.7
- B<sup>+</sup> - 3.3
- B - 3.0
- B<sup>-</sup> - 2.7
- ECT. ; AND

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

**PARAGRAPH 6:** WHEREAS, SINCE JANUARY 2012, STUDENT GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN 200 EMAILS FROM STUDENTS ON THIS TOPIC. APPROXIMATELY TWO PERCENT (2%) OF THOSE EMAILS WERE FROM STUDENTS WHO SUPPORTED PLUS/MINUS GRADING; AND

**PARAGRAPH 7:** WHEREAS, STUDENTS' MAIN OPPOSITION ORIGINATES FROM THE POTENTIAL TO LOWER GRADE POINT AVERAGES; AND

- 54 **PARAGRAPH 8:** WHEREAS, A LOWERING OF GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF ANY  
55 MAGNITUDE COULD IMPACT A STUDENT’S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN  
56 HIS OR HER SCHOLARSHIP; AND  
57
- 58 **PARAGRAPH 9:** WHEREAS, STUDENTS LOSING SCHOLARSHIPS WILL NEGATIVELY  
59 AFFECT RETENTION, GRADUATION, AND COMPLETION RATES AT  
60 LSU; AND  
61
- 62 **PARAGRAPH 10:** WHEREAS, A PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM COULD BE USED TO  
63 UNFAIRLY RAISE STANDARDS IN COURSES; AND  
64
- 65 **PARAGRAPH 11:** WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED SYSTEM WILL HAVE THE GREATEST  
66 NEGATIVE IMPACT ON HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS STRIVING TO  
67 ATTAIN SUPERIOR GRADE POINT AVERAGES; AND  
68
- 69 **PARAGRAPH 12:** WHEREAS, RAISING THE STANDARD TO RECEIVE 4 FULL  
70 QUALITY POINTS IN A COURSE WILL NARROW THE ABILITY OF  
71 THESE STUDENTS TO ATTAIN SUPERIOR GRADE POINT AVERAGES;  
72 AND  
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- 74 **PARAGRAPH 13:** WHEREAS, LOWERING THE MAGNITUDE OF ANY STUDENT’S  
75 GRADE POINT AVERAGE WILL DECREASE THE COMPETIVENESS OF  
76 LSU GRADUATES SEEKING ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL AND  
77 GRADUATE PROGRAMS; AND  
78
- 79 **PARAGRAPH 14:** WHEREAS, STUDENTS WILL LIKELY AVOID SCHEDULING  
80 CLASSES THAT USE THE PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM CAUSING  
81 UNWANTED SCHEDULING BIAS; AND  
82
- 83 **PARAGRAPH 15:** WHEREAS, IMPLEMENTING A GRADING SYSTEM THAT IS  
84 OPTIONAL FOR INSTRUCTORS WILL CAUSE CONFUSION ACROSS  
85 THE UNIVERSITY; AND  
86
- 87 **PARAGRAPH 16:** WHEREAS, THIS CONFUSION WILL STEM FROM THE LACK OF  
88 UNIFORMITY IN REGARDS TO QUALITY POINT DISTRIBUTION  
89 AMONG INSTRUCTORS, PARTICULARLY INSTRUCTORS TEACHING  
90 EQUIVALENT COURSES; AND  
91
- 92 **PARAGRAPH 17:** WHEREAS, CONFUSION WOULD ALSO ARISE TO ANYONE TRYING  
93 TO COMPARE TWO LSU TRANSCRIPTS DUE TO THIS LACK OF  
94 UNIFORMITY; AND  
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- 96 **PARAGRAPH 18:** WHEREAS, A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BE PRESENT  
97 IN DISCUSSIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED GRADING  
98 SYSTEM.  
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- 100 **PARAGRAPH 19:** THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT  
101 GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
102 AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE URGES  
103 AND REQUESTS THAT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY KEEP THE  
104 CURRENT QUALITY POINT EVALUATION SYSTEM AND THAT  
105 STUDENT INPUT IS CONSIDERED IN THIS MATTER.  
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108 **PARAGRAPH 20:** BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A SUITABLE COPY OF  
109 THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO WILLIAM JENKINS,  
110 CHANCELLOR; KEVIN COPE, PRESIDENT OF THE FACULTY  
111 SENATE; STUART BELL, UNIVERSITY PROVOST; JANE CASSIDY,  
112 VICE PROVOST OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS; AND GIL REEVE, VICE  
113 PROVOST OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS.

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116 **PARAGRAPH 21:** THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON  
117 PASSAGE BY A MAJORITY (1/2) VOTE OF THE LSU  
118 STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE  
119 PRESIDENT; UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL  
120 ACTION; OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND  
121 SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE.  
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148 **Approved:**

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151 **Meredith Westbrook**  
152 **Speaker of the Senate**

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**R. Taylor Cox**  
**Student Body President**

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_