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F06RS SGR No. 2 (Freshman Res. Requirement)

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STUDENT SENATE

F06RS

SGR No. 2

BY: SENATOR HODGE

A RESOLUTION

TO RE-AFFIRM STUDENT OPPOSITION TO AND URGE THE ADMINISTRATION TO REJECT
ANY FRESHMAN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT.

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, THERE IS CURRENTLY A PROPOSAL BEING CONSIDERED BY THE UNIVERSITY THAT WOULD REQUIRE ALL FRESHMAN UNDER THE AGE OF 21 WHO DO NOT RESIDE WITH THEIR PARENTS TO LIVE ON CAMPUS THEIR FIRST YEAR, AND

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE PROPOSED A SIMILAR PLAN IN 2001, WHICH WAS OPPOSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE LSU AND A&M STUDENT SENATE AND 68% OF THE STUDENT BODY DURING A CAMPUS-WIDE REFERENDUM, AND

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, THE CHEAPEST RENT FOR A TWO BEDROOM DORMITORY ROOM FOR THE 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR IS \$1,835, AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 100% FROM 1998, AND

PARAGRAPH 4: WHEREAS, THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT ALL ON-CAMPUS FRESHMAN PURCHASE A MEAL PLAN THROUGH CHARTWELL'S DINING SERVICES, THAT CURRENTLY OFFERS THE CHEAPEST MEAL PLAN AT A RATE OF \$1,129 WHICH COVERS AN AVERAGE OF 5 MEALS PER WEEK, AND

PARAGRAPH 5: WHEREAS, FOR THE 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR, T.O.P.S. WILL ONLY COVER \$1,664 OF TUITION AND FEES FOR THE LSU AND A&M CAMPUS, LEAVING \$590.50 IN UNFUNDED FEES FOR FRESHMAN, AND

PARAGRAPH 6: WHEREAS, THE COST FOR A FRESHMAN TO SET FOOT ON THE CAMPUS WOULD BE EQUAL TO \$3,554.50, WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF TEXTBOOKS, OTHER FOOD ONE WOULD HAVE TO BUY THAT IS NOT COVERED BY THE MEAL PLAN AND ENTERTAINMENT THE STUDENT MAY UNDERTAKE, AND

PARAGRAPH 7: WHEREAS, A FRESHMAN IS ONLY ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,250 PER SEMESTER THROUGH THE STAFFORD LOAN PROGRAM, LEAVING THEM SHORT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY NEEDED TO PAY FOR ALL THE AFOREMENTIONED EXPENSES, AND

PARAGRAPH 8: WHEREAS, NOT ONLY ARE THERE MONETARY REASONS TO REJECT THE FRESHMAN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT, BUT ALSO POLICY REASONS RELATED TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE, AND

PARAGRAPH 9: WHEREAS, ANY STUDENT WHO LIVES ON CAMPUS MUST SIGN A CONTRACT AGREEING TO CERTAIN RULES AND REGULATIONS

56 THAT ARE INTRUSIVE AND INFRINGE ON CONSTITUTIONAL
57 LIBERTIES INCLUDING THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, AND
58 SEARCH AND SEIZURE, AND

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60 **PARAGRAPH 10:** WHEREAS, THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF
61 RELIGION WOULD BE INFRINGED UPON IF A STUDENT AS PART OF
62 THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS MUST BURN CANDLES AND INCENSE IN
63 THEIR DORM ROOM AS THESE ITEMS ARE BANNED FROM BEING IN
64 THE ROOM OR IF THEY HAVE DIETARY NEEDS SUCH AS HALAL ,
65 KOSHER OR VEGAN, AS CHARTWELL'S CANNOT PROVIDE THESE
66 MEAL TYPES IN SUFFICIENT FORM, AND

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68 **PARAGRAPH 11:** WHEREAS, THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO SPEECH IS
69 INFRINGED UPON AS THE DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE
70 PROHIBITS ANY DECORATION IN A DORMITORY ROOM THAT
71 ADVERTISES ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN ANY WAY, AND

72
73 **PARAGRAPH 12:** WHEREAS, THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT AGAINST AN UNLAWFUL
74 SEARCH AND SEIZURE IS ALSO INFRINGED AS THE REGULATIONS
75 PROVIDE THAT ANY STAFF MEMBER CAN ENTER A STUDENT'S
76 ROOM UNANNOUNCED 24 HOURS A DAY TO CONDUCT A SAFETY
77 INSPECTION, AND

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79 **PARAGRAPH 13:** WHEREAS, THE VISITATION POLICY OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE IS
80 DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST OPPOSITE-SEX COUPLES AS THE
81 CURRENT POLICY ONLY ALLOWS PERSONS OF THE SAME-SEX TO
82 REMAIN FOR 24 HOURS IN A STUDENTS ROOM AND THE POLICY
83 VIOLATES THE RIGHT OF A STUDENT TO ASSEMBLE FREELY WITH
84 WHO THEY CHOOSE, AND

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86 **PARAGRAPH 14:** WHEREAS, THE AFOREMENTIONED CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES
87 ARE IMPORTANT TO MANY STUDENTS AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE
88 FORCED TO SIGN THEIR RIGHTS AWAY AS A CONTINGENCY FOR
89 ENROLLING AT LSU THROUGH LIVING IN A DORMITORY, AND

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91 **PARAGRAPH 15:** WHEREAS, THE POLICY EXEMPTS ONLY PERSONS OVER 21,
92 PERSONS WITH FINANCIAL NEED, PERSONS WHO LIVE WITH THEIR
93 FAMILY, PERSONS WITH HEALTH ISSUES, AND

94
95 **PARAGRAPH 16:** WHEREAS, THE RECENT DEATHS RELATED TO MENINGITIS MAY
96 GIVE STUDENTS PAUSE ABOUT LIVING IN A COMMUNAL SETTING
97 AND STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THE DECISION FOR
98 THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY WANT TO LIVE IN A COMMUNAL
99 ENVIRONMENT, AND

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101 **PARAGRAPH 17:** WHEREAS, FOR OTHER MEDICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS,
102 STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE NOT TO LIVE ON CAMPUS AND THEY
103 SHOULD NOT HAVE TO JUSTIFY THEIR NEEDS TO THE
104 DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE BY TURNING OVER THEIR
105 MEDICAL FILES IN ORDER TO GAIN AN EXEMPTION, AND

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107 **PARAGRAPH 18:** WHEREAS, THE GOVERNING BODY OF ON CAMPUS STUDENTS, THE
108 RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION, HAS NOT ENDORSED THE PLAN

109 AND THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS
110 ISSUES RELATED TO THE PLAN BEFORE A PLAN IS SUBMITTED, AND

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112 **PARAGRAPH 19:** WHEREAS, THE MANDATING OF FRESHMAN TO LIVE ON CAMPUS
113 MAY FORCE UPPERCLASSMAN AND GRADUATE STUDENTS TO FIND
114 A PLACE TO LIVE OFF CAMPUS BECAUSE OF THE DECREASED
115 AMOUNT OF ROOM AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO RESIDE ON CAMPUS,
116 AND

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118 **PARAGRAPH 20:** WHEREAS, MORE STUDENT INPUT IS NEEDED BEFORE A
119 FRESHMAN RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT IS IMPLEMENTED AS IT
120 WILL AFFECT FUTURE STUDENTS GREATLY IN TERMS OF WHO
121 CAN AND CAN'T AFFORD TO ATTEND LSU BECAUSE OF THIS
122 POLICY, AND

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124 **PARAGRAPH 21:** WHEREAS, THIS PLAN MAY INTERRUPT FAMILY PLANS AS
125 PARENTS MAY HAVE PURCHASED OFF-CAMPUS CONDOS OR HOMES
126 IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, PLANNING FOR A SERIES OF CHILDREN
127 TO RESIDE IN THEM WHILE ATTENDING LSU, WHICH WOULD BE
128 DISRUPTED BY THIS POLICY, AND

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130 **PARAGRAPH 22:** WHEREAS, A VISITING COMMITTEE HIRED BY THE UNIVERSITY
131 MADE A REPORT BASED ON OBSERVATIONS THEY MADE ON APRIL
132 27-29, 2004, STATING IN PART, "DURING THE SPRING 2004
133 SEMESTER, HOWEVER, AN AD HOC FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE
134 WAS OPERATING WITH THE SPECIFIC CHARGE OF EXAMINING THE
135 CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE POTENTIAL REQUIREMENT
136 AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT WHEN AND HOW IT
137 SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED... THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
138 CONCLUDED THAT THE PROJECTED NUMBER OF BEDS AVAILABLE
139 ON CAMPUS WOULD NOT ALLOW A UNIVERSAL REQUIREMENT, OR
140 EVEN A REQUIREMENT WITH REASONABLE EXCEPTIOSN, TO BE
141 INSTITUTED BEFORE 2010," AND

142

143 **PARAGRAPH 23:** WHEREAS, THERE SHOULD BE ADDITIONAL INPUT FROM AN AD
144 HOC COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE AS THERE WAS IN
145 2001 TO FURTHER STUDY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PROPOSAL
146 BEFORE IT IS ENACTED.

147

148 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA
149 STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND
150 MECHANICAL COLLEGE SENATE THAT THE
151 ADMINISTRATION OF LSU REJECT ANY FRESHMAN RESIDENCY
152 REQUIREMENT FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED REASONS.

153

154 **PARAGRAPH 24:** THIS BILL SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A MAJORITY
155 VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE
156 PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR
157 IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY
158 THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

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APPROVED

ASHLEY MARTIN – SPEAKER

CHRISTOPHER K. ODINET – PRESIDENT

DATE

DATE