

Spring 2022

## **S22RS SGR No. 25 (SCR 6)**

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**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Fifty Fifth Student Senate**



AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION OF  
*Two Thousand and Twenty-Two*

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**S.G.R. 25**

**ENROLLED**  
AUTHORED BY SENATOR(S):  
DOHRENWEND, MANDELL

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**A Resolution**

*To urge and request that Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 of the 2022 Regular  
Session of the Louisiana State Legislature not be enacted*

1 WHEREAS, State Senator Stewart Cathey introduced Senate  
2 Concurrent Resolution 6 during the 2022 Regular Session of the  
3 Louisiana State Legislature, AND;

4  
5 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution 6, if enacted, would  
6 establish a Task Force on Tenure in Public Postsecondary Education,  
7 AND;

8  
9 WHEREAS, the legislative proposal's stated goal is to WHEREAS,  
10 Senate Concurrent Resolution 6, if enacted, would establish a Task  
11 Force on Tenure in Public Postsecondary Education, AND;

12  
13 WHEREAS, the proposed Task Force's mandate would be to, "perform  
14 an in-depth review of the merits of and need for tenure, to study public  
15 postsecondary tenure policies, and to propose any recommendations  
16 regarding tenure policies, including any specific proposals for  
17 legislation, by written report to the legislature" and most of its  
18 membership would consist of partisan elected officials, AND;

19

20 WHEREAS, earlier this year, the Louisiana Board of Regents hired Dr.  
21 Tristan Denley as Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and  
22 Innovation, AND;

23

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Denley's previous work in the University of Georgia  
25 system has earned him the moniker, "the architect of the death of  
26 tenure," AND;

27

28 WHEREAS, earlier this year, a partisan elected official publicly  
29 requested that Louisiana State University take action against a  
30 tenured faculty member for speech the official found objectionable,  
31 AND;

32

33 WHEREAS, tenure is the bedrock of academic freedom and protects  
34 faculty members whose work may be politically unpopular from  
35 retribution, AND;

36

37 WHEREAS, in a 2020 statement, the university described tenure as "a  
38 means to provide freedom of teaching, research and extramural  
39 activities that makes the profession attractive to those individuals  
40 with the ability to pursue knowledge and its dissemination," AND;

41

42 WHEREAS, this proposal is a threat to the livelihoods of faculty at  
43 Louisiana's public universities, AND;

44

45 WHEREAS, this proposal, and future attempts to weaken or eliminate  
46 academic tenure, will have a chilling effect on faculty, threaten student  
47 learning, make Louisiana universities much less attractive to talented  
48 prospective faculty members, and threaten retention of already-  
49 employed faculty members, AND;

50

51 WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University passed a  
52 resolution opposing Louisiana State Senate Concurrent Resolution 6  
53 and faculty across the state's higher education landscape have  
54 registered deep concern about this proposed first step to the weakening  
55 or elimination of academic tenure, AND;

56

57 WHEREAS, in January, LSU Interim Executive Vice President &  
58 Provost Matt Lee described President Tate's feelings on potential  
59 changes to tenure to Reveille reporter Piper Hutchinson as follows, "He  
60 said point blank, 'Anybody trying to tinker with tenure? That's the hill  
61 they die on,'" AND;

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62  
63 WHEREAS, earlier this month, Reveille reporter Piper Hutchinson  
64 stated, based off her conversations with President Tate, that he “does  
65 not oppose Cathey's tenure task force,” AND;

66  
67 WHEREAS, enactment of Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 is not in line  
68 with President Tate’s “Scholarship First” agenda, AND;

69  
70 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE  
71 UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE that Student Government urges  
72 and requests that Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 of the 2022 Regular  
73 Session of the Louisiana State Legislature not be enacted, AND;

74  
75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS  
76 RESOLUTION BE SUBMITTED TO Louisiana State University  
77 President William Tate, Louisiana State University Interim Executive  
78 Vice President & Provost Matt Lee, Louisiana Governor John Bel  
79 Edwards, Louisiana House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, Louisiana  
80 Senate President Page Cortez, Louisiana Senate Education Committee  
81 Chair Cleo Fields, Louisiana House Education Chair Lance Harris, the  
82 full membership rosters of the Louisiana State Senate and House  
83 Education Committees, and any other relevant parties.

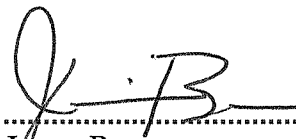
84  
85 THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE by a  
86 simple majority (one-half plus one) vote of the LSU Student Senate  
87 and signature by the Student Body President, upon lapse of time for  
88 presidential action, or if vetoed by the President and subsequently  
89 approved by the Senate, on the date of such approval.

**APPROVED:**



.....  
ALEXANDRA BASSE  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

DATE: 9/21/2022



.....  
JAVIN BOWMAN  
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: 09/22/22