



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Louisiana State University
and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the purpose of the LSU Board of Supervisors is to oversee and manage the University through the provision of quality educational programs for the citizenry, facilitation of research addressing the challenges of our state and nation, and promotion of outreach activities that make the latest knowledge available to the citizenry;

WHEREAS, this purpose is meant to push the bounds of human knowledge to benefit life and economic prosperity;

WHEREAS, this purpose can only be fulfilled within the resources available to the university, which resources have diminished significantly since the start of the recent national recession as it has in a number of other states;

WHEREAS, Louisiana public higher education has taken a larger reduction in state general fund support than most other segments of the state budget, 42 percent in the case of LSU, since the start of the recent national recession;

WHEREAS, per-student state funding has fallen between 38 percent and 56 percent for the undergraduate-serving institutions, and LSU's flagship campus' expenditure per student ranks 46th among all 50 public flagship universities nationally;

WHEREAS, the state's current higher education funding policy and practice has shifted to a greater personal obligation on the part of students with less per-pupil appropriations provided by the state;

WHEREAS, past budget reductions caused the university to eliminate or consolidate 60 academic programs, eliminate 1,924 employee positions including 363 faculty posts, scale back student

support services, and shrink the available institutional match funding necessary for large research grants;

WHEREAS, mandatory cost increases related to pension and health benefits continue to strain institutional budgets, acting as “invisible cuts” by reducing the amount of funds available for education, research, and outreach;

WHEREAS, the LSU Board of Supervisors and the President reduced administrative costs and operational expenditures, executed structural realignments, and increased self-generated revenues, including:

- Improvement of operational efficiencies, including adoption of a pilot procurement code, implementation of an insurance program, and bylaw amendments on personnel matters to match responsibility with authority;
- Consolidation of ten top-level executive positions down to five positions through changes in responsibilities involving the President’s Office, the flagship campus, and the LSU AgCenter;
- Realigned the Hebert Law Center with LSU A&M to improve coordination of academic programs;
- Approved the LIFTT fund to encourage commercialization efforts intended to increase self-generated revenues;
- Establishment of new online programs;

WHEREAS, LSU continues to aggressively pursue external research grant and contract opportunities in support of its research mission to solve the state’s most pressing social, scientific, and economic problems, though the research enterprise receives almost no state support to accomplish this critical mission;

WHEREAS, LSU fulfills its outreach mission for Louisiana by delivering research-based information and technical assistance directly to the public and Louisiana industry to advance our collective social and economic prosperity;

WHEREAS, higher education is faced with another year of cuts as reflected in the fiscal year 2016 executive budget including \$581 million in funding reductions for postsecondary education

institutions, offset by \$372 million in potential revenue contingent upon the approval of the Legislature;

WHEREAS, the prospects of permanent reductions in state support to Louisiana's postsecondary education funding represent a drastic shift toward a predominantly student-financed paradigm and require an equally drastic revision in how the Legislature and Board approach public higher education financing;

WHEREAS, the members of the LSU Board of Supervisors are appointed from the various districts of the state to represent the needs of the students, families, and constituents of those areas while balancing the requirements of the broader state government;

WHEREAS, the Legislature controls the price of tuition and fees and requires a two-thirds vote of each house for increases, which is the most stringent requirement for such approval in the United States;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the LSU Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the Louisiana Legislature enable higher education management boards the ability to provide high-quality, nationally competitive programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the LSU Board of Supervisors respectfully requests restoration of state general fund support to fiscal year 2015 funding levels, with additional consideration of those entities without enrollments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the LSU Board of Supervisors recommends and respectfully requests the Legislature provide to the University, a stable and predictable base of funding that can serve as a guarantee to students of the state's commitment to their education while permitting LSU to make investments that will yield greater economic and social results for the state;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the LSU Board of Supervisors supports the position, and respectfully requests that the Legislature, return tuition and fee authority to the management boards as it was for 135 years, from 1860 to 1995, without qualification, condition, or indexing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the state's higher education appropriation paradigm reflects a funding model supported primarily through student tuition and fees, positioning the postsecondary

education management boards to determine the appropriate price of educational programs with consideration to the financial need of students and the market variables;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the LSU Board of Supervisors does not believe a student's financial need should be a barrier to attendance, and will take additional actions as warranted to further guarantee such;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the LSU Board of Supervisors requests that the Legislature provide and assure any additional tuition and fee revenues approved during the 2015 Regular Session and thereafter be retained by those institutions to improve the quality of education to all students and to offset increased costs of those students who are paying the increased tuition and fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of the Resolution shall be provided to the Louisiana Legislature.