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Faculty Senate Resolution 07-02

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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First read January 24, 2007
LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 07-02
Support for a First-Year Residency Requirement
Sponsored by Andrew Christie and
Introduced by Dr. Hector O. Zapata, Chair EPC

Whereas, the LSU Faculty Senate is committed to advancing the University's Flagship Agenda and elevating the institution to a first tier institution.

Whereas, the Educational Policy Committee of the LSU Faculty Senate has met with student leaders and administrators who were invited to provide evidence and arguments about the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed First-Year Residency Requirement for 2008;

Whereas, evidence presented to the Educational Policy Committee emphasized the following advantages of First-Year Residency Requirement:

- It will advance Objectives 3 and 4 of the University's Flagship Agenda.
- Students living on-campus their first year have higher GPA's, a higher retention rate from 1st to 2nd year, and higher graduation rates for 4th, 5th, and 6th year time periods.
- National and regional data show positive academic benefits for students;

Whereas, having heard detailed presentations¹, having reviewed the materials presented by these representatives, and considering that the concerns expressed by the LSU Faculty Senate Special Committee on the Freshman Residency Requirement in 2004 regarding said requirement have been addressed, the Educational Policy Committee advises the Faculty Senate that the arguments in favor of the potential for improved academic performance outweigh the disadvantages of such a requirement.

Be it Resolved, that the Faculty Senate supports the implementation of a First-Year Residency Requirement, without a meal plan requirement.

Be it Further Resolved, that the Faculty Senate recommends that the pertinent administrators, who implement the First-Year Residency Requirement address the following concerns of the senate:

- The need for ongoing study of the effects of the requirement on student academic performance and the quality of student life at LSU, the results of which should be reported annually to the full Faculty Senate and to the Educational Policy Committee for review.

¹ See attached December 8, 2006 Educational Policy Committee minutes for a full list of participants.

- The need for provisions for student preferences with regard to particular housing assignments, appropriate flexibility in meal plans, and enhanced recruitment based on the benefits of living on campus.
- The need for provisions for exceptions and appeals, based on economic hardship and other appropriate justifications.

Concerted efforts should be made to enhance the academic environment and to respond to individual concerns regarding conditions limiting academic progress.