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Faculty Senate Resolution 12-01

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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Faculty Senate Resolution 12-1

Graduate Faculty Status: Confidence in Colleagues and their Credentials

Introduced at the request of A. R. P. Rau and sponsored by

Whereas participation in graduate education is integral to being a tenure-track or tenured faculty member at a Flagship University, and

Whereas policy for many years as stated in the LSU General Catalog (2010-11, p.335) is that new full professors are accorded a 7-yr Full Member status in the Graduate School and all full professors extended to permanent status after another 7-yr review, and

Whereas the Graduate Dean and academic deans seem now to be drafting a policy that requires annual certification of continuing Graduate Faculty status by the chair of the unit for all tenured faculty, and

Whereas this amounts to a unilateral imposition of annual post-tenure review and an annual renewal of tenure that is incompatible with "indefinite tenure" as usually understood, and

Whereas this new policy has not been presented at any Graduate Faculty meeting or to the Faculty Senate, and involved no faculty groups but is being advanced by administrative fiat, and

Whereas this is occurring when both the Graduate Dean's and Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost's offices are under interim appointments with searches currently under way to fill them, and

Whereas a drastic change in tenure policy at LSU is likely to have major

impact on the health of this institution, especially in the caliber of students and faculty we attract, and

Whereas such changes, therefore, require careful thought, deliberation and discussion involving also the faculty under shared governance, not a stealth change by the administration acting alone,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate rejects this modified policy being proposed and calls for its withdrawal, and

Be it further resolved that no changes in current practice occur until the offices of Graduate Dean and Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost have permanent occupants who examine all the implications while consulting with the Graduate Council and present any proposed changes to the Graduate Faculty for its vote.