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Faculty Senate Resolution 12-02

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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Faculty Senate Resolution 12-2

Distinguishing Faculty Evaluation Criteria from LAGRAD Act Standards

Introduced at the request of the Umbrella Policies Committee of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates and of the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative

Whereas the Louisiana Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act, commonly known as the LA GRAD Act (as amended in LA GRAD Act 2), creates an assortment of incentives for higher education institutions to increase the production of baccalaureate and advanced degrees as well as of certificates;

Whereas the LA GRAD Act and its amendments measure productivity only numerically, without guidance regarding standards and without invocation of those checks and balances enforced by accreditation agencies;

Whereas Act 356 of the 2009 Louisiana legislature encourages higher education institutions to accept transfer credit with or without exit or entrance examinations;

Whereas the Board of Regents has routinely terminated programs on the basis of low completion rates, thereby creating an incentive to ease requirements for completion of curricula;

Whereas untenured faculty, who comprise a large segment of the teaching staff of Louisiana universities and who teach a large share of those general education courses that serve as gateways to senior college admission, lack the job security and influence to resist calls for increased retention and "productivity";

Whereas the administration of Southeastern Louisiana University, a large institution that competes for students with LSU, has announced its intention to “realign” criteria for promotion and pay increases with expectations created by the LA GRAD Act and its amendments;

Whereas the Faculty Senate of Southeastern Louisiana State University has declined to support the aforementioned “realignment” of criteria and has urged the administration to rethink its plans;

Whereas faculty leaders at Southeastern Louisiana University have joined with the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates and the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues’ Collaborative in asking for support from faculty senates statewide in their effort to resist the “realignment” of evaluation criteria;

Whereas the goal of increasing the production of educated, clear-thinking and informed citizens and professionals is better advanced by the maintenance of high standards than by the creating of incentives to promote what University of Louisiana System President Randy Moffett has called “moving students through the system”;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate affirms its opposition to any attempt to predicate evaluation, promotion, or any other form of career advancement of the faculty on achievement of, contribution to, or support of LA GRAD Act goals;

And therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate urges Louisiana universities to evaluate faculty on the basis of their teaching, service, or research (as is appropriate to institutional mission) rather than on their response to the LA GRAD Act or any other legislation or political pressure.