STUDENT GOVERNMENT

STUDENT SENATE

F12RS

SGR No. 9

BY: SENATOR SCHWARTZENBURG

A RESOLUTION

TO reaffirm LSU Student Government’s position of opposition toward the proposed Plus/Minus Grading System and to advocate for student representation in discussions on this topic.

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, LSU Student Government passed student government resolution twenty seven (27) in the Fall 2011 Regular Session which opposes the creation of a Plus/Minus Grading System for LSU; and

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, updated research along with overwhelming student response on the issue has come forth since Fall of 2011.

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, currently LSU uses the following quality point scale:

- A – 4.0 QP
- B – 3.0 QP
- C – 2.0 QP
- D – 1.0 QP
- F – 0.0 QP

PARAGRAPH 4: WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate has passed a resolution supporting a new Plus/Minus System for the distribution of quality points that resembles the following:

- A – 4.0
- A– – 3.7
- B+ – 3.3
- B – 3.0
- B– – 2.7
- ECT.; AND

PARAGRAPH 5: WHEREAS, the vast majority of the LSU Student Body is in staunch opposition to the proposed Plus/Minus Grading System; and

PARAGRAPH 6: WHEREAS, since January 2012, Student Government has received more than 200 emails from students on this topic. Approximately two percent (2%) of those emails were from students who supported Plus/Minus Grading; and

PARAGRAPH 7: WHEREAS, students’ main opposition originates from the potential to lower grade point averages; and
WHEREAS, A LOWERING OF GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF ANY MAGNITUDE COULD IMPACT A STUDENT’S ABILITY TO MAINTAIN HIS OR HER SCHOLARSHIP; AND

WHEREAS, STUDENTS LOSING SCHOLARSHIPS WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT RETENTION, GRADUATION, AND COMPLETION RATES AT LSU; AND

WHEREAS, A PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM COULD BE USED TO UNFAIRLY RAISE STANDARDS IN COURSES; AND

WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED SYSTEM WILL HAVE THE GREATEST NEGATIVE IMPACT ON HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS STRIVING TO ATTAIN SUPERIOR GRADE POINT AVERAGES; AND

WHEREAS, RAISING THE STANDARD TO RECEIVE 4 FULL QUALITY POINTS IN A COURSE WILL NARROW THE ABILITY OF THESE STUDENTS TO ATTAIN SUPERIOR GRADE POINT AVERAGES; AND

WHEREAS, LOWERING THE MAGNITUDE OF ANY STUDENT’S GRADE POINT AVERAGE WILL DECREASE THE COMPETIVENESS OF LSU GRADUATES SEEKING ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS; AND

WHEREAS, STUDENTS WILL LIKELY AVOID SCHEDULING CLASSES THAT USE THE PLUS/MINUS SYSTEM CAUSING UNWANTED SCHEDULING BIAS; AND

WHEREAS, IMPLEMENTING A GRADING SYSTEM THAT IS OPTIONAL FOR INSTRUCTORS WILL CAUSE CONFUSION ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY; AND

WHEREAS, THIS CONFUSION WILL STEM FROM THE LACK OF UNIFORMITY IN REGARDS TO QUALITY POINT DISTRIBUTION AMONG INSTRUCTORS, PARTICULARLY INSTRUCTORS TEACHING EQUIVALENT COURSES; AND

WHEREAS, CONFUSION WOULD ALSO ARISE TO ANYONE TRYING TO COMPARE TWO LSU TRANSCRIPTS DUE TO THIS LACK OF UNIFORMITY; AND

WHEREAS, A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BE PRESENT IN DISCUSSIONS PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED GRADING SYSTEM.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE URGES AND REQUESTS THAT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY KEEP THE CURRENT QUALITY POINT EVALUATION SYSTEM AND THAT STUDENT INPUT IS CONSIDERED IN THIS MATTER.
PARAGRAPH 20: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A SUITABLE COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARD TO WILLIAM JENKINS, CHANCELLOR; KEVIN COPE, PRESIDENT OF THE FACULTY SENATE; STUART BELL, UNIVERSITY PROVOST; JANE CASSIDY, VICE PROVOST OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS; AND GIL REEVE, VICE PROVOST OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS.

PARAGRAPH 21: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A MAJORITY (1/2) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT; UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION; OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE.

Approved:

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Meredith Westbrook R. Taylor Cox
Speaker of the Senate Student Body President

Date:____________________ Date:____________________