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Faculty Senate Resolution 16-15

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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Faculty Senate Resolution 16–15

Regarding the Professor Watchlist

Sponsored by Tracey Rizzuto and Pam Monroe

Whereas Turning Point USA launched the Professor Watchlist on November 21, 2016, with the mission to “expose and document college professors who discriminate against conservative students and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom;”

Whereas the Professor Watchlist stands to target and stigmatize individual professors without grounds, evidence, or opportunity for defense or rebuttal;

Whereas the Professor Watchlist may result in students avoiding courses, discourse opportunities, and mentorship experiences based on perceived partisanship, thus depriving them of opportunities to develop critical thinking skills and expand the diversity of thought;

Whereas the LSU Office of the Dean of Students already provides an avenue for students to file complaints and appeals pertaining to classroom incidents and professional etiquette;

Whereas an LSU professor has already been named on the Professor Watchlist;

Whereas, our colleagues at an esteemed American institution, Notre Dame University, set the example and showed solidarity with peers named to the Professor Watchlist by petitioning to have the names of the entire faculty added to the list; [similar Faculty Senate statements are currently being considered at other institutions including Syracuse University, Loyola University of Chicago, among others].

Let it be resolved that this body condemns and rejects the punitive targeting of individual faculty members without recourse, defense or rebuttal.

Let it be further resolved that the faculty Senate requests we stand as One LSU to dilute the pressure and stigma imposed by the singling out of faculty by endorsing the collective representation of all LSU faculty on the Professor Watchlist.

Let it further be resolved that LSU A&M submit the attached petition to Turning Point USA requesting that all LSU Faculty be named on the Professor Watchlist in solidarity with those LSU professors targeted, present and future.

Dear Professor Watchlist,

We, the undersigned faculty at the Louisiana State University, write to request that you place our names, all of them, on Professor Watchlist. We make this request because we note that you currently list on your site several of our colleagues, such as Professor Bradley Schaefer, Distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy who holds the Nobel Prize in Physics (2011) and the Gruber Prize from Cosmology (2007).

We further note that nearly all faculty colleagues at other institutions listed on your site, the philosophers, historians, theologians, ethicists, feminists, rhetoricians, and others, have similarly devoted their professional lives to the unyielding pursuit of truth, to the critical examination of assumptions that underlie social and political policy, and to honoring this country's commitments to the premise that all people are created equal and deserving of respect. This is the sort of company we wish to keep.

We surmise that the purpose of your list is to shame and silence faculty who espouse ideas you reject. But your list has had a different effect upon us. We are coming forward to stand with the professors you have called "dangerous," reaffirming our values and recommitting ourselves to the work of teaching

students to think clearly, independently, and fearlessly. So please add our names, the undersigned faculty at the Louisiana State University, to the Professor Watchlist. We wish to be counted among those you are watching.

Most sincerely,