Spring 2010

S10RS SGR No. 9 (Revise Degree Honors)

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT  

STUDENT SENATE 

S10RS

SGR No. 9

BY: SENATOR KNAPP, CAFFAREL, J. LANDRY, BARNES, AND TERRACCiano

A RESOLUTION

TO URGE AND REQUEST THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY REVISE THE POLICY CONCERNING THE DETERMINATION OF DEGREE HONORS.

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, IT IS LSU’S CURRENT POLICY TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATION OF DEGREE HONORS (SUMMA CUM LAUDE 3.90, MAGNA CUM LAUDE 3.80, CUM LAUDE 3.70) FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS, THE CUMULATIVE GPA IS MEASURED AGAINST THE LSU GPA AND THE LOWER OF THE TWO DETERMINES QUALIFICATION; AND

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, THIS POLICY HAS BEEN IN PLACE SINCE 1978 AND IS IN NEED OF REVISION DUE TO THE ANNUAL INCREASE IN TRANSFER STUDENTS; AND

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, A STUDENT WHO DOES WELL IN HIS/HER OVERALL COURSEWORK BUT NOT AS WELL IN A FEW LSU COURSES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GRADUATE WITH HONORS WHEN HIS/HER LSU GPA IS LOWER THAN HIS/HER CUMULATIVE GPA AND CONSEQUENTLY TOO LOW TO RECEIVE DEGREE HONORS; AND

PARAGRAPH 4: WHEREAS, THE MEASUREMENT OF LSU GPA AGAINST CUMULATIVE GPA IS AN UNFAIR AND INACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE STUDENT’S ENTIRE COLLEGE PERFORMANCE BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON A LESSER AMOUNT OF COURSEWORK; AND

PARAGRAPH 5: WHEREAS, THIS POLICY CAN RESULT IN AN INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN A STUDENT’S GRADUATION GPA AND HIS/HER DIPLOMA IN THE CASE THAT HIS/HER GPA WOULD APPEAR TO QUALIFY FOR HONORS BUT THESE HONORS WOULD NOT BE REFLECTED ON THE DIPLOMA; AND


PARAGRAPH 7: WHEREAS, TRANSFERRED COURSEWORK, CREDIT HOURS, AND GRADES ARE ALL ACCEPTED TOGETHER BECAUSE THE ACCEPTED TRANSFER COURSEWORK IS EQUIVALENT TO LSU COURSEWORK AND IS THEREFORE WORTH THE SAME CREDIT; AND

PARAGRAPH 8: WHEREAS, CUMULATIVE GPA INCLUDES TRANSFERRED COURSEWORK IN ADDITION TO LSU COURSEWORK AND THEREFORE IS THE BEST AND MOST ACCURATE MEASUREMENT OF OVERALL STUDENT PERFORMANCE; AND

PARAGRAPH 9: WHEREAS, DEGREE HONORS ARE A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR AND OFTEN CONTINUE TO BE INCLUDED ON A PERSON’S CURRICULUM VITAE LONG
AFTER A HE/SHE HAS GRADUATED, WHEREAS GPA IS NOT CONTINUOUSLY INCLUDED ON CURRICULUM VITAE; AND

PARAGRAPH 10: WHEREAS, USING CUMULATIVE GPA TO DETERMINE DEGREE HONORS SHALL ACCURATELY GUARANTEE THAT OVERALL, HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS ARE CONSISTENTLY RECOGNIZED AND SHALL UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY; AND

PARAGRAPH 11: WHEREAS, USING CUMULATIVE GPA SHALL NOT ONLY BE MORE ACCURATE BUT SHALL ALSO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GRADUATES RECEIVING DEGREE HONORS AND THEREFORE SHALL INCREASE THE PRESTIGE OF LSU; AND

PARAGRAPH 12: WHEREAS, ONLY CREDITS ATTAINED BY A STUDENT AT AN INSTITUTION THAT IS ACCREDITED BY A BOARD WHICH IS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL BE COUNTED TOWARDS THAT STUDENT’S CUMULATIVE GPA; AND

PARAGRAPH 13: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE URGES AND REQUESTS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY DETERMINE DEGREE HONORS CLASSIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY UPON THE STUDENT’S ENTIRE, CUMULATIVE GPA, AS LONG AS THE STUDENT HAS COMPLETED 54 HOURS AT LSU, AND RETAIN THE CURRENT POLICY ONLY FOR DETERMINING QUALIFICATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL, ALLOWING FOR AN APPEALS PROCESS TO THE GRADUATING SENIORS’ ACADEMIC DEAN IF THE STUDENT’S LSU GPA QUALIFIES THEM FOR HONORS; AND

PARAGRAPH 14: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE ACADEMICS STANDARDS AND HONORS COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE, VICE PROVOST STACIA HAYNIE, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR ASTRID MERGET, REGISTRAR ROBERT DOOLOS, AND CHANCELLOR MICHAEL V. MARTIN.

PARAGRAPH 15: 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:

__________________________  __________________________
Tyler Martin             Stuart Watkins
Speaker of the Senate    Student Body President

Date:____________________  Date:____________________