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S10RS SGR No. 9 (Revise Degree Honors)

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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 6: WHEREAS, THE STUDENT'S TRANSFER COURSES SHOULD HOLD THE SAME WEIGHT AS THOSE HE/SHE TAKES AS LSU WHEN DETERMINING GRADUATION GPA AS WELL AS GRADUATION DEGREE HONORS; 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

56 AFTER A HE/SHE HAS GRADUATED, WHEREAS GPA IS NOT
57 CONTINUOUSLY INCLUDED ON CURRICULUM VITAE; AND
58
59 **PARAGRAPH 10:** WHEREAS, USING CUMULATIVE GPA TO DETERMINE DEGREE HONORS
60 SHALL ACCURATELY GUARANTEE THAT OVERALL, HIGH-ACHIEVING
61 STUDENTS ARE CONSISTENTLY RECOGNIZED AND SHALL UPHOLD THE
62 INTEGRITY OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY; AND
63
64 **PARAGRAPH 11:** WHEREAS, USING CUMULATIVE GPA SHALL NOT ONLY BE MORE
65 ACCURATE BUT SHALL ALSO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF GRADUATES
66 RECEIVING DEGREE HONORS AND THEREFORE SHALL INCREASE THE
67 PRESTIGE OF LSU; AND
68
69 **PARAGRAPH 12:** WHEREAS, ONLY CREDITS ATTAINED BY A STUDENT AT AN
70 INSTITUTION THAT IS ACCREDITED BY A BOARD WHICH IS RECOGNIZED
71 BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL BE
72 COUNTED TOWARDS THAT STUDENT’S CUMULATIVE GPA; AND
73
74 **PARAGRAPH 13:** THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT
75 GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
76 AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE URGES AND
77 REQUESTS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY DETERMINE
78 DEGREE HONORS CLASSIFICATION AND ELIGIBILITY UPON THE
79 STUDENT’S ENTIRE, CUMULATIVE GPA, AS LONG AS THE STUDENT HAS
80 COMPLETED 54 HOURS AT LSU, AND RETAIN THE CURRENT POLICY
81 ONLY FOR DETERMINING QUALIFICATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL,
82 ALLOWING FOR AN APPEALS PROCESS TO THE GRADUATING SENIORS’
83 ACADEMIC DEAN IF THE STUDENT’S LSU GPA QUALIFIES THEM FOR
84 HONORS; AND
85
86 **PARAGRAPH 14:** BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION
87 SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE ACADEMICS STANDARDS AND HONORS
88 COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE, VICE PROVOST STACIA HAYNIE,
89 PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR ASTRID MERGET,
90 REGISTRAR ROBERT DOOLOS, AND CHANCELLOR MICHAEL V. MARTIN.
91
92 **PARAGRAPH 15:** THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY
93 A MAJORITY (1/2) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE
94 AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT; UPON LAPSE OF
95 TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION; OR IF VETOED BY THE
96 PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE
97 SENATE.

Approved:

Tyler Martin
Speaker of the Senate

Stuart Watkins
Student Body President

Date:_____

Date:_____