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F18RS SGR No. 3 (Higher Ed. Funding)

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A RESOLUTION

NOTING THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA TO ENSURE STABLE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING AND URGING FURTHER EFFORTS TO ENSURE CONTINUED BUDGET STABILITY AND FULL HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

PARAGRAPH 1: Whereas, after numerous setbacks and three special sessions in 2018 alone, the Governor and Legislature of the State of Louisiana finally agreed on a partial extension of the “fifth penny” of state sales tax through 2025, allowing for a “stable” higher-education budget for at least the current academic year, and

PARAGRAPH 2: Whereas, while this agreement is a significant achievement that should hold off the “fiscal cliff” well into the next decade, it only prevents further cuts instead of reversing past ones, and multiple public institutions have already felt it necessary to raise student fees to pay for increasing employee costs of living and deferred maintenance, among other things, and

PARAGRAPH 3: Whereas, even with the agreement, Louisiana’s investment in higher education falls far short of the Southern regional average, much less the funding that would be necessary for the state’s colleges and universities to perform at their full potential, and

PARAGRAPH 4: Whereas, structural fiscal reforms, long urged by many across the political spectrum, are necessary for this shortfall to be made up, and

PARAGRAPH 5: Whereas, given the stability provided by the agreement and the gravity of the structural fiscal issues — many of which date from not just the post-2008 budget cuts but also the previous series of cuts in the 1980s — it is advisable to “fix the roof while the sun is shining,” and properly-done reforms would be worth demonstrating to one’s constituents leading up to the October 2019 state elections;

PARAGRAPH 6: Therefore, be it resolved by the Louisiana State University Student Senate that this body notes with approval the work done by the Governor and Legislature of the State of Louisiana to ensure stable higher-education funding, even at substantial political risk, and encourages them to make further efforts to
REVERSE THE POST-2008 DISINVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

PARAGRAPH 7: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS BODY URGES THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE – ESPECIALLY THOSE LEGISLATORS WHO DID NOT VOTE FOR THE SALES TAX COMPROMISE – TO COME TOGETHER TO FORMULATE A REASONABLE AND PRODUCTIVE PACKAGE OF STRUCTURAL FISCAL REFORMS THAT CAN BE PASSED IN THE 2019 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THAT WOULD MAKE FURTHER INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND OTHER CRUCIAL AREAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT LAYING FURTHER BURDENS ON STUDENTS AND LOWER-INCOME FAMILIES; AND

PARAGRAPH 8: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS, ALL MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE LEGISLATURE, STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT STEWART LOCKETT, AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SARAH PROCOPIO.

PARAGRAPH 9: THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY (ONE-HALF PLUS ONE) 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, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

Approved:

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Christina Black          Stewart Lockett
Speaker of the Senate    Student Body President

Date:________________________