

Spring 2022

S22RS SGR No. 25 (SCR 6)

Adam Dohrenwend

Lyric Mandell

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/sg_sslegislation



Part of the [Legislation Commons](#)

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fifty Fifth Student Senate



AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION OF
Two Thousand and Twenty-Two

S.G.R. 25

ENROLLED
AUTHORED BY SENATOR(S):
DOHRENWEND, MANDELL

A Resolution

*To urge and request that Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 of the 2022 Regular
Session of the Louisiana State Legislature not be enacted*

1 WHEREAS, State Senator Stewart Cathey introduced Senate
2 Concurrent Resolution 6 during the 2022 Regular Session of the
3 Louisiana State Legislature, AND;

4
5 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution 6, if enacted, would
6 establish a Task Force on Tenure in Public Postsecondary Education,
7 AND;

8
9 WHEREAS, the legislative proposal's stated goal is to WHEREAS,
10 Senate Concurrent Resolution 6, if enacted, would establish a Task
11 Force on Tenure in Public Postsecondary Education, AND;

12
13 WHEREAS, the proposed Task Force's mandate would be to, "perform
14 an in-depth review of the merits of and need for tenure, to study public
15 postsecondary tenure policies, and to propose any recommendations
16 regarding tenure policies, including any specific proposals for
17 legislation, by written report to the legislature" and most of its
18 membership would consist of partisan elected officials, AND;

19

20 WHEREAS, earlier this year, the Louisiana Board of Regents hired Dr.
21 Tristan Denley as Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and
22 Innovation, AND;

23
24 WHEREAS, Dr. Denley's previous work in the University of Georgia
25 system has earned him the moniker, "the architect of the death of
26 tenure," AND;

27
28 WHEREAS, earlier this year, a partisan elected official publicly
29 requested that Louisiana State University take action against a
30 tenured faculty member for speech the official found objectionable,
31 AND;

32
33 WHEREAS, tenure is the bedrock of academic freedom and protects
34 faculty members whose work may be politically unpopular from
35 retribution, AND;

36
37 WHEREAS, in a 2020 statement, the university described tenure as "a
38 means to provide freedom of teaching, research and extramural
39 activities that makes the profession attractive to those individuals
40 with the ability to pursue knowledge and its dissemination," AND;

41
42 WHEREAS, this proposal is a threat to the livelihoods of faculty at
43 Louisiana's public universities, AND;

44
45 WHEREAS, this proposal, and future attempts to weaken or eliminate
46 academic tenure, will have a chilling effect on faculty, threaten student
47 learning, make Louisiana universities much less attractive to talented
48 prospective faculty members, and threaten retention of already-
49 employed faculty members, AND;

50
51 WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University passed a
52 resolution opposing Louisiana State Senate Concurrent Resolution 6
53 and faculty across the state's higher education landscape have
54 registered deep concern about this proposed first step to the weakening
55 or elimination of academic tenure, AND;

56
57 WHEREAS, in January, LSU Interim Executive Vice President &
58 Provost Matt Lee described President Tate's feelings on potential
59 changes to tenure to Reveille reporter Piper Hutchinson as follows, "He
60 said point blank, 'Anybody trying to tinker with tenure? That's the hill
61 they die on,'" AND;

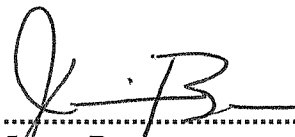
SGR 24

62
 63 WHEREAS, earlier this month, Reveille reporter Piper Hutchinson
 64 stated, based off her conversations with President Tate, that he “does
 65 not oppose Cathey's tenure task force,” AND;
 66
 67 WHEREAS, enactment of Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 is not in line
 68 with President Tate’s “Scholarship First” agenda, AND;
 69
 70 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE
 71 UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE that Student Government urges
 72 and requests that Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 of the 2022 Regular
 73 Session of the Louisiana State Legislature not be enacted, AND;
 74
 75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS
 76 RESOLUTION BE SUBMITTED TO Louisiana State University
 77 President William Tate, Louisiana State University Interim Executive
 78 Vice President & Provost Matt Lee, Louisiana Governor John Bel
 79 Edwards, Louisiana House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, Louisiana
 80 Senate President Page Cortez, Louisiana Senate Education Committee
 81 Chair Cleo Fields, Louisiana House Education Chair Lance Harris, the
 82 full membership rosters of the Louisiana State Senate and House
 83 Education Committees, and any other relevant parties.
 84
 85 THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE by a
 86 simple majority (one-half plus one) vote of the LSU Student Senate
 87 and signature by the Student Body President, upon lapse of time for
 88 presidential action, or if vetoed by the President and subsequently
 89 approved by the Senate, on the date of such approval.

APPROVED:


 ALEXANDRA BASSE

SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

 DATE: 9/21/2022


 JAVIN BOWMAN

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

 DATE: 09/22/22