Resolution Draft

Whereas only 21 percent of adults in Louisiana have bachelor’s degrees and by this measure the state ranks in the bottom 20 percent of states;

Whereas Louisiana contributed $5515 per pupil for higher education in 2013, down from $9239 in 2008, a 40% decline in state funding that puts Louisiana 3rd in the nation in higher education budget cuts.

Whereas the Governor and legislature have repeatedly enacted tax cuts causing a substantial loss of revenue that has resulted in a dramatic deficit in state funds where there once was a surplus;

Whereas since 2008, the University of Louisiana system and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in particular have sustained the highest percentage of budget cuts among public higher education systems in the nation,

Whereas the magnitude of the budget cuts projected would encourage the continued migration of the state’s most educated citizens to other states, would reduce access to higher education, and would further threaten federal and private investments; and

Whereas the State of Louisiana’s prosperity and continued economic growth, and its capacity to compete in national and global markets, depend on the education of its people, on its human capital;

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette:

1. urges the members of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session to hold harmless Louisiana higher education from the projected budget cuts; and

2. urges the members of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session to explore and consider ways to increase revenues to address the projected deficits, while paying special attention to Dr. Sandra K. Woodley’s report, “Higher Education Funding Request to the Governor.”

Mover:

Seconders: