Resolution on state budget passed by Faculty Senate, 3/4/15

Whereas only 14 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 contributes $5,000 per pupil for higher education and the next higher state contributes $9,000, making Louisiana the lowest among states in higher education per-pupil aid; Whereas the governor and the 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, higher education in the state of Louisiana has 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 residents 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, of 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 projected budget cuts; and 2. urges the members of the 2015 Regular Legislature 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.” The Woodley report refers to the UL System President’s blog (http://ulsystem.edu/index.cfm?md=newsroom&tmp=detail&articleID=688) and a letter that the system presidents sent to the governor. We will append citations (like http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/01/the-38-states-that-have-slashed-higher-education-spending/267427/), to support the factual claims of the “whereas” clauses.