



LSU A&M FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 21-03

Continued Vote of No Confidence in the LSU Board of Supervisors

Sponsored by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Profs. Kevin Cope and James Robinson

Whereas the Louisiana Constitution charges the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU) with supervising and managing the institutions, statewide agricultural programs, and other programs administered through its system, and

Whereas the Board of Supervisors is invested by law with the authority to organize the University as necessary to achieve its mission of delivering instruction, conducting research, facilitating scholarly activity, and performing service and outreach,¹ and

Whereas the faculty or Faculty Council is likewise charged with establishing curricula, fixing standards of instruction, determining requirements for degrees, and generally setting educational policy, subject to the authority of the Board,² and

Whereas the Board of Supervisors has not fulfilled its officially as well as frequently stated goal of unifying the LSU campuses into a single efficient system (“One LSU”) a failure which continues to hinder communication and collaboration among the faculty, staff, and students on the LSU campuses and which has created a confusing and inefficient non-system in which some administrators oversee all campuses and other administrators with similar titles only serve the A&M campus, and

Whereas athletic department personnel have not only been retained, but have escaped investigation despite documented evidence not only of the use of vulgar language, but also of a host of more serious violations of policies and best practices governing workplace behavior, including fostering sexism, indulging in racism, and regularly ignoring reports of sexual assault, and

Whereas the Board of Supervisors preemptorily and unadvisedly overruled the LSU A&M administration and LSU A&M faculty leaders by ordering that classes be cancelled on the occasion of the 2019 championship football game, doing so with little warning and with wanton

¹ Board of Supervisors Bylaws Article I Definitions.

² Board of Supervisors Regulations Article I Section 2B2 Duties.

disregard for the academic mission of the university, and despite having known the date of the aforementioned game for two weeks, leaving faculty, staff, and students little time to plan for said closure or to compensate for the disturbance of classes, and

Whereas the previous University President was hired with no faculty input and with a completely closed search process, with no sharing of information and no transparency until a lawsuit by local newspaper publishers compelled the naming of the candidates, and

Whereas the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) censure imposed on LSU for its egregious failure to adhere to appropriate academic freedom principles has never been addressed by the LSU System Board of Supervisors, and

Whereas the LSU System Board of Supervisors has repeatedly stressed the importance of shared governance while hypocritically rebuffing continuing requests to appoint faculty members who are not administrators to the Presidential Search Committee, and

Whereas the retirement system for faculty and staff at LSU, which is woefully underfunded and to which LSU contributions to individual accounts fall far below those of LSU's peers, has received no attention from the LSU System Board of Supervisors despite its severely adverse effects on the recruitment and retention of LSU faculty and staff members, and

Whereas the admirable as well as longstanding aspirations for LSU to join the Association of American Universities (AAU) and thereby to be recognized as one of the top research universities in the United States appear to have been forgotten by the habitually underinformed and negligent Board of Supervisors, and

Whereas the students in the LSU System have voting representation on the LSU Board of Supervisors, and

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate declares that it has no confidence in the LSU Board of Supervisors;

Therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate calls on the President and Board of Supervisors to treat this vote of no confidence as an opportunity for both structural and policy reforms that will restore the confidence of both the LSU community and the citizens of Louisiana in the governance of our venerated university;

Therefore be it further resolved that, given the nature of the offenses that have exposed LSU to public scandal and recrimination, the first area to undergo reform shall be all policies and practices, including those of the Board itself, that have proved injurious to students, faculty and staff, and especially women and to those of non-binary gender;

Therefore be it further resolved that the aforementioned reforms pertaining to the equal treatment all genders will include the addressing of gender-based inequities in promotion, tenure, and other academic opportunities;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Board of Supervisors, in recognition of the inadequacy of its policies with respect to quality of life in the LSU community, shall direct special attention to the improvement of salary, benefits, and health care for all employees, regardless of gender;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Board of Supervisors shall take steps to improve the diversity of its membership with respect both to the familiar criteria of race, ethnicity, class, and gender and also with respect to the diversity of vocations practiced by Board members;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate expects the Board to take immediate action to promote the inclusion of faculty members on the Board and that it also create both formal and informal channels for a regular dialogue with the faculty;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Board of Supervisors issue a clear and definitive statement declaring its support for faculty governance and for faculty involvement in the university decision-making process;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Board of Supervisors should create a commission to draft a formal affirmation of LSU's commitment to academics and of the subordinate or auxiliary role played by athletics and should also charge that commission with creating an implementation plan for the ideas expressed in that statement.