

Resolution to Governor Bobby Jindal

and to the

Legislature of the State of Louisiana

from

The Faculty Senate

of

The University of Louisiana at Monroe

in response to

Proposed Budget Cuts to Louisiana Higher Education

WHEREAS, the Northeast quadrant of the state has been negatively affected by the closing of major companies and subsequent job losses at a disproportionately higher rate than that of the rest of the state (Stephen Moret), and

WHEREAS, the University of Louisiana at Monroe most recently experienced disproportionately low state funding enhancement and a disproportionately large budget reduction compared to other Louisiana universities even though this region experiences the highest poverty level in the Deep South and historically has an unemployment rate significantly higher than the state average, and

WHEREAS, budget cuts of the magnitude projected will accelerate the economic devastation of the area and can only serve to exacerbate the brain drain from the area and the State, and

WHEREAS, the Governor has supported tax cuts in the 2009 calendar year which have resulted in a substantial loss of revenue to the state; and whereas, he has supported the prospect of additional tax cuts beginning in 2010, and

WHEREAS, several hundreds of millions of dollars are projected to be in the “rainy day” fund by the end of this fiscal year; and whereas, additional financial support is available in economic development funds, and the existence of these funds means that there are alternatives short of gutting higher education available to the State to meet its fiscal obligations, and

WHEREAS, during difficult economic times citizens return to universities, there must remain viable institutions within the State to provide training and/or re-training for both the employed and the unemployed, and

WHEREAS, drastic cuts to higher education across the State will jeopardize current and future federal and private funding and investment for education in Louisiana, thereby diminishing the ability of institutions of higher education to attract and retain faculty to deliver quality instruction, research, and services to the State; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate and the Faculty of the University of Louisiana at Monroe vigorously request that the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Louisiana rescind immediately the proposed massive budget cuts to Louisiana higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate and the Faculty of the University of Louisiana at Monroe call upon the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Louisiana to propose alternative remedies to the State's fiscal plight to minimize the current and future impact on higher education.

Done this day in the city of Monroe, Louisiana, on March 11, 2009

Signed _____

Donna A. Rhorer, Ph. D.
Faculty Senate President
ULM Faculty Senate

cc: ULM Faculty
Northeast Louisiana Legislative Delegation
Members of the Louisiana State Legislature
Dr. Sally Clausen, State Commissioner of Higher Education, Board of Regents
Dr. Randy Moffitt, President, University of Louisiana System
Dr. James E. Cofer, Sr., President, University of Louisiana at Monroe
Dr. Stephen P. Richters, Provost, University of Louisiana at Monroe
Jamie Mayo, Mayor, City of Monroe
Dave Norris, Mayor, City of West Monroe
Monroe News-Star
The Advocate, Baton Rouge
Shreveport Times

This resolution has been adapted from the one set forth by Southern University, the first of the state's institutions of higher education to write a document requesting the rescission of budget cuts.