

Resolution in Support of the ULM Faculty and the Administration

Whereas the Administration of University of Louisiana of Monroe has apprised university constituencies of possible budget cuts which may occur in June 2009, and

Whereas faculty members have been given the opportunity to discuss and offer contingencies to address these cuts, and

Whereas faculty members have expressed their willingness to work with the administration and their departmental and collegiate colleagues to implement such contingencies, and

Whereas faculty members have directed the Faculty Senate to express the faculty's wishes concerning these issues, and

Whereas faculty members understand the need to be creative in the face of economic challenges;

Now Be It Therefore Resolved That the Faculty Senate, on behalf of the faculty, offers cooperation and pledges their support to President James E. Cofer and Provost Stephen P. Richters and other members of the Administration, as they lead us forward to address innovatively the current budgetary concerns.

More specifically, faculty members agree to the following:

1. To maintain and continue to improve the academic footprint of the University, thus ensuring the continuing integrity of our mission.
2. To maintain sufficient course offerings in each academic program so that students may progress toward completion of degrees in the normal period of time.
3. To teach one additional course (without compensation) where necessary and feasible each fiscal year in a sequence to be chosen by the faculty member in consultation with the Dean and Department Head.

In support of faculty, the Faculty Senate states the following:

1. Collegiate and departmental needs and resources differ, and implementation of the plan must be individualized accordingly. This approach could include a redistribution of courses (e.g., allowing for course banking).
2. This plan will begin on July 1, 2009, and end on June 30, 2010. During Spring Semester 2010, the situation will be reviewed for a possible extension to end on June 30, 2011.
3. Should the budget reductions be such that the budget objectives could be accomplished in an alternative manner, then the administration would recommend a new plan and compensate faculty for any additional courses taught.
4. A faculty member may count any extra courses taught as part of his/her service requirement.
5. Any exemptions under the plan should be made with strong justification and complete transparency.
6. Any overriding of departmental/collegiate decisions relating to course scheduling must be accompanied by strong justification and complete transparency.
7. Deans and Department Heads are requested to ensure that a faculty member's progress toward tenure and promotion is not unduly hindered.

The Faculty Senate appreciates the hard work and dedication of Dr. James E. Cofer, Dr. Stephen P. Richters, and Mr. Dave Nicklas in their attempts to work through budget cut solutions which will help maintain and preserve the academic footprint of this University.

The Faculty Senate is also very appreciative of the Administration's support and trust as evidenced in its affording us, as representatives of the faculty, the opportunity to work with it in developing, studying, and considering actions that impact both the Academy and the faculty within the Academy.

Members,
ULM Faculty Senate
February 12, 2009