

RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 27

BY

THE FACULTY SENATE

OF

THE

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate and Faculty of the University of Louisiana of Monroe are concerned about campus safety, and

WHEREAS the Faculty Senate and the Faculty of ULM deplore the mass shooting incidents at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University, and the Baton Rouge campus of the Louisiana Technical College, and most recently, the school shootings in Germany,

WHEREAS the student gunmen in Virginia and Illinois had both been hospitalized for psychological treatment and had nonetheless been able to obtain their weapons legally, and

WHEREAS such incidents are extremely rare, given the thousands of post-secondary institutions in the United States and the millions of students, faculty, and staff who come to those campuses every weekday, and

WHEREAS the faculty of the System expressed their concern about the safety and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campuses last year in a resolution opposing HB 199, and

WHEREAS House Bill 27, which would allow for licensed, concealed weapons on college campuses, has been filed before the 2009 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, and

WHEREAS, by facilitating the escalation of disputes into violent and perhaps fatal confrontations, this legislation would actually increase the risk for gun-related violence on college campuses and the surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, in the highly unlikely event of an attempted mass shooting, other armed students and staff, who would not be marksmen trained in how to respond in such a crisis, would open fire and probably injure even more people in the crossfire, and

WHEREAS even on gun-free campuses faculty and staff are occasionally exposed to threats and retaliation from disgruntled or disturbed students, and

WHEREAS the knowledge that individuals could be carrying concealed weapons would increase the tension in such situations, and

WHEREAS passage of HB 27 would have an adverse effect on the recruitment and retention of students, faculty, and staff, and

WHEREAS university and college police forces (with the assistance of local law enforcement and other first responders) are the appropriate individuals to handle those infrequent events of violence,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate and Faculty of the University of Louisiana at Monroe strongly oppose this legislation and urge legislators to vote against it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate and Faculty of the University of Louisiana at Monroe encourage the Legislature of the State of Louisiana to prioritize campus safety issues and to support additional resources which allow for continued improvements that will aid campuses in their safety and security efforts.

Signed _____
Donna A. Rhorer, President
ULM Faculty Senate

March 12, 2008

This resolution is adapted from the one opposing HB 199 set forth by The Faculty Advisory Council to the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on April 25, 2008.