

RESOLUTION
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE'S FACULTY SENATE
TO THE STATE OF LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS
OPPOSING
FORMULA FUNDING CHANGES INVOLVING ON-LINE NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

WHEREAS the State of Louisiana Board of Regents has indicated the possibility of reducing or eliminating formula funding for on-line non-resident students, and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents and the state legislature consistently have controlled the fee structures of state universities and have not allowed tuition rates to be determined by market forces even though state tuition rates are some of the lowest in the nation, and

WHEREAS the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) has been extremely proactive in expanding its on-line educational programs to non-resident students in response to the shrinking market of eligible traditional high school markets, and

WHEREAS the state formula funding currently funds non-resident traditional students, and the proposed funding cut involving only on-line non-resident students could be viewed as discriminatory, and

WHEREAS the non-resident on-line students has further enhanced the diversity of the overall student body population, and

WHEREAS the funding proposal would effectively eliminate or greatly minimize future non-resident students which would further encumber the state universities' ability to market and compete in the open higher education market, and

WHEREAS the elimination of non-resident students would greatly reduce networking opportunities for our resident students, and

WHEREAS some of the current on-line non-resident students possibly could be in a position in the future to make or strongly influence decisions on possibly relocating businesses to this state, and

WHEREAS excluding non-resident on-line students may help create a nation-wide negative impression of the state by educating only on-line students domiciled in Louisiana, and

WHEREAS some students who may begin their academic careers as traditional students but, due to life circumstances, move out of state and want to continue their current degree plan on-line would be negatively impacted, and

WHEREAS the reduced funding could result in the loss of intellectual capital in the state by the subsequent elimination of faculty positions,

LET IT HEREBY BE RESOLVED that in keeping with the state's and the Board of Regents charge for higher education to do much more with much less, that eliminating support from the funding formula for non-resident students provide further obstacles to the state supported institutions in expanding the student population within the state institutions and further "handcuff" state institutions in improving and expanding the state's higher education footprint.

ULM Faculty Senate

March 2012