WHEREAS higher education has experienced severe mid-year and annual budget cuts for eight consecutive years, prompting the loss of academic programs, the loss of faculty, staff and students, the reduction of course offerings, larger class sizes and fewer sections to accommodate students by way of promoting their future success;

WHEREAS faculty have experienced furloughs, and have gone for many years without raises or cost of living allowances, all while students have suffered from substantial tuition increases, and faculty and student morale has sunk to an all-time low;

WHEREAS severe budget cuts have undermined the ability of universities and colleges to maintain and upgrade facilities, to maintain and upgrade technology, to fund materials and to maintain buildings falling into decay;

WHEREAS severe budget cuts will (and have) greatly diminish(ed) the ability of Louisiana’s universities and colleges to recruit outstanding faculty members in order to remain competitive with other states in either higher education or in the industries with which higher education collaborates;

WHEREAS many universities and colleges in the state of Louisiana will be placed at great risk of losing their accreditation as a consequence of further budget cuts;

WHEREAS student tuition has doubled over the last eight years, forcing many students to incur onerous student debt or to suspend their education because of economic hardship;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) opposes any more cuts to higher education in the state of Louisiana, affirming that further budget cuts will only exacerbate existing difficulties, and that further budget cuts will further diminish the economic, social, cultural, and intellectual potential in the state of Louisiana.