

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 09–04
“Supporting Major Improvements of the United States
Civil War Center, Restoring it to its Former Prominence on
the LSU Campus, in Baton Rouge, the State, and the
Nation”

*Proposed by Professor David Madden, Founding Director of the United States Civil War Center;
Sponsored by Senator James R. Stoner*

Whereas the United States Civil War Center, unique in the nation then and still, was started at LSU in 1989, with the total support of Chancellor Jim Wharton, its formal creation approved unanimously in 1992 by the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Regents, given its name and its mission in a unanimously approved resolution by Congress of the United States, as introduced by Senator Breaux, and in 1997, at Founding Director David Madden’s request, legislation was introduced by Senator Breaux that would create the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission (2011-2015) in Washington, legislation that languished for a decade, but that Senator Landrieu re-introduced in April of 2008; and

Whereas the unique Mission of the United States Civil War Center was to study the War and Reconstruction from the perspective of every conceivable academic discipline, profession, and occupation, also from the perspective of African Americans and other ethnic groups, and civilians, with emphasis upon women and children, including the mission of leading the planning and facilitation of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (2011–15); and

Whereas The USCWC quickly became the gateway to all Civil War interests, winning many awards for its website, one of the first at LSU, with millions of hits from such places as Israel, NASA, and the U. S. military, as the only Civil War organization that set out to link to every other Civil War organization, to a total of over 4,000 links, with a national park ranger in residence to begin the Civil War soldier’s and the Civil War cemeteries databases, reviewing by major historians of all books on the Civil War published each year (about 400), with one copy going to LSU Libraries, the editorship providing graduate assistantships to five graduate students in three departments, creating the only collection of books about the war written for children and a collection of Civil War fiction in LSU’s Special Collections Library, bringing many lectures and performances and two major conferences to LSU, including a three-day conference, uniquely involving 30 different disciplines from among LSU’s own faculty, an historic achievement in interdisciplinary studies, facilitating the creation and publication of 30 books for New York and university presses, offering a prize for the best Civil War novel each year, honoring Michael Shaara, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning novel,

Killer Angels, made into the movie *Gettysburg*, creating a national board comprised of such leaders as Jeff Shaara, Ken Burns, Ted Turner, Pulitzer Prize winning biologist Edward O. Smith, Nobel prize winner in physics Glenn Seaborg, National Poet Laureate Rita Dove, and major historians, such as Shelby Foote and Gabor Boritt, director of The Gettysburg Civil War Institute, USWC's sister institution in the congressional resolution, achieving all that on less than \$30,000 a year of mostly donated funds (three hundred and forty thousand dollars having been paid on a million dollar pledge), being included annually, for those and many other reasons, on LSU's list of 10 requests to our legislative delegation for financial support; and

Whereas following its removal from Arts and Sciences to the library most of the kinds of activities that produced its reputation ceased long ago, although the excellent book review and the database (though rather static) remain, among other features, to serve as a foundation for a restored, revitalized Center, causing the decline of the Center's services to the nation and its reputation as an LSU institution, so that utter consternation and contempt is its present status at LSU and throughout the nation. And

Whereas a revitalized United States Civil War Center would restore its national reputation, and would be a perfect exemplification of the Flagship Agenda, especially of the interdisciplinary initiative; and

Whereas support among the faculty in multiple disciplines exists for the restoration of the USCWC, including faculty members and alumni, Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope, Dean of the Graduate school, Bill Worger, Bob Mann, Manship Chair, Mass. Com., former chair, CWC board; Former Chancellor Jim Wharton, former Chair, CWC board; Charles Barre, Alumni-Donor, former member of CWC Board; Gary Joiner, historian LSU-Shreveport, former member CWC board; Jack Hamilton, Dean School of Mass. Com.; Dick White, LSU, Lincoln Commission member; Susan Weinstein, English education; Carolyn Ware, Folklore, English; Larry Crumbley, Business School; Bill Grimes, Music School; Jim Stoner, Chair of Political Science Department, Member of Senate Library Committee; T. O. Perry, supporter of LSU and the Center; Virginia Grenier, International Students Hospitality, office in the Civil War Center building; Angeletta Gourdine, Director of African and African American Studies; among others;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends major improvements of the United States Civil War Center, including assignment to a college with an active interest in the Center, with the goal of restoring it to its former prominence, serving LSU, Baton Rouge, the state, and the nation.