

## LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 10-14.1

### Reclaiming Faculty Authority over the Curriculum and Rescinding announced Layoffs

*Sponsored by Senator Dominique Homberger*

*Whereas* the Regulations of the LSU Board of Supervisors delegate the Board's authority to "establish curricula" on the LSU A&M Campus exclusively to the LSU Faculty Senate, and not to any campus administrator or to any committee appointed by campus administrators,<sup>1</sup> and

*Whereas* the Faculty Senate's authority over "establishing curricula" includes at least a shared authority to decide which academic programs should be created, reorganized, or closed, and

*Whereas* in August 2010, 14 instructors in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (the "Foreign Language 14") were notified that their employment, and theirs alone among all LSU faculty, would not be extended beyond January 2011, and hence the LSU curriculum would no longer include instruction in several foreign languages, and

*Whereas* the National Office of the AAUP, in its letter to LSU's Chancellor of October 29, 2010, pointed out that the Foreign Language 14 were not afforded due process in their mid-year termination and urged that Chancellor Martin "rescind the notices of termination issued to the fourteen language instructors", and

*Whereas* this action has serious impact on students already admitted in allied programs, such as International Studies and Business Administration, as well as on LSU's national and international reputation, and

*Whereas* such allied programs received no warning or notice of the termination of programs,<sup>2</sup> even though the elimination of the language programs in question has significant impact on the allied programs' curricula, and

*Whereas* the Provost and the Chancellor have declined to say how these 14 faculty members were chosen from the entire LSU faculty for termination,<sup>2</sup> contrary to the AAUP's Recommended Institutional Regulations,<sup>3</sup> which require that administrators give a faculty member, upon request, the reasons for a decision not to reappoint, and

<sup>1</sup> At the level of each campus of the LSU System, the Board Regulations declare: "The faculty or Faculty Council [of the campus] shall *establish curricula* [emphasis added], fix standards of instruction, determine requirements for degrees, and generally determine educational policy, subject to the authority of the Board. It ... may delegate its own authority to an elected Faculty Senate and/or to standing committees, whose authority shall be limited to matters which are proper to the faculty and which have been specifically delegated by the faculty." In 1973, the LSU Faculty Council (i.e., the entire body of all faculty members at the LSU A&M campus) delegated its authority over the above matters to the LSU Faculty Senate.

At the college level, the Board Regulations further declare: "The faculty of each college or school not within a college shall define and recommend degree programs for units under its jurisdiction."

And at the department level, the Board Regulations declare: "The departmental faculty shall have jurisdiction over matters concerning its educational policies insofar as these do not conflict with the policies of other departments, [or] the rules and regulations of its own college or school, the campus, or the University System."

<sup>2</sup> See "Classics instructors fired, questions remain unanswered," by Andrew Robertson, *The Daily Reveille*, LSU, Sept. 22, 2010: <http://www.lsureveille.com/opinion/cancel-the-apocalypse-classics-instructors-fired-questions-remain-unanswered-1.2337948> and "Administration at odds with faculty, war of the protocols begins," *The Daily Reveille*, October 6, 2010: <http://www.lsureveille.com/opinion/cancel-the-apocalypse-administration-at-odds-with-faculty-war-of-the-protocols-begins-1.2355525>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/RIR.htm>

*Whereas* programs and curricula, once terminated, cannot easily be re-established when the budget stabilizes in the future, and

*Whereas* a budget crisis should not be an opportunity for the administration to make major structural changes to the university, especially in the absence of a declaration of financial exigency, and without adequate faculty involvement in shared governance on programs and curricula,

1. *Therefore be it resolved* that the Faculty Senate inform the LSU Board of Supervisors, through channels, that the campus administration has been violating the Board's Regulations as described above, and
2. *Therefore be it further resolved* that the Faculty Senate recommends that the layoff notices to the 14 Instructors be rescinded and that no faculty member at LSU be terminated due to budget cuts:

(a) until the Faculty Senate has voted to accept the repercussions on the curriculum that the terminations will cause, and

(b) until other options to absorb cuts, and thereby avoid faculty and program terminations, have been examined by committees with substantial faculty representation.