

## **FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 92-03**

The current fiscal emergency facing the University is a grave threat to the scope and quality of education at LSU. The state government has unfairly burdened LSU with over 10% of the total fiscal shortfall.

Just as it is wrong to burden LSU so heavily in seeking a solution to this crisis, it is wrong to pass that financial burden on to staff and faculty. The current administration proposal requires staff to absorb serious financial losses and requests faculty to take what amounts to a pay cut. Any solution short of a full restoration of state funding is inherently divisive, damaging relations between faculty, staff, and students.

The staff and faculty of LSU are among its most valuable resources. Yet LSU faculty pay is far below the average for comparable universities in the region. In addition, the physical plant has seriously deteriorated during 10 years of financial neglect. Finally, the students, a key resource for the University and the future of the state, suffer as higher education continues to be seriously underfunded. In the long run, there is no free lunch; the University must be funded or it will die.

The LSU faculty is deeply concerned for staff who are directly threatened in this crisis, and for that group of students who cannot afford increased costs. At the same time, we wish to state a basic principle that has somehow been lost in the current crisis: neither staff nor faculty at LSU are responsible for subsidizing higher education in Louisiana. That responsibility belongs to the state, through the governor and legislature, as well as to those students who take advantage of the opportunities of higher education. An LSU no one wants to pay for is an LSU of which no one will be proud.

Under these circumstances, the Faculty Senate firmly believes that no steps should be taken that would further weaken the University.

We request the administration to openly and accurately set forth the current state of affairs and convey this information to the Board of Supervisors and the people of Louisiana.

We ask the administration to support, and the Board to adopt, a tuition increase of \$300 per semester beginning the Spring of 1993.

And we urge the administration and the Board of Supervisors to explore alternative methods of raising revenues so that inadequate solutions such as salary cuts need not be considered and that adequate funding be assured in the future.

**ADOPTED:** October 7, 1992