

LSUHSC-Shreveport Elected Faculty Senate Resolution Regarding the Proposed LSU System Reorganization

Whereas the LSUHSC-Shreveport Elected Faculty Senate, like the Faculty Senates of LSU A&M and LSUHSC-New Orleans, has serious concerns about potential organizational changes to the LSUHSC system;

Whereas the three academic and professional schools that constitute the LSUHSC-Shreveport campus have accrediting, credentialing, and licensing authorities in addition to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Committee on Colleges, the one accrediting authority for most institutions of the LSU System;

Whereas the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Committee on Colleges has cautioned both the LSU A&M campus and the LSU System that the current approach to governance restructuring may imperil the entire accreditation of the LSU System institutions;

Whereas operational, management, and accrediting issues of the academic and professional schools of LSUHSC-Shreveport differ substantially and must be addressed uniquely for each school;

Whereas the student body of LSUHSC-Shreveport is characterized by high academic qualifications and very high rates of both graduation and professional success after graduation;

Whereas the measures of success at which LSUHSC-Shreveport excels, including sponsored research dollars and accomplishments of our faculty, graduation rates of our students, and the provision of trained professionals to meet the state's health-related personnel needs, raise the need for metrics and approaches distinct from those applicable to the entire LSU System;

Whereas LSUHSC-Shreveport generates a large portion of its own funding through clinical and other health-related service activities combined with sponsored research, presenting a different financial model than most of the LSU System institutions;

Whereas proposals to combine the administrations of LSU System campuses and to restructure the LSU System, prepared by a group of consultants from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), show little regard for concerns expressed by those LSU System faculty representatives with whom AGB had contact;

Whereas the AGB report acknowledges the importance of campus autonomy, and the LSUHSC-Shreveport campus, having experience with both autonomy and lack of autonomy, emphasizes that lack of autonomy negatively affects our ability to function efficiently in our mission to teach, heal, and discover in order to advance the well-being of our community;

Whereas the “Transition Advisory Team” includes no faculty, staff, or student members from LSUHSC-Shreveport;

Whereas the consultants for the LSU System originally proposed three potential scenarios to enhance LSU’s future functioning, but only one of these avenues was explored further and presented for public consideration;

Whereas it is unclear from any statement by LSU System governance that proposed restructuring measures will result in significant cost savings, although cost savings is an important factor stated to drive restructuring;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSUHSC-Shreveport Faculty Senate asks the LSU Board of Supervisors and the Interim President and Chancellor of the LSU System to suspend the restructuring of the LSU System pending consideration of input from a committee that includes a substantial representation of faculty and professional staff from the LSU System campuses, including the LSUHSC-Shreveport, colleagues selected through procedures in keeping with shared governance principles, who can evaluate the merits and weaknesses of the full range of options for the future of the LSU System campuses and to whom the future of LSU is of outstanding importance.