

Faculty Senate Resolution 11-01

“State Subsidies for Athletic Programs and the Higher Education Budget Crisis”

Introduced at the request of Professor Hugh W. Buckingham

Whereas Louisiana is presently undergoing the most severe cuts in the utilization of taxpayer support for higher education in its history; and

Whereas many of our universities are accordingly forced to eliminate faculty, departmental academic programs and majors, and even whole departments or interdepartmental programs; and

Whereas an alarming number of universities in our state continue to spend goodly proportions of taxpayer money for sustaining athletic programs; and

Whereas many of these “goodly proportions” come up to several million dollars of taxpayer money (See Jordan Blum article in the Morning Advocate, July 2010); and

Whereas in these situations, all universities are eliminating faculty members, while coaches remain on taxpayer salary;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate calls on all Louisiana state representatives to make this information clearly apparent to the taxpayers of the state, whose tax money it is that is being siphoned off to sport athletics, while at the very same time faculty are being dismissed and academic programs eliminated.