

Resolution
Supporting Quality Chemistry Instruction
by
The Faculty Senate
University of Louisiana at Monroe

Whereas the University of Louisiana at Monroe's Chemistry program has been recommended for discontinuance by the Board of Regents as a part of the "low completer" review process and the University's need to address impending budget cuts, and

Whereas the University of Louisiana at Monroe claims Pharmacy and the Health Sciences as its centerpiece programs and these programs, along with many others, require high quality chemistry classroom and laboratory experiences, and

Whereas the University of Louisiana at Monroe is obliged to adhere to SACS standards and guidelines which give "primary consideration to the highest degree earned in the discipline", and

Whereas the highest degree awarded in the field of chemistry is the Ph.D., and

Whereas the University of Louisiana at Monroe seeks to promote excellence in education, and though the minimum qualifications required by SACS to teach at the baccalaureate level might be the master's degree, excellence is rarely achieved by pursuing the minimum, and

Whereas the University of Louisiana at Monroe is allegedly intending to issue terminal contracts to all tenured/tenure track chemistry faculty and to offer some of them instructor positions at much lower salaries, and

Whereas a similar strategy employed by Southeastern Louisiana University in foreign languages in 2010 was decried by the AAUP as inappropriate and drew unfavorable national attention in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Use of such a strategy here would negatively impact ULM on a local and national level.

Now be it therefore resolved that the Faculty Senate supports the Chemistry program and its faculty and recognizes that it is one of the core sciences essential to the role of any comprehensive university and to the continued excellence of ULM's Health Sciences and Pharmacy programs;

Be it further resolved that a core complement of existing excellent tenured and tenure track chemistry faculty should be retained who can maintain long term quality instruction in the many chemistry courses depended on by the various science-based programs at the University.

ULM Faculty Senate
May 5, 2011