

**Resolution to the Louisiana Legislature
from
The Staff Senate
of
The University of Louisiana Monroe
In response to
Proposed Budget Cuts to Louisiana Higher Education**

WHEREAS, the Northeast quadrant of the state has been negatively affected by the closing of major companies and subsequent job losses at a disproportionately higher rate than that of the rest of the state (Stephen Moret), and

WHEREAS, the University of Louisiana Monroe most recently experienced disproportionately low state funding enhancement and a disproportionately large budget reduction compared to other Louisiana universities even though this region experiences the highest poverty level in the Deep South and historically has an unemployment rate significantly higher than the state average, and

WHEREAS, budget cuts of the magnitude projected will accelerate the economic devastation of the area and can only serve to exacerbate the brain drain from the area and the State, and

WHEREAS, several hundred of millions of dollars are projected to be in the “rainy day” fund by the end of this fiscal year and whereas, additional financial support is available in economic development funds, and the existence of these funds means that there are alternatives, short of gutting higher education, available to the State to meet its fiscal obligations, and

WHEREAS, during difficult economic times, citizens return to universities, there must remain viable institutions within the State to provide training and/or re-training for both the employed and the unemployed, and

WHEREAS, drastic cuts to higher education across the State will jeopardize current and future federal and private funding and investment for education in Louisiana thereby diminishing the ability of institutions of higher education to attract and retain staff to delivery quality services to the State; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the interim Staff Senate representing the staff at the University of Louisiana Monroe vigorously request that the legislature rescind immediately the proposed massive budget cuts to Louisiana higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Staff Senate on behalf of the staff of the University of Louisiana Monroe call upon the legislature to propose alternative remedies to the State's fiscal plight to minimize the current and future impact on higher education.

Enacted this 18th day of May, 2009

Susan B. Duggins
Chair, Staff Senate