



LSU A&M Faculty Senate Resolution 22-06, A Call to Reaffirm Protections of Academic Freedom and Tenure

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Whereas the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) states “the principal purpose of tenure is to safeguard academic freedom, which is necessary for all who teach and conduct research in higher education. When faculty members can lose their positions because of their speech, publications, or research findings, they cannot properly fulfill their core responsibilities to advance and transmit knowledge. Tenure provides the conditions for faculty to pursue research and innovation and draw evidence-based conclusions free from corporate or political pressure”;¹ and

Whereas at LSU academic freedom protections are granted by PS-15, which defines academic freedom as “a cornerstone in the pursuit of answers to often perplexing, sometimes controversial, questions asked, discussed, studied, and researched in an educational setting. It applies to teaching, research, outreach and university governance”;² and

Whereas PS-15 also recognizes that “the academic freedom of faculty members in addressing issues of institutional governance is a prerequisite for the practice of governance without fear of retribution”;³ and

Whereas faculty remain accountable for their performance post-tenure through polices outlined in PS-109 and PS-104, which also guarantee that these review processes are conducted fairly;⁴ and

Whereas efforts to weaken or remove the protections afforded by tenure elicit a strong negative response by individual scholars and associations representing them, reducing the ability of institutions engaged in these changes to recruit and retain a world-class faculty:

Therefore, be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate reaffirms its commitment to robust tenure protections, recognizing that they are a necessary condition for the university to fulfill its mission in conducting teaching and research which improves the lives of the public it serves; and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate strongly discourages any efforts that would diminish tenure as such efforts would weaken the standing of LSU as an institution of

¹ See the AAUP statement [here](#).

² See PS-15 [here](#).

³ Ibid.

⁴ See PS-109 [here](#) and PS-104 [here](#).

higher education locally, nationally, and globally, would create incentive for current faculty to seek employment at universities which do provide strong tenure protection, and would decrease the university's competitiveness in attracting the world-class talent that has traditionally contributed to LSU's success.