

Faculty Senate Resolution 10–06

“Faculty Authority over Course Transfer Credit”

Sponsored by Kevin L. Cope

Whereas faculty authority over the curriculum and the conferring of degrees is among the most ancient and venerated of academic traditions;

Whereas SACS (The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and all other major higher-education accrediting organizations stress the importance not only of faculty governance of colleges and universities but also of faculty authority over the granting of course credit and other credentials;

Whereas the need, in Louisiana, for “workforce development” and for an educated citizenry implies the need for scrupulous monitoring of the programs leading to degrees and other certificates (so as to ensure that LSU graduates may compete, dialogue with, and otherwise achieve alongside national and international colleagues and competitors);

Whereas the accrediting of institutions by SACS and other organizations occurs at an institution-appropriate level, with research universities being accredited as such and likewise regional and community colleges being accredited by appropriate standards;

Whereas earning accreditation in one of the aforementioned categories need not imply the universal accrediting of all courses from a given institution for credit in every university under every circumstance;

Whereas LSU seeks to improve its programs and, in pursuit of Flagship Agenda, to maintain the highest standards of quality control over its classroom offerings;

Whereas the speedy expansion of online, off-campus, and distance learning and the lack of a statewide review board or procedure both make it difficult if not impossible to evaluate the content of some college-level courses offered across the state;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate reiterates, affirms, and intends to enforce the authority of the faculty over the granting of transfer credit; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate reiterates, affirms, and intends specifically to enforce its authority over the full range of curricular concerns: course content; course curriculum; the specific courses and types of courses comprising the bachelor, masters, doctoral, and professional degrees; the awarding of academic credit for native and transfer students; and (per Senate Resolution 09–10), admissions standards; and

Therefore be it further resolved that, although the LSU Faculty Senate anticipates many favorable results from Act 356 of the 2009 Louisiana legislature, which establishes a statewide two-year portable credential, the LSU faculty also retains its authority to deny transfer credit for courses that have not been adequately evaluated either by LSU Faculty Senate Committees or by a statewide review board on which LSU has substantial representation.