

Guidelines for Resolutions

LSU Faculty Senate

April 2022

Purpose

A resolution is a written main motion, a main motion being “[t]he basic form of motion—the only one that brings business before the assembly” (*Robert’s Rules of Order*, §3). Here “business” denotes a proposal that the group take a certain action or express an opinion. A main motion takes the form of a resolution in cases of “more important or complex questions, or when greater formality is desired” (*Robert’s Rules of Order*, §4). Common uses of resolutions include publishing policy, principles, and sentiments of the body.

Scope

The scope of resolutions appropriate to the LSU Faculty Senate is wide, as the range of issues within the purview of the faculty is similarly wide. First among these are those related to authority over educational policy (subject to the authority of the LSU Board of Supervisors) exercised by the faculty. As set out in PS-50 (§II.A), these include (but are not limited to):

1. Criteria for membership on the faculty itself;
2. Criteria for admission of students;
3. Degree requirements;
4. Courses and curricula;
5. Student honors;
6. Standards of instruction and grading;
7. Faculty meetings (at the College and University level).

In addition to issues of educational policy, over which the faculty has authority, issues to do with any aspect of University life are appropriate subjects of LSU Faculty Senate resolutions. According to PS-50 (§II.A), such issues, while not under the authority of the faculty, are of “proper concern” to the faculty. These issues include (but are not limited to):

8. Academic freedom;
9. Faculty personnel policies;
10. Faculty grievances;
11. Salaries and support funds;

12. University organization;
13. Student affairs;
14. The University's role, scope and mission;
15. Buildings and facilities;
16. Equipment.

Mechanics

LSU Faculty Senate resolutions must satisfy certain requirements, as a matter of either policy or convention. Requirements of policy are grounded in the Senate's Constitution and Bylaws or Robert's Rules of Order, the latter having been adopted to provide parliamentary procedures for the Senate (when not superseded by the express will of the Senate). Requirements of convention are grounded in Senate practice consistent with the Senate's Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, yet not explicitly endorsed by either.

Eligibility and Requirements

- Any member of the University Faculty Council, comprising faculty at rank of Instructor or above, is eligible to submit a resolution for consideration as a business item for a Faculty Senate meeting.
- Each resolution submitted for consideration must have identifiable sponsors. Sponsors can be either explicitly named or implicitly named by virtue of being members of a sponsoring committee the membership of which is publicly identified (e.g., the Faculty Senate Executive Committee).
- Each resolution submitted for consideration must be associated with a named individual who will be responsible for corresponding with the Faculty Senate Coordinator and Faculty Senate Executive Committee and who can address questions regarding the resolution.
- Resolutions submitted for consideration must be submitted to the Faculty Senate coordinator (facultysenate@lsu.edu) at least 48 hours before the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered.
- Occasionally Student Government, the Office of Academic Affairs, or another non-faculty organization may ask the Faculty Senate to consider a resolution. In such cases, the resolution will be taken up at the discretion of the Faculty Senate.

