

Senate Resolution
“Funding for UNO and for Louisiana Higher Education”
Sponsored by the UNO University Senate

WHEREAS the University of New Orleans is the major comprehensive public university serving the educational and cultural needs of the New Orleans metropolitan area ;

WHEREAS the University of New Orleans is an engaged university whose faculty and staff are committed to the success of its students;

WHEREAS the University of New Orleans provides a stimulating and supportive learning environment in which students, faculty, and staff participate freely in the acquisition, advancement, and dissemination of knowledge;

WHEREAS the University of New Orleans has brought and continues to bring immense social and economic benefit to all the people of southeast Louisiana;

WHEREAS the University of New Orleans has delivered extensive benefits to the regional secondary education community through its involvement with Charter schools, and by encouraging large numbers of high school students to consider a college education;

WHEREAS the University of New Orleans has expanded its efforts to engage contacts within the local and regional communities by reorganizing existing degree programs as employers recognize changing needs and has implemented new degree programs which build new areas of expertise to support such industries as film and tourism;

WHEREAS economic development and higher education are inextricably linked to the extent that neither can exist without the other;

WHEREAS the building of a great University is a long-term process that is severely damaged even by short-term economic shortages;

WHEREAS the Governor of Louisiana has repeatedly stressed the centrality of higher education in the emergence of a “new Louisiana” ready for the intellectual and technological challenges of the twenty-first century;

WHEREAS the citizens of New Orleans and surrounding areas deserve the opportunity to earn UNO undergraduate and graduate degrees that prepare them to compete in the 21st century;

WHEREAS even the selective cutting of programs and services damages the reputation of the University of New Orleans and thereby the competitive advantage enjoyed by its graduates; and

WHEREAS the present difficulties in educational funding are produced in large measure by procedural and other artificial obstacles such as the inequitable constitutional dedication or protection of funds;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the University Senate of the University of New Orleans calls upon the Governor and the Legislature of the state of Louisiana to take all necessary measures to provide educational funding sufficient to insure the progress of higher education in Louisiana and particularly the University of New Orleans; and

THEREFORE be it further resolved that the University Senate calls on the state government to take effective and innovative action to sustain Louisiana higher education, an institution that improves and insures the future of all its people. Such actions could include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment to eliminate dedicated revenues in order to protect higher education from the inequities of constitutionally dedicated revenues and mandated expenditures, the summoning of a constitutional convention, or the use of emergency monies to sustain higher education.