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LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 07-04
To Urge and Request the LSU Board of Supervisors to Secure Funding for the
Proposed Renovation of the LSU Union Theater

Sponsored by Lois Kuyper-Rushing, Robert Peck, and James L. Murphy
Introduced by Jon Cogburn

Whereas the mission of a flagship university is to promote and support excellence in the arts, humanities, and sciences; and

Whereas, the LSU A&M Student Government Senate (S07RS SGCR 1) noted that, “the mission of the LSU Union is to serve students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests as the community center of the campus; to provide a comprehensive program of cultural, educational, social, recreational and service activities; to cultivate leadership development in students; to provide appropriate facilities, services, and conveniences for the diverse needs and activities of the campus community; and to create a sense of community that fosters enduring loyalty to the university;” and

Whereas, the LSU Union Theater plays a crucial role in this mission, providing a venue for events attended by thousands of patrons including students, faculty, staff and community members each month, and

Whereas, the LSU Student Senate and Student Body voted, in Spring 2003, to approve a \$60 student fee for renovation of the LSU Union and Theater, and

Whereas, the hurricanes of August 2005 increased construction costs by 40% in the state of Louisiana, making the student fee insufficient to fund the renovation of the Union Theater; and

Whereas, the current condition of the LSU Student Union Theater is untenable by any artistic, academic, or communal standard due to: the presence of standing water in its orchestra pits; sagging ceiling tiles in the theatre main; enforced closure of the Union Colonnade Theatre; insufficient number of restroom facilities; and inadequate technology essential to the cultivation of a dynamic and engaging lively arts community as envisioned by the Flagship Agenda; and

Whereas, for LSU to compete with its peer institutions it must demonstrate its commitment to the arts as inherently important to the cultural vitality of the university community; and

Whereas, the original plans allowed for the creation of a theater that would be both state-of-the-art in its technological innovation and a showcase for the performances that make LSU the Flagship University of the state of Louisiana.

Therefore, be it resolved that the LSU A & M Faculty Senate hereby urges and requests that LSU Chancellor Sean O'Keefe, LSU System President William Jenkins and the LSU Board of Supervisors make every effort to identify and secure sufficient funding for the renovation of the LSU Union Theater as originally proposed.