

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ON THE LSU
CAMPUS**

(R05-07)

Submitted by Senator Dominique G. Homberger

WHEREAS the encouragement of free and fearless communication and debate is an essential component of the teaching, research and service missions of a university and LSU in particular; and

WHEREAS university campuses have traditionally encouraged the fearless expression and free exchange of ideas and opinions, even if they are critical of authorities, so that students may learn to exercise this privilege as citizens of a free country; and

WHEREAS the principle of shared governance demands that the faculty of a university freely and fearlessly communicate and discuss common concerns among themselves and the university administration, even if they are critical of the authorities; and

WHEREAS universities have traditionally encouraged networking among professionals, a practice that advances research, teaching, and service, but that routinely blurs the distinctions between professional and personal communications; and

WHEREAS currently LSU's administration strictly controls, through its *Broadcast Center* and its publications, such as *LSU Today* and the *LSU Alumni Magazine*, the means of communication on Campus; and

WHEREAS such a monopoly over communications unavoidably dampens free and fearless debate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT LSU's administration is called upon to encourage free and fearless debate on Campus by

- establishing venues on LSU's internet systems and publications for dissenting opinions,
- providing access to list-serve systems by the faculty,
- ensuring the confidentiality of electronic and other communications by the faculty, and
- guaranteeing that communications (except those in flagrant violations of the law) cannot be misused to initiate disciplinary or retaliatory proceedings against the faculty.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate charges a committee to work with LSU's administration on realizing the above requests and to report to the Faculty Senate on the progress made towards this goal.