

First Reading April 17, 2007

Faculty Senate Resolution 07-03

TO ESTABLISH AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

*CoSponsors: Kevin L. Cope and James Stoner
Presented by James Stoner*

WHEREAS scholars and teachers at major universities worldwide have frequently demonstrated the value and importance of interdisciplinary teaching and study;

WHEREAS Louisiana State University, like other major research institutions, routinely advertises its commitment to innovative, multi-discipline programs, using the diversity of its programs to attract the best students, faculty members, teachers, and researchers;

WHEREAS both the intellectual value and fundable aspects of interdisciplinary and interdepartmental programs are repeatedly shown in “marquee” programs ranging from the Honors College to the Hurricane Center to Comparative Literature;

WHEREAS the implementation of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education lags behind both the speedy pace of pedagogical innovation and the enthusiastic rhetoric of university publications;

WHEREAS the deans, directors, and chairs who administer colleges, departments, and programs face formidable challenges staffing interdepartmental programs;

WHEREAS there is presently no mechanism to assess the overall ability of the university to establish, manage, or promote interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education;

AND WHEREAS many major universities have drawn acclaim for the ingenuity and innovativeness of their interdepartmental and interdisciplinary offerings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate shall establish an ad-hoc committee on interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education at Louisiana State University, the purpose of which committee shall be to make recommendations as to how the problems relating to interdisciplinary study might be resolved and as to how interdisciplinary study might be advanced at our University. The committee will report its findings within six months of its inception.