

## **Faculty Senate Resolution 11–03**

### **“Adjustment of Fall Semester Start Date to Allow for a Week-long Thanksgiving Holiday”**

Sponsored by Senator Joshua Detre

*WHEREAS*, the current University calendar has the Thanksgiving holiday beginning at 12:30 pm on the Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving Thursday; and

*WHEREAS*, the Ascension Parish Schools, Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Central Community School System, East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Livingston Parish Public Schools, West Baton Rouge Parish Schools, and Zachary Community Schools have for many years scheduled their Thanksgiving Break beginning with the Monday preceding Thanksgiving Thursday; and

*WHEREAS*, this has created an annual problem for LSU faculty and staff with school-aged children as they must deal with child care issues during that period; and

*WHEREAS*, faculty members often observe poor classroom attendance on the Monday - Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving Thursday; and

*WHEREAS*, students who attend classes on the Monday - Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving Thursday often voice their displeasure and frustration and/or appear disinterested in the material being covered; and

*WHEREAS*, LSU, in order to meet the total number of class days required in a semester could start the fall semester on a Thursday as opposed to a Monday; and

*WHEREAS*, this start date would provide benefits to students and faculty as it makes more efficient use of limited class time at both the beginning of the semester and before the Thanksgiving holiday break;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the LSU Faculty Senate, affirms its support for the Thanksgiving holiday to begin, with the Monday and Tuesday preceding Thanksgiving Thursday, coupled with the start of classes in the fall semester to begin on a Thursday to compensate for the instruction days lost because of the lengthening of the Thanksgiving holiday.