Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents
Representing Over 197,000 Students Statewide

A Resolution

Thus enacted on the 20th day of April, 2008 by the
Council of Student Body Presidents

WHEREAS, the Council of Student Body Presidents represents over one
hundred, ninety-seven thousand (197,000) students in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, we, the elected student body leaders of Louisiana's
postsecondary education institutions, comprise the Council of Student Body
Presidents; and

WHEREAS, we, the Council of Student Body Presidents, are outraged over
the violent incidents which have occurred at campuses across the country
and most notably the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007; and

WHEREAS, violence has found its way onto the campuses of Louisiana
postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Council of Student Body Presidents is concerned about and
actively involved in conversations about how to make campuses safer for our
constituents; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 199, which would allow for concealed handguns on
college campuses, has been filed in the Louisiana Legislature for
consideration in the 2008 Regular Session; and

WHEREAS, we, the Council of Student Body Presidents have discussed the
pros and cons of such a measure at great length; and

WHEREAS, we have discussed the need for more campus police on our
campuses, more training of students and faculty, more resources for campus
police offices and many other matters of concern regarding campus
security; and

WHEREAS, we, the Council of Student Body Presidents, do not feel that the
proliferation of handguns on campuses or the arming of students and faculty
would prevent or curtail violence on campuses but, rather, would increase
the risk of such violence; and
WHEREAS, this body of student leaders wishes to place the safety, security, and lives of our students and faculty in the hands of trained law enforcement professionals; and

WHEREAS, students on our campuses have expressed strong opposition to this measure and have expressed concern for their safety; and

WHEREAS, according to an April 18, 2008 article in The Chronicle of Higher Education, similar legislation to allow concealed weapons on college campuses “have failed in Alabama, Indiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and other states known for strong gun rights;” and

WHEREAS, we, the Council of Student Body Presidents, believe that the enactment of such a measure would have a chilling effect on the recruitment and retention of highly qualified students and faculty and place Louisiana institutions at a disadvantage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Student Body Presidents oppose House Bill 199; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Student Body Presidents urge and request the Governor of the State of Louisiana and the Legislature of the State of Louisiana to provide adequate resources to protect our students and faculty from harm.

CAREY HAWKINS ASH, CHAIRMAN
Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents
President, Student Government Association
Southern University and Agricultural & Mechanical College
Member Institutions:

Louisiana State University System
- Louisiana State University and A&M College
- Louisiana State University at Alexandria
- Louisiana State University at Eunice
- Louisiana State University at Shreveport
- LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans
- LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport
- Louisiana State University Law Center
- University of New Orleans

Southern University System
- Southern University and A&M College
- Southern University Law Center
- Southern University at New Orleans
- Southern University at Shreveport

University of Louisiana System
- Grambling State University
- Louisiana Tech University
- McNeese State University
- Nicholls State University
- Northwestern State University
- Southeastern Louisiana University
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- University of Louisiana at Monroe

Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- Baton Rouge Community College
- Bossier Parish Community College
- Delgado Community College
- Louisiana Delta Community College
- Nunez Community College
- River Parishes Community College
- South Louisiana Community College
- L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College
- Sowela Technical Community College
- Louisiana Technical College