WHEREAS the Faculty Senate of Southeastern Louisiana University is extremely concerned about the safety and wellbeing of the campus community, and

WHEREAS the Louisiana House of Representatives is considering House Bill 199, which would permit the carrying of concealed weapons on campus by specific licensed individuals, and

WHEREAS statistics show that the mere presence of firearms in volatile, emotional situations increases the likelihood of their use, with potential catastrophic consequences (see annex “More Guns on Campus = More Crime on Campus” on the two following pages), and

WHEREAS no vetting, background checks and training required under the proposed law can guarantee mental stability under extreme pressure and thus in the use of the firearm, and

WHEREAS numerous organizations, councils, and individuals representing students, faculty, and staff have expressed adamant opposition to this legislation:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate, on behalf of the University community, fully endorse the resolution of the Faculty Advisory Council of the University of Louisiana System (http://www.uls.state.la.us/site100-01/1001055/docs/uls_opposes_hb199_4-25-08.pdf retrieved 2008 May 7); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Southeastern Louisiana University most strongly oppose House Bill 199 and urge members of the Legislature to vote against it; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Southeastern Faculty Senate urge Governor Bobby Jindal to veto such legislation so as to maintain a safe environment for the education of students, as well as to respect the democratic tradition of protecting the interests of the vast majority of the citizens who would be most directly affected.

[Adopted by the Faculty Senate on 2008 May 7]
More Guns on Campus = More Crime on Campus

- College campuses are safer than the communities that surround them. 93% of the violence against students occurs off campus. One reason? Colleges and universities have tightly controlled firearms.

- For the nearly 18 million college students in America, the odds of being murdered on a college campus are extremely low. From 2001 to 2005, 43 college students were murdered. Fewer than 10 per year.

- Nearly 18 million students, more than 4,000 campuses, over 5 years - 43 campus homicides. In 2005 alone, there were 49 homicides in Baton Rouge.

- A 2005 study, published in the American Journal of Public Health, found that workplaces where guns were permitted were 5 to 7 times more likely to be the site of a workplace homicide, compared to workplaces where guns were prohibited.

- Evidence also indicates that the presence of concealed weapons on campus would increase the likelihood of any student disagreement (i.e. parking lot arguments, fights at sporting events, etc.) escalating to violent or even deadly conflicts.

Guns on Campus Increase the Risk and Severity of Campus Violence

The traditional college-age years are among the most volatile times in a person's life. College students face severe social and academic pressure, and arming them with guns is simply a dangerous idea.

- **Alcohol** - Alcohol use greatly increases the risk of injury to both the user and those around him. Heavy drinking is more common among 18-to-24 year-olds than any other age group. Alcohol is involved in 213 of college suicides, in 90% of campus rapes, and in 95% of violent crimes on campus. If guns are readily accessible, these assaults are much more likely to be fatal. Guns and alcohol are an extremely dangerous combination.

- **Suicide and Mental Illness** - Mental health issues and the risks of suicide among college students are another prime reason to limit campus access to guns by college students. Researchers have found that youths aged 18 to 25 experience the highest rate of mental health problems. Introducing firearms into this psychological cauldron could dramatically increase the danger to students on campus.

- **Gun Theft** - Increasing gun ownership among college students is likely to provide a prime, tempting target to gun thieves. The U.S. Justice Department has found that 10% of prison inmates incarcerated on gun-related charges obtained their firearm through theft. Most stolen guns are taken from homes or parked cars. These targets are relatively secure when compared to backpacks, cafeterias or lockers. Once a gun is stolen, it is much more likely to be used in a crime, and that not only endangers students on and off campus, but also increases the potential for danger to surrounding communities.
Precedent

Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1379.3 (N) prohibits concealed weapons at schools, airports, parades, public meetings, polling places, churches, the state capitol, among others. Is it less important to protect college students on campus than legislators in the state capitol?

This Type of Legislation is Being Rejected Across the Country

- All but 2 states in the nation have some sort of concealed weapons law.
- Thirty-eight states ban firearms on school grounds, 11 leave the decision up to campuses, and no university in those 11 states allows concealed weapons.
- Only Utah allows concealed weapons onto college campuses, with certain restrictions.
- This year, lawmakers in 15 states debated whether to allow people who have concealed weapons permits to bring their guns into classrooms. Most of the bills died without leaving committee. This type of legislation has been rejected in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Arizona, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Idaho and Washington. Even Virginia, home state of the worst college shooting tragedy in history, rejected similar legislation.
- Louisiana is the only state with this type of legislation still in play.

More Guns on Campus on Campus Endangers Children and Private Business Employees

- Louisiana's college campuses are home to childcare facilities, elementary and secondary lab schools, and hundreds of enrichment camps for children.
- Our colleges accept thousands of high school students in dual enrollment courses.
- A typical campus hosts dozens of private businesses, including bookstores, restaurants, and banks.
- House Bill 199 would not only compromise the safety of college students and faculty, but it would also put at risk untold numbers of children and others not directly under the purview of the institution.

Putting Guns in College Classrooms is Opposed by Professionals

Organizations which have gone on record as opposing concealed weapons on college campuses include:

- American Council on Education
- American Association of Community Colleges
- American Association of Universities
- American Association of State College and Universities
- National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges
- American Council on Education
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Brotherhood of Police Officers
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators