Southern University passed a resolution expressing their concern over the sizeable budget cuts to education. Other university faculties are currently discussing their possible responses to this financial issue. As I receive them, I will send them to everyone, if that was not already done by the university. If the members of ALFS wish to also make such a resolution combining the ideas of the various institutions, such a synthesis could be created.

Jim Robinson
ALFS

RESOLUTION TO GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL

FROM THE FACULTY SENATE OF SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE
IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO LOUISIANA HIGHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, it has been established by agencies such as the National Science Foundation, UNESCO, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund that higher education is the primary engine for economic growth and development; and

WHEREAS, a drastic budget cut to higher education will exacerbate Louisiana's loss of its best and brightest; and

WHEREAS, a budget cut of this magnitude will have an adverse effect on Southern University in meeting the core requirement relative to financial support for the reaffirmation of accreditation, at both program and university levels; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has supported giving more than $350 million in tax cuts beginning 2009 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, $854 million is projected in the "rainy day" fund by the end of this fiscal year and $437 million is available in economic development funds, and the existence of these funds means that there are alternatives, short of gutting higher education, available to the State to meet its fiscal obligations; and

WHEREAS, drastic cuts to higher education across the State will jeopardize current and future Federal and private funding and investment for education in Louisiana, thereby diminishing the ability of institutions of higher education to deliver quality instruction, research, and services to the State; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate and the Faculty of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College vigorously request that the Governor rescind immediately the proposed massive budget cuts to Louisiana higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate and the Faculty of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College call upon the Governor to propose alternative remedies to the State's fiscal plight to minimize the impact on higher education.

> Done this day in the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on January 22, 2009.