

1617-11M

2016 Tuition and Fee Independence Amendment

We, the members of the McNeese State University Faculty Senate, in order to offer guidance on higher education funding in Louisiana, move that open discussion be held on Amendment #2 and an official statement of our position be made.

November 2, 2016

MOTION

Whereas, the current election includes a proposed constitutional amendment increasing state postsecondary management boards control over tuition and fees, and

Whereas, the Amendment would add the following section to Article VIII:

§7.2. Postsecondary Education Management Boards; Tuition and Fee Authority Section 7.2.
Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VII, Section 2.1(A) or any other provision of this constitution to the contrary, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges shall have the authority to establish the tuition and mandatory fee amounts charged by the institutions under their respective supervision and management without legislative approval. Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8, 2016. Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows: Do you support an amendment to authorize the postsecondary education management boards to establish the tuition and mandatory fee amounts charged by institutions under their supervision and management, without legislative approval? (Adds Article VIII, Section 7.2)

Ref:

[https://ballotpedia.org/Louisiana_Authority_of_College_Boards_to_Establish_Tuition_and_Fees_without_Legislative_Approval,_Amendment_2_\(2016\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Louisiana_Authority_of_College_Boards_to_Establish_Tuition_and_Fees_without_Legislative_Approval,_Amendment_2_(2016))

And **whereas**, a “Yes” vote “supports allowing college boards to establish tuition and fee amounts for their respective institutions without legislative approval” and a “No” vote “opposes this proposal for allowing college boards to establish tuition and fee amounts for their respective institutions without legislative approval,” and whereas it is uncertain whether tuition and fee independence would produce further state cuts to education (to offset new revenue),

Now, therefore, be it moved by the McNeese State University Faculty Senate, that

1. The Faculty Senate establish an official position of support or condemnation of the proposed amendment.