

**LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans  
FACULTY SENATE CONSTITUTION**

**Preamble**

The faculty of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans (LSUHSC-NO), within applicable laws and policies of the Chancellor of the LSUHSC-NO, the President of the LSU System, and the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and A & M College, do hereby effect through this Constitution the Faculty Senate of the LSUHSC-NO.

**Article I. Name.**

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Faculty Senate of the LSUHSC-NO, hereinafter referred to as the Senate.

**Article II. Purpose.**

Section 1. To serve as a representative voice of the faculty.

Section 2. To provide a means of communication between the faculty and the Chancellor and the Administration staff of the LSUHSC-NO.

A. The Faculty Senate, subject to the powers vested in the Chancellor of LSUHSC-NO, shall:

(i) consider and make recommendations concerning all matters of general interest, as distinguished from those affecting a single school;

(ii) review and approve all changes in existing policies or the establishment of new policies relating to matters of general LSUHSC-NO interest when these policies are brought to the Senate for consideration by the Chancellor of LSUHSC-NO or by its own members or constituencies;

iii) consider and make recommendations on any matters referred to it by the Chancellor of LSUHSC-NO or by its own members or constituencies.

B. Any recognized group within the LSUHSC-NO community shall possess the privilege of presenting suggestions or raising problems for consideration by the Faculty Senate or by any of the standing committees of the Senate. The "LSUHSC-NO community" shall mean those eligible for membership in the Senate as individuals, as well as, groups whose members are all eligible for membership in the Senate.

Section 3. To accept and share responsibility with administration and students in all efforts to improve the stature and to accomplish the mission of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-New Orleans.

Section 4. To communicate with the faculty assemblies of the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, Graduate Studies and Public Health at LSUHSC-NO.

Section 5. To communicate with the faculty senates of the other colleges and universities within the State of Louisiana.

**Article III. Jurisdiction.**

Section 1. The Senate may hear, consider, and advise the Chancellor of the LSUHSC-NO and his administration on any matter of concern.

Section 2. The Senate, upon its request, may be furnished by the Chancellor of the LSUHSC-NO information appropriate to its consideration in such a matter.

**Article IV. Membership and Term of Office.**

Section 1. Members of the Senate shall be selected/elected by the respective Faculty Organizations by

52 whatever procedure they approve, provided that such procedure yields Delegates who comply with  
53 faculty representation as set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws.  
54 Section 2. For purposes of selecting Senators, eligible faculty are those full-time faculty with academic rank  
55 of Instructor or above as defined by the schools, excluding those administrators, deans, department  
56 heads, and any others whose functions are primarily administrative.  
57 Section 3. Membership in the Senate shall be determined by proportional representation, in accordance with  
58 the formula provided in the Bylaws.  
59 Section 4. A Senator may be recalled, as determined by the respective Faculty Organization bylaws.  
60 Section 5. The term of office of a Senator shall be three academic years, commencing at the first Senate  
61 meeting following his/her election.  
62 Section 6. Senators are eligible to serve no more than two consecutive terms. [Senators elected to an initial  
63 one or two-year partial terms shall be eligible to succeed themselves at the conclusion of their initial  
64 term for one additional term.]  
65 Section 7. Approximately one-third of the members of the Senate shall be elected each year. The terms of  
66 office shall be staggered.  
67 Section 8. The Senate shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its members and shall have the power  
68 to review any contested election.  
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#### 70 Article V. **Meetings.**

71 Section 1. The Senate shall meet in regular monthly sessions.  
72 Section 2. Special meetings of the Senate may be called as stipulated in the Bylaws.  
73 Section 3. Rules governing the conduct of regular and special meetings shall be as stipulated in the Bylaws.  
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#### 75 Article VI. **Officers.**

76 Section 1. All officers of the Senate shall be elected members of the Senate.  
77 Section 2. Officers of the Senate shall be the President, the President-elect, the Secretary, an elected Faculty  
78 Representative (see Article VIII, section 2), and an Alternate Faculty Representative.  
79 Section 3. The officers of the Senate shall be elected in accordance with the Bylaws.  
80 Section 4. The officers of the Senate shall discharge their duties as stipulated in the Bylaws.  
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#### 82 Article VII. **Executive Committee.**

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84 Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Senate shall consist of the President, the Past President (ex-  
85 officio), President-elect, Secretary, and the Faculty Representatives to the LSU System.  
86 Section 2. The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be as stipulated in the Bylaws.  
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#### 88 Article VIII. **Elections.**

89 Section 1. Members of the Senate shall be selected during the first half of June of each year by such means  
90 as the respective faculty assemblies vote to approve.  
91 Section 2. Officers of the Senate shall be elected by secret ballot at the June meeting of the Faculty Senate  
92 as the first order of business.  
93 Section 3. Two Faculty Representatives to the LSU System will be elected by the Senate to serve two-year  
94 terms (with their terms staggered if possible). The Representatives may be a senator or a past  
95 senator, but should by definition be eligible for election to their respective faculty assemblies. The  
96 maximum service period of the Representatives shall be two consecutive terms. It is encouraged  
97 that these offices of the Senate will rotate among the various Schools representing LSUHSC-NO.  
98 Section 4. If a senator in the second year of their current term is elected to the office of President-elect, then  
99 the term of that senator shall be extended to include a 4<sup>th</sup> year during which they, as President, will  
100 serve as member-at-large. When the President becomes a member at large, his/her original senate  
101 seat will become vacant, at which time the respective faculty assembly will elect a new senator to  
102 serve a 3-year term as stipulated in the By-Laws. Should the President-elect senator be re-elected to  
103 a second 3-year term in the Senate by their respective faculty assembly, that senator will serve as

104 President during the first year of their second term and the term will not be extended beyond 3  
105 years.  
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108 **Article IX. Committees.**

109 Section 1. The standing committees of the Senate shall be:

- 110 A. Professional Rights, Responsibilities and Faculty Welfare Committee
- 111 B. Research Committee
- 112 C. Clinical Education, Service, and Patient Care Committee
- 113 D. Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations and Elections Committee
- 114 E. Facilities, Safety, and Security Committee
- 115 F. Electronic Communication Committee

116 Section 2. Standing committees shall:

- 117 A. Formulate and recommend actions and policies for approval by the Senate.
- 118 B. Be available to consult and advise the Chancellor and Administration of the LSUHSC-NO.
- 119 C. Study matters assigned to them by the Senate or the Executive Committee, and consider written  
120 requests of faculty.
- 121 D. Seek factual information and the opinions of interested parties prior to any final action on a  
122 matter, and
- 123 E. Report to the Senate at each regular meeting.

124 Section 3. The functions of the standing committees of the Senate shall be as stipulated in the Bylaws.

125 Section 4. Ad Hoc committees of the Senate may be appointed by the President of the Senate or Chancellor  
126 to deal with specific issues as they arise.  
127

128 **Article X. Amendments.**

129 Section 1. Any proposal to amend, alter, or repeal the provisions of this Constitution shall be initially  
130 supported by a simple majority vote of the Senate.

131 Section 2. Any such proposal shall be made at least one regular meeting preceding that at which the vote on  
132 ratification is taken.

133 Section 3. Proposed amendments shall require ratification by a two-thirds vote of the total Senate.

134 Section 4. The procedure for amendments shall be as stipulated in the Bylaws.  
135

136 **Article XI. Interpretation.**

137 Provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws, whenever unclear, ambiguous, or indefinite, shall be subject to  
138 interpretation by a simple majority vote of the total Faculty Senate.

139 **LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans**  
140 **FACULTY SENATE BYLAWS**

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142 **Article I. Membership.**

143 Section 1. **Eligibility.** Members of the Senate shall be elected from the LSUHSC-NO General Faculty as  
144 defined in Article IV of the Constitution.

145 Section 2. **Formula for Representation.** The Senate shall consist of a total number of 31 members as  
146 determined by the following formula:

- 147 A. There will be eight senators from the LSUHSC-NO Faculty Assembly of the School of  
148 Medicine, the majority of whom should be from clinical departments. Five senators  
149 will be elected by each of the Faculty Organizations of the LSUHSC-NO Schools of  
150 Nursing, Allied Health Professions, Dentistry and Public Health. Two senators will  
151 be elected by the LSUHSC-NO School of Graduate Studies. One senator will also  
152 be elected by the LSUHSC-NO library faculty.

153 Section 3. **Vacancies.** In case of resignation, incapacity, change of status, or irregular attendance of any  
154 Senator, the respective Faculty Organization shall be responsible for naming a replacement to serve  
155 the term remaining. Irregular attendance shall be defined as failure to attend at least one-half of the  
156 regular Senate meetings during any one six-month period.

157 Section 4. **Proxy Voting.** Any member of the Faculty Senate may designate a member of the full-time  
158 faculty from his/her Faculty Organization to serve as his/her alternate at any specific meeting of the  
159 Faculty Senate; provided, however, no person may be designated an alternate for more than one  
160 absent elected senator and no elected senator may serve as his/her alternate. To designate an  
161 alternate a member of the Senate shall execute a proxy form specifying the name of the alternate,  
162 the meeting for which the alternate shall represent the absent senator, and certifying that the named  
163 alternate is a full-time member of the Faculty Organization. The executed alternate form may be  
164 presented to the Secretary prior to roll call or mailed to the Secretary at his/her faculty box at least  
165 one week prior to a scheduled meeting.

166 Section 5. **Meetings.** The President will select a location for meetings of the full Senate.  
167

168 **Article II. Officers.**

169 Section 1. Duties of Officers.

170 1. The President shall

- 171 A. Preside at meetings of the Executive Committee,  
172 B. Select the place of meeting of the Senate and notify Senators of any change in regularly  
173 designated times and places,  
174 C. Preside at meetings of the Senate,  
175 D. Appoint the members to the standing committees of the Senate  
176 E. Assign each new proposal and/or matter to the appropriate committee of the Senate,  
177 F. Be a voting member of the Senate,  
178 G. Inform any constituency when it is necessary for it to fill a vacancy in its representation  
179 in the Senate,  
180 H. State clearly each issue being voted on before the vote is taken and announce to the  
181 Senate the results of the vote,  
182 I. Appoint a member of the Senate to keep records of any meeting from which the Secretary  
183 is absent,  
184 J. Appoint ad hoc committees of the Senate subject to the approval of the Executive  
185 Committee,  
186 K. Transmit to the Chancellor of the LSUHSC-NO all recommendations approved by the  
187 Senate,  
188 L. Serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee for one year following the  
189 expiration of his/her term of office.  
190 M. Serve or appoint one designate to represent the Senate on the Association of Louisiana

191 Faculty Senates.

192 N. Serve or appoint a designate to represent the senate at the Conference of La. Colleges  
193 and Universities.

194 O. Serve as an ex-officio member of the Chancellor's Executive Committee.

195 2. The President-elect shall:

196 A. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee,

197 B. Assume, in the absence of the President, the duties of the President, and

198 C. Become the President should the position become vacant.

199 D. Assume the office of President at the conclusion of the term of the current President.

200 3. The Secretary shall

201 A. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee,

202 B. Keep clear and accurate records of the transactions of the Senate,

203 C. Prepare written Minutes for each Senate meeting for distribution to Senators and guests  
204 in order to solicit comments regarding accuracy. Distribute corrected draft to  
205 Senators, guests, Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs prior to the  
206 next Senate meeting.

207 D. Submit a copy of the approved minutes and other official documents of the Senate for  
208 archiving by the LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans Library within one  
209 month after each meeting (Medical and Dental libraries).

210 E. Keep an up-to-date compilation of all Senate Resolutions and the Chancellor's responses  
211 to these resolutions,

212 F. Preside, in the absence of the President and President-elect, at meetings of the Senate  
213 long enough to allow for the election of a temporary chairperson for that meeting,

214 G. Carry on any necessary correspondence of the Senate,

215 H. Tabulate and record the results of all votes of the Senate,

216 I. Keep a current list of the members of the Senate,

217 J. Record the names of the members present at each meeting of the Senate 241 and inform  
218 the President when excessive absences occur,

219 K. Distribute an agenda for the Senate meetings at least 4 days before the meeting, and

220 L. Keep clear and concise minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee.

221 4. The Faculty Representatives shall:

222 A. Report to the Senate on issues being considered by the Board of Supervisors, particularly  
223 those that will have an effect on LSUHSC-NO.

224 B. Serve as the faculty's representative to the LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors and  
225 report to the Senate on relevant developments and proceedings.

226 C. Provide this information in summary form so that it can be disseminated to the presiding  
227 officers of each Faculty Assembly of the Health Sciences Center.

228 Section 2. **Term of Office.** The term of office for the senate President, President-elect, and Secretary shall  
229 be for one twelve (12) month period, running from July 1 (beginning of the school fiscal year  
230 following the June election). The term of office for the Faculty Representative to the Council of  
231 Faculty Advisors shall be two years. The Secretary and Faculty Representatives may serve two  
232 consecutive terms.

### 234 Article III. **Executive Committee.**

235 Section 1. **Meetings.** The Executive Committee shall confer prior to each regular meeting of the Senate  
236 and prepare an agenda for that meeting.

237 Section 2. **Duties.** The Executive Committee shall

238 A. Make certain that any proposal submitted by a Senator shall be considered by the Senate,

239 B. Distribute an agenda to all Senators at least five days prior to all regular meetings of the  
240 Senate, and

241 C. Prepare a yearly calendar of meetings of the Senate, stipulating the deadlines for  
242 submitting proposals to be included in the agendas.

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Article IV. **Elections.**

Section 1. **Election of Officers.** The Nominations and Elections Committee shall at the May meeting of the Senate, submit at least one name for each office of the Senate except for the office of President, and thereafter other nominations may be called for from the floor. The vote for Officers of the Senate shall be taken at the June meeting of the Faculty Senate in accordance with Article VIII Section 2 of the Constitution. In the event that an elected officer other than the President leaves office more than three meetings prior to the scheduled end of their term, the members of the Senate will be notified of the vacancy, nominations for a replacement will be solicited at the next regular meeting of the Senate, and a replacement will be elected at the meeting after that. If the vacancy begins less than three meetings before the scheduled end of the officer's term, a temporary replacement may be solicited by the President or the Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations and Elections Committee and presented for election by a majority vote of the Senators present at the next Senate meeting. If the President leaves office, then the President-elect will become President and serve as President for the remainder of that year as well as the following year as stipulated in Article II Section 1 of the Bylaws.

Article V. **Committees.**

Section 1. **Formation.** In accordance with Article II Section 1 Subparagraphs D and J of the Bylaws, the President of the Senate shall appoint members to all standing and ad hoc committees of the Senate. A Senator shall not be a member of more than one standing committee of the Senate. Each standing and ad hoc committee of the Senate shall have the authority to appoint non-Senate members of the LSUHSC-NO General Faculty to serve on its committee. The Senate President will appoint the chairperson of each committee of the Senate from among the Senate members of the committee.

Section 2. **Standing Committees of the Senate.**

- A. **Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare Committee** of the Senate shall consider, make recommendations on, and report to the Senate on matters pertaining to academic freedom, academic fairness, and professional ethics in any area appropriate to its purview. It shall also consider, make recommendations on, and report to the Senate on matters pertaining to faculty welfare, benefits, and programs in any area appropriate to its purview.
- B. **Research Committee** of the Senate shall consider, make recommendations on, and report to the Senate on matters pertaining to LSUHSC-NO research studies (clinical, applied, and basic science), space, funding and programs in any area appropriate to its purview.
- C. **Clinical Education, Service, and Patient Care Committee** of the Senate shall consider, make recommendations on, and report to the Senate on matters pertaining to LSUHSC-NO clinical education, service, patient care and programs in any area appropriate to its purview.
- D. **Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations and Elections Committee** of the Senate shall consider and recommend to the Senate resolutions concerning matters of general interest to LSUHSC-NO faculty. It shall further consider, make recommendations on, and report to the Senate on matters pertaining to the amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws. It shall also organize a subcommittee of Senate members who are not candidates for reelection that shall propose a slate of officers for election for the upcoming year.
- E. **Facilities, Safety, and Security Committee** shall consider, make recommendations on, and report to the Senate on matters pertaining to the physical plant and safety and security of the LSU Health Sciences Center-NO.
- F. **Electronic Communications Committee** shall be responsible for maintaining information on the Faculty Senate Website.

Article VI. **Meetings.**

Section 1. **Regular Meetings.** The first regular meeting of the Senate shall be held in July unless the Senate votes to recess until the August meeting. Other regular meetings shall be held

295                   pursuant to Article V. Section 1 of the Constitution.

296 Section 2. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Senate may be called by the Secretary at the request  
297 of the President of the Senate or upon the written request of 25% of the Senators.

298 Section 3. **Quorum.** A simple majority (16) of Senators, including at least one representative from each  
299 Faculty Organization shall be required to conduct business at any meeting of the Senate.

300 Section 4. **Minutes.** A complete and permanent set of minutes of each meeting shall be kept by the  
301 Secretary.

302 Section 5. **Guests.** Meetings of the Senate shall be open. The Senate may choose to go into executive  
303 session by a majority vote of the members present for a specific purpose allowed by law. A  
304 member of the General Faculty may “at the request of a Senator” be allowed to address the  
305 Senate for a specific purpose for no more than ten minutes. The Chancellor of LSUHSC-  
306 NO, or his/her designated representative, or any person not a member of the General  
307 Faculty, may address the Senate subject to the approval of a majority of those present.

308 Section 6. **Conduct of Meetings.** The conduct of Senate business shall be in accordance with Robert's  
309 Rules of Order (Revised).

310 Section 7. **Order of Business.** The order of business at Senate meetings shall be as follows:

- 311 A. Call to Order
- 312 B. Roll Call
- 313 C. Approval of Minutes
- 314 D. Unfinished Business
- 315 E. New Business
- 316 F. Reports of Committees of the Senate
- 317 G. Reports of the Faculty Representative and/or Alternate
- 318 H. Announcements
- 319 I. Adjournment

320 Section 8. **Procedures on Proposals other than Amendments.** The following procedures shall be used  
321 for all proposals to the Senate:

- 322 A. Proposals for consideration by the Senate must be submitted in writing to the Executive  
323 Committee at least two weeks before the next scheduled meeting of the Senate. This  
324 provision may be waived only if the Executive Committee interprets a proposal to be an  
325 emergency.
- 326 B. Each new proposal shall be read to the Senate during the portion of the meeting devoted to new  
327 business.
- 328 C. After each proposal is read, the Senate shall consider the question of sending the proposal to a  
329 standing committee of the Senate. Debate on the question shall be limited to five minutes  
330 for proponents and five minutes for opponents.
- 331 D. If a majority of the Senate present approve, the President shall assign the proposal to the  
332 appropriate committee of the Senate. If less than a majority of the Senators present  
333 approve, the proposal shall be dropped.
- 334 E. At the next meeting of the Senate, the appropriate committee of the Senate shall make a full  
335 report of its studies on the proposal and state any alterations or objections that it feels  
336 advisable to make.
- 337 F. After the appropriate committee of the Senate has completed its report, the Senate shall debate  
338 the question of adopting the proposed recommendation. Amendments may be submitted  
339 from the floor.
- 340 G. The failure of a committee of the Senate to make a report at its appointed time shall not  
341 preclude the right of the Senate at that time to move, debate, adopt, or reject the proposed  
342 recommendation or a variation of it.
- 343 H. A proposed recommendation shall not be adopted as a recommendation of the Senate unless it  
344 receives the vote of a majority of the Senators present.
- 345 I. A minority report may be filed by a Senator(s) who does not vote with the majority.
- 346 J. If the Executive Committee interprets a proposal to be an emergency, the proposal need not  
347 be referred to committee, and a recommendation may be introduced, drafted, and  
348 adopted during the same meeting at which it was proposed.
- 349 K. The Chancellor or his designate, at his discretion, may submit items to the Senate for  
350 discussion and/or request to address the Senate.

351 Section 9. **Voting Procedures.** Voting shall be by show of hands or without objection at all in-person  
352 meetings. A roll call vote is required when requested by any Senator. A secret ballot  
353 requires a majority vote of the Senate.  
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355 Article VII. **Amendments.**

356 Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution or its Bylaws shall be made at regular meetings of the  
357 Senate.

358 Section 2. The following procedure shall be used when the Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions,  
359 Nominations and Elections Committee determines after due deliberation that an  
360 amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws is needed:

- 361 A. The general nature of the proposed amendment shall be announced to the Senate and an  
362 affirmative vote obtained from a majority of the Senators present in order to proceed.
- 363 B. At the next meeting of the Senate, the Committee shall present a draft of the proposed  
364 amendment and the rationale behind it, after which the Senate shall debate the proposal.  
365 Amendments to the proposal may be submitted from the floor.
- 366 C. A draft incorporating any necessary changes raised in the discussion will be circulated to  
367 the entire Senate and the President of each School's Faculty Assembly at least two  
368 weeks prior to the meeting at which any voting on the amendment is to occur.
- 369 D. At the next meeting of the Senate, the Senate shall debate the question of adopting the  
370 amendment. Modifications to the proposal may be submitted from the floor.
- 371 E. After debate, the proposal shall require a two-thirds vote of the total Senate membership to  
372 be enacted.

373 Section 3. The following procedure shall be used for any individual Senator to directly propose an  
374 amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws:

- 375 A. To propose an amendment, a Senator must notify the Secretary of his/her intentions in  
376 writing at least three weeks prior to the next regular meeting. A copy of the proposal  
377 shall be included in the call for the next regular meeting and a copy shall be sent to the  
378 President of each School's Faculty Assembly at least ten days prior to the next meeting.
- 379 B. At the next regular meeting, the President of the Senate shall read the proposal and call for  
380 preliminary debate that shall be limited to five minutes for proponents and five minutes  
381 for opponents.
- 382 C. For the proposal to be admitted for further consideration after preliminary debate it must  
383 be supported by a simple majority of the Senators present, pursuant to Article X, Section  
384 I of the Constitution. Without this support, the proposal shall die for lack of support.
- 385 D. Upon a proposal's being admitted for further consideration, the President of the Senate  
386 shall refer the proposal to the Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations and  
387 Elections Committee of the Senate for further study.
- 388 E. At the next meeting of the Senate, the Committee shall make a full report of its studies on  
389 the proposal and state any alterations or objections that it feels advisable to make.
- 390 F. After the Committee has completed its report, the Senate shall debate the question of  
391 adopting the proposal. Amendments to the proposal may be submitted from the floor.
- 392 G. The failure of the Committee to make its report at the appointed time shall not preclude  
393 the right of the Senate at that time to move, debate, adopt, or reject the proposal or a  
394 variation of it.
- 395 H. After debate, the proposal shall require a two-thirds vote of the total Senate membership  
396 to be enacted.

397 **APPENDIX A**

398 **LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans**  
399 **FACULTY SENATE**

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401 **PROXY FORM: APPOINTMENT OF PROXY SENATOR**  
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403 I hereby designate and appoint to serve as my alternate and proxy at a meeting of the Faculty Senate  
404 of the LSUHSC-NO to be held on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, or any adjournment thereof.

405 \_\_\_\_\_  
406  
407 (Print name of the designated proxy / alternate)

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409 I certify that the named alternate is a full-time member of the faculty of the Faculty Organization I  
410 represent.

411  
412 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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414 School/Faculty Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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418 \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature of Senator granting proxy)

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421 \_\_\_\_\_ (Print name of Senator granting proxy)

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