



1 opportunities on the campus as a whole as well as in the classrooms and lecture halls; and  
2 these purposes reflect the values of pluralism, diversity, opportunity, critical intelligence,  
3 openness, and fairness that are the cornerstones of our society, and academic freedom and  
4 intellectual diversity are values indispensable to a postsecondary education; and

5 WHEREAS, from its first formulations in the General Report of the Committee on  
6 Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors, the  
7 concept of academic freedom has been premised on the ideas that knowledge is a never-  
8 ending pursuit of the truth, that there is no truth that is not in principle open to challenge, and  
9 that no party or intellectual faction has a monopoly on wisdom; and

10 WHEREAS, academic freedom is most likely to thrive in an environment of  
11 intellectual diversity that protects and fosters independence of thought and speech; and

12 WHEREAS, because free inquiry and its fruits are crucial to the democratic process,  
13 and academic freedom is a national value as well; and

14 WHEREAS, academic freedom consists of protecting the intellectual independence  
15 of professors, researchers, and students in the pursuit of knowledge and the expression of  
16 ideas from interference by legislators or authorities within the college or university itself,  
17 meaning that no political, ideological, or religious orthodoxy should be imposed on  
18 professors and researchers through the hiring, tenure, or termination process, nor through  
19 any other administrative means by the institution; and

20 WHEREAS, the 1915 Declaration of Principles of the American Association of  
21 University Professors admonished faculty members to avoid "taking unfair advantage of the  
22 student's immaturity by indoctrinating him with the teacher's own opinions before the  
23 student has had an opportunity fairly to examine other opinions upon the matters in question,  
24 and before he has sufficient knowledge and ripeness of judgment to be entitled to form any  
25 definitive opinion of his own"; and

26 WHEREAS, in 1967, the American Association of University Professors' Joint  
27 Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students reinforced and amplified this injunction by  
28 noting "[s]tudents should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in  
29 any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion".

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
2 urge and request that each of the state's public postsecondary education management boards  
3 undertake a complete and thorough review of board policies, rules, and procedures and the  
4 policies, rules, and procedures of the institutions under its jurisdiction to assure that such  
5 policies, rules, and procedures meet the following guidelines and standards in order to secure  
6 the intellectual independence of faculty members and students, protect the principles of  
7 academic freedom, promote intellectual diversity, and support the pursuit of knowledge and  
8 truth:

- 9           (1) All faculty members shall be hired, fired, promoted, and granted tenure on  
10 the basis of their competence and appropriate knowledge in the field of their  
11 expertise and, in the humanities, the social sciences, and the arts, with a view  
12 toward fostering a plurality of methodologies and perspectives.
- 13           (2) No faculty member shall be hired, fired, promoted, or denied promotion or  
14 tenure on the basis of the faculty member's political, ideological, or religious  
15 beliefs.
- 16           (3) No faculty member shall be excluded from tenure, search, and hiring  
17 committees on the basis of the faculty member's political, ideological, or  
18 religious beliefs.
- 19           (4) Students shall be graded solely on the basis of their reasoned answers and  
20 appropriate knowledge of the subjects and disciplines and not on the basis of  
21 their political, ideological, or religious beliefs.
- 22           (5) Curricula and reading lists in the humanities and social sciences shall respect  
23 all human knowledge in these areas and provide students with dissenting  
24 sources and viewpoints.
- 25           (6) Teachers shall be free to pursue their own findings and perspectives in  
26 presenting their views but shall consider and make their students aware of  
27 other viewpoints.
- 28           (7) Academic disciplines shall welcome a diversity of approaches, and  
29 institutions shall recognize that exposing students to the spectrum of

1 significant scholarly viewpoints on the subjects examined in their courses is  
2 a primary responsibility of faculty members.

3 (8) Faculty members shall not use their courses or their positions for the purpose  
4 of political, ideological, religious, or antireligious indoctrination.

5 (9) The freedoms of speech, expression, assembly, and conscience of students  
6 and student organizations shall not be infringed upon instructors, institutional  
7 administrators, student government organizations, or by institutional policies,  
8 rules, or procedures.

9 (10) Selection of speakers, allocation of funds for speakers' programs, and other  
10 student activities shall observe the principles of academic freedom and  
11 promote intellectual pluralism.

12 (11) Except as provided by law, the obstruction of invited campus speakers, the  
13 destruction of campus literature, and other efforts to obstruct a civil exchange  
14 of ideas shall not be permitted.

15 (12) Academic institutions and professional societies shall maintain a posture of  
16 organizational neutrality with respect to the substantive disagreements that  
17 divide researchers on questions within or outside their fields of inquiry,  
18 recognizing that knowledge advances when individual scholars are left free  
19 to reach their own conclusions about which methods, facts, and theories have  
20 been validated by research and that such institutions and societies, formed to  
21 advance knowledge within an area of research, to maintain the integrity of  
22 the research process, and to organize the professional lives of related  
23 researchers, serve as indispensable venues within which scholars circulate  
24 research findings and debate their interpretations.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each public postsecondary education  
26 management board, upon completing its review of board policies, rules, and procedures and  
27 the policies, rules, and procedures of the institutions under its jurisdiction as provided by this  
28 Resolution, shall take such action as may be necessary to revise any such existing policy,  
29 rule, or procedure that fails to meet the guidelines and standards enumerated in this  
30 Resolution so that it meets such guidelines and standards and, in addition, shall establish a

1 process to assure that newly enacted board and institutional policies, rules, and procedures  
2 meet these guidelines and standards relative to intellectual independence, academic freedom,  
3 intellectual diversity, and the pursuit of knowledge and truth.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted  
5 to the chairman of each public postsecondary education management board, the chairman  
6 of the Board of Regents, and the commissioner of higher education.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

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Crowe

HCR No. 25

Requests that each of the state's public postsecondary education management boards undertake a complete and thorough review of board policies, rules, and procedures and the policies, rules, and procedures of the institutions under its jurisdiction in order to assure that such policies, rules, and procedures meet guidelines and standards specified in the resolution that are designed to secure the intellectual independence of faculty members and students, protect the principles of academic freedom, promote intellectual diversity, and support the pursuit of knowledge and truth.

Also provides that each management board shall take such action as necessary to revise any policy, rule, or procedure that fails to meet the enumerated guidelines and standards so that it meets them and, in addition, shall establish a process to assure that newly enacted board and institutional policies, rules, and procedures meet such guidelines and standards.