

**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE  
FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Governmental Concerns Committee  
Name of Committee

Robert Slater  
Person Submitting Report

2/21/18  
Date

**Members:**

Daniel Gang, [ddg7603@louisiana.edu](mailto:ddg7603@louisiana.edu)  
Gwen Leigh, [gtl6893@louisiana.edu](mailto:gtl6893@louisiana.edu)  
Salah Massoud, [ssmassoud@louisiana.edu](mailto:ssmassoud@louisiana.edu)  
Candice May, [ckm5363@louisiana.edu](mailto:ckm5363@louisiana.edu)  
Colleen Carraher Wolverton, [Wolverton@louisiana.edu](mailto:Wolverton@louisiana.edu)  
Robert Slater, [slater99@gmail.com](mailto:slater99@gmail.com) (Chair)  
Kari Smith, [kjs9673@louisiana.edu](mailto:kjs9673@louisiana.edu)

**Task of Committee** (please indicate the task of your committee here):

“The Governmental Concerns Committee shall call to the attention of the Senate issues pending before governmental bodies which affect higher education and shall furnish the Senate with information necessary to understanding such issues.”

**Progress Report:**

#	Since the last Faculty Senate Meeting, the <b>following has been accomplished:</b>
1.	The Committee Chair has monitored upcoming legislation pertaining to higher education in Louisiana.

**Committee Members Present at Committee Meetings:** N/A

**Anticipated Future Plans**

#	Before the next Faculty Senate Meeting, the <b>following actions are planned:</b>
1.	<i>Meet with the members of the Committee to discuss and monitor legislation and report to Senate</i>

**Action Required by the Faculty Senate** (list any action that needs to be taken by the Faculty Senate as a result of this report)

Faculty senate members should consult the the First Extraordinary Session listed below and consult the legislative website for further information.. The website can be accessed here:

<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearchList.aspx?srch=c>

**2018 First Extraordinary Session Convened on Monday, February 19, 2018 - Final Adjournment no later than Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

Click here for the Governor’s call: <https://legis.la.gov/LegisDocs/181ES/call.htm>

Here are some news pieces that will help give background.

**Louisiana Legislature's latest special session starts today: 5 things to know**

Edwards and the Legislature will have 17 days to raise taxes and fees they think are needed to help close the state's \$994 million budget gap that opens up July 1. The special session ends March 7.

The lawmakers passed mostly temporary taxes to get out of their fiscal bind in 2016. The GOP-controlled Legislature refused to vote for permanent taxes at the time, and would only agree to temporary taxes that stretched a little over two years. Those temporary taxes are now expiring June 30, leaving the state \$994 million short of what it needs to fund current services after that point.

[http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/02/louisiana\\_budget\\_session.html](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/02/louisiana_budget_session.html)

# Here's why health care, higher ed so often take brunt of Louisiana budget cuts

[http://www.theadvocate.com/baton\\_rouge/news/politics/article\\_cd2fdf8c-ffa8-11e7-a98c-03847778b13b.html](http://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/politics/article_cd2fdf8c-ffa8-11e7-a98c-03847778b13b.html)

## La. higher education leaders urge legislators to renew funding

Failing to replenish nearly \$1 billion in expiring revenue by July 1 would hurt colleges and universities in Louisiana, say the state's higher education leaders.

Under the worst-case-scenario budget proposed Monday by Gov. John Bel Edwards, the need-based Go Grants program would see a cut of \$13 million -- or 50 percent, compared to this year's allocation. Direct funds to state higher education institutions would fall \$26 million.

<http://www.brproud.com/news/local-news/la-higher-education-leaders-urge-legislators-to-renew-funding/935526538>