

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 241

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Thomas C. Galligan Jr. for his service as interim president of Louisiana State University.

WHEREAS, Thomas C. Galligan Jr. began his academic career at LSU as a law professor in 1986, progressed to serving as dean of law at the University of Tennessee, then president of Colby Sawyer College, returning home in 2016 to serve as dean of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center; and

WHEREAS, in late 2019, the LSU Board of Supervisors was in need of an interim president to serve for a short period of time while the university began a search for a permanent president; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galligan readily accepted the challenge of heading the state's flagship university; and

WHEREAS, expectations of a bright and prosperous 2020 were set when the LSU Tigers won the national football championship during Mr. Galligan's first month in office; and

WHEREAS, following the emergence and rapid global spread of the COVID-19 virus, Mr. Galligan led the university into a virtual learning environment on March 12, 2020, that, while undesirable, was necessary to protect the health of the students, faculty, and community, requiring the cancellation of sporting and extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership and collaborative direction, the many campuses of LSU were leading the fight against COVID-19 by producing health workers faster, conducting clinical trials on treatments and therapies, and creating personal protective equipment for use in hospitals and health environments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galligan guided the university toward the initiation of a utility infrastructure overhaul that had been needed for years but had been deferred due to cost; and

WHEREAS, during his time as president, LSU saw its graduation and retention rates rise to record-breaking levels; and

WHEREAS, LSU also faced allegations of Title IX errors, which came to light in November 2020, and Mr. Galligan committed to an open and transparent process of reviewing the cases and improving the Title IX operations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galligan earnestly provided valuable information to the Senate Select Committee on Women and Children for an extended period of time, earning the respect of the committee members and legislators; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galligan's period as interim president was originally expected to be three-to-six months, but expanded to an eighteen-month term of service that encompassed some of the biggest challenges the institution has ever faced; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Mr. Galligan's exceptional level of leadership, commitment, and personal sacrifice, the LSU Board of Supervisors retroactively removed the interim from his title, making him president of LSU, effective January 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galligan capably navigated the eight-campus LSU family through multiple crises, and his leadership enabled the university to endure the COVID-19 pandemic, develop its outdated policies and procedures, and emerge ready to return to normal activities; and

WHEREAS, Thomas C. Galligan Jr. faced a seemingly insurmountable degree of hardships during his brief tenure as Louisiana State University's president, but he faced these challenges with poise; he is most deserving of recognition for his service to the state's flagship university.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Thomas C. Galligan Jr. for his service as interim president of Louisiana State University; does hereby express its sincere gratitude to Thomas C. Galligan Jr. for agreeing to serve as the president of Louisiana State University during unprecedented times and providing outstanding leadership to the university; and does hereby extend sincere hopes that he enjoy continued comfort and prosperity as he moves on to another venture in life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Thomas C. Galligan Jr.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE