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AGENDA
STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 19, 2019 at 11:45 a.m.

The Claiborne Building
Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Final Rulemaking – Scholarship and Grant Program
 - B. Approval of TOPS Exceptions
- IV. Other Business – LONI Update
- V. Adjournment

Committee Members: Robert Levy, Chair, Gerald Theunissen, Vice Chair, Charles McDonald, Sonia Pérez; Wilbert Pryor; Collis Temple III, Felix Weill

Staff Member: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

Agenda Item III.A.

Consent Agenda: Publication of Final Rule

Authorize publication of final rule to amend Section 703 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to add certain Cambridge University courses as equivalents in the TOPS core curriculum for graduates of 2018 and later, to add certain Cambridge University courses as honors courses that may be graded on a 5.0 scale for graduates of 2018 and later, and to add certain Honors courses approved to be graded on a 5.0 scale for graduates of 2018 and later.

Background:

At its September 25, 2019, meeting, the Board of Regents authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to effect the below-described rule changes. The Notice of Intent was published in the *Louisiana Register* on October 20, 2019. The text of the rule changes is reflected on the attached excerpts from the *Louisiana Register*.

No comments have been received.

This rulemaking:

- Adds certain Cambridge University courses to the TOPS core curriculum as course equivalents and provides that the majority of these courses be designated as honors courses to be graded on a 5.0 grading scale.
- Adds Honors courses that have been approved by the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education which have not previously been codified in rulemaking.

Senior Staff Recommendation:

The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends the authorization of the publication of final rule as presented.

Agenda Item III.B.

Consent Agenda: TOPS Exceptions

Requests for exception to the TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.

Background:

Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules require TOPS recipients to continue to enroll in the fall and spring semesters of each academic year, to remain enrolled throughout the semester, and to earn the annual credit hours required by the end of the academic year. Section 2103.E authorizes the governing body to grant an exception to these requirements when the “student/recipient has exceptional circumstances that are beyond his immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution.”

Seven requests for exception were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of January 15, 2020. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

Senior Staff Recommendation:

The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends approval of TOPS requests for exception as presented.