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Postsecondary Education Agriculture Technology Study Commission Agenda

July 22, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Iowa Room, 1st Floor of the Claiborne Building
1201 North 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Objective:

- Study and make recommendations regarding the needs and opportunities related to the creation of an Agriculture Technology Training Program.
- In the study include program budgetary needs, curricula, implementation timeline, cross-system collaboration, and any other items the study commission deems necessary for the successful implementation of an Agriculture Technology Program.

Agenda Items:

1. Presentation from Senator Bret Allain
2. Roll Call
3. Election of Chair
4. Discussion:
 - Needs and Opportunities for an Agriculture Technology Training Program
 - Program Budgetary Needs
 - Curricula
 - Cross-System Collaboration
 - Implementation Timeline
5. Identify and prioritize next steps

<u>Member</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Seat Information as listed in statute</u>
Dr. Jim Henderson	President and CEO University of Louisiana System	(1) The president of the University of Louisiana System or his designee.
Dr. Bill Richardson	LSU Vice President for Agriculture Dean of the College of Agriculture	(2) The Louisiana State University vice president for agriculture or his designee.
Dr. C. Reuben Walker	Interim Chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center	(3) The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center or his designee.
Mr. W. Dennis Epps	Chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College	(4) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System or his designee.
Dr. Jay Clune	Nichols State University President	(5) The president of Nicholls State University or his designee.
Dr. Kristine Strickland	Fletcher Technical Community College President	(6) The chancellor of Fletcher Technical Community College or his designee.
Mr. Jim Simon	Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation - American Sugarcane League	(7) Four persons appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, representing the major agriculture commodity groups.
Mr. Kenneth Morgan	Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation - Louisiana Forestry Association	(7) Four persons appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, representing the major agriculture commodity groups.
Mr. George LaCour	Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation - Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association	(7) Four persons appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, representing the major agriculture commodity groups.
Mr. Mark Frey	Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation - Louisiana Rice Growers Association	(7) Four persons appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, representing the major agriculture commodity groups.
Mr. Richard Fontenot	Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation	(8) The president of Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation or his designee.
Mr. Philip Richard	Corporate Service Manager at Deep Southern Equipment Dealers	(9) Two persons appointed by the Deep Southern Equipment Dealers Association.
Mr. Shane Soileau	Corporate Service Manager at Deep Southern Equipment Dealers	(9) Two persons appointed by the Deep Southern Equipment Dealers Association.
Dr. Carrie Castille	Louisiana State Director Rural Development United States Department of Agriculture	(10) The state director of United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development in Louisiana or his designee.
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Commissioner of Higher Education	(11) The commissioner of higher education or his designee

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY STUDY
COMMISSION**
Minutes

Monday, July 22, 2019

Iowa Room, 1st Floor of the Claiborne Building
1201 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m., Monday, July 22, 2019, in the Iowa Room, 1st Floor, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Jim Henderson	University of Louisiana System
Mr. Joey Blackburn	Louisiana State University AgCenter
Dr. C. Reuben Walker	Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Mr. W. Dennis Epps	Louisiana Delta Community College
Dr. Jay Clune	Nicholls State University
Dr. Kristine Strickland	Fletcher Technical Community College
Mr. Jim Simon	American Sugarcane League
Mr. Kenneth Morgan	Louisiana Forestry Association
Mr. George LaCour	Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association
Mr. Mark Frey	Louisiana Rice Growers Association
Mr. Shane Soileu	Southern Equipment Dealers
Dr. Carrie Castille	Rural Development United States Department of Agriculture
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents

Members Absent	Affiliation
Mr. Richard Fontenot	Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Mr. Philip Richard	Southern Equipment Dealers

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY STUDY
COMMISSION**

Minutes

PRESENTATION FROM SENATOR BRET ALLAIN

Senator Bret Allain provided an overview of the legislation, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 81, which created the Postsecondary Education Agriculture Technology Study Commission. Senator Allain stated there is a need in the state for farmers to be able to repair and diagnose the equipment that they use in their work. He recalled the current challenges present in training programs and the need for training programs to advance and partner with industry associations in order to improve. Senator Allain reflected on the current course offerings at LSU and LCTCS and encouraged a need to improve and advance each degree using modern technology.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed invited each higher education representative to share information concerning the current agricultural technology programs at each campus.

Chancellor Epps noted that Louisiana Delta Community College is currently offering Precision Agriculture and is working with equipment companies to figure out what training is needed.

Dr. Kristine Strickland stated that Fletcher Technical Community College currently has a model in place in which Fletcher can send an instructor to a facility to train employees on-site to work with equipment and train directly with the equipment used. Dr. Strickland also noted that both Fletcher Technical Community College and Louisiana Delta Community College are developing a survey to send to manufacturers in order to gain information concerning the equipment utilized.

Mr. Joey Blackburn, who represented Dr. Richardson at LSU AgCenter, echoed the need to improve Agriculture Technology Training Programs. He added the need for this training in high school agriculture programs to help bridge the gap for high school and higher education students.

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY STUDY
COMMISSION**

Minutes

Dr. Reuben Walker, representing Southern University AgCenter, agreed to the need for this Commission. He stated his support for the work and the critical need for improvement in agriculture technology education.

Dr. Jim Henderson, President of the University of Louisiana System, provided an overview of the data analytics programs throughout the UL system, noting the opportunities between the two and four-year programs. He agreed on the need to improve agriculture technology and the value the industry brings to the economy of Louisiana.

Dr. Jay Clune, Nicholls State University President, noted the strong agriculture alumni base at the University and interest in bringing back an agriculture program to the campus.

Mr. Shane Soileau from Southern Equipment Dealers described the current programs they utilize. Manufacturers are working towards a blended learning program. They utilize an online course combined with an in-person visit to work on the product with the manufacturer.

Dr. Carrie Castille, Louisiana State Director of the Rural Development USDA, described the Rural Development Grant. She expressed this grant may be of interest for this Commission. She also noted the potential application of this Commission's work for the Southern region of the country.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed and Senator Allain asked Dr. Carrie Castille clarifying questions concerning the timeline and needed components for the grant. Senator Allain emphasized additional measures of interest such as surveying industry needs and curriculum development in higher education.

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY STUDY
COMMISSION**

Minutes

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed asked each commodity group to introduce themselves and to share the educational needs present within their field.

Mr. Jim Simon from the American Sugarcane League shared the newly created sugarcane school created by the league to provide additional training. He echoed a need for technology education and offered support to sending any future survey.

Mr. Mark Frey from the Rice Growers Association offered to help with disseminating future surveys and expressed support for the Commissions work.

Mr. Kenneth Morgan from the Louisiana Forestry Association shared his involvement at CLTCC Forestry Technician program, noting the specifics of the technology utilized.

Mr. George LaCour from the Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association spoke to the difficulty of educating trainers of the equipment without all the necessary information and diagnostic tools. He also expressed concern for trained labor and suggested a need to share qualified instructors throughout the state.

Senator Allain asked higher education representatives to share insight into what is needed to improve agriculture technology training.

Mr. Epps expressed one of the biggest challenges at Louisiana Delta Community College is instructor salaries. Discussion continued concerning the needed salary in order to retain qualified instructors for necessary programs given market competition.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed summarized the discussion in four points. First, a higher education inventory of what we need and what we already have present of technology offerings in higher education. Second, a survey of the equipment and needs from industry. Third, understand the

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY STUDY
COMMISSION**

Minutes

manufacturing training, what are the schedules and details. (Senator Allain volunteered to follow up with manufacturers concerning manufacture training details). Fourth, ensure a project manager/grant writer can produce a strong grant application and keep the work on track for the Commission.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called for the election of a chair for the Commission.

Dr. Jim Henderson motioned for Chancellor Dennis Epps as chairman. Seconded by Mr. Joey Blackburn. The Commission unanimously accepted Mr. Dennis Epps as chair of the Postsecondary Agriculture Technology Study Commission.

IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE NEXT STEPS

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed proposed the next meeting at the end of October. All were in favor.

Mr. Jim Simon offered to help send out the survey and ensure content is correct. Dr. Kim Hunter Reed will follow up with a higher education inventory to discuss next meeting.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed asked for a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Dr. Kristine Strickland.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.