

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

September 23, 2020

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 10:35 a.m., Wednesday, September 23, 2020, via video conference. Chair Marty Chabert called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Christine Norton called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

Marty Chabert, Chair
Collis Temple III, Vice Chair
Blake David, Secretary
Claudia Adley
Randy Ewing
Robert Levy
Phillip May, Jr.
Charles McDonald
Darren Mire
Sonia Pérez
Wilbert Pryor
T. Jay Seale III
Gary Solomon, Jr.
Chandler Vidrine, Student

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Paul Price, LCTC System
Mary Werner, LSU System
Leon Tarver, SU System

Absent from the meeting were:

Gerald Theunissen
Felix Weill

CERTIFICATION FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Chair Chabert referenced the Board of Regents' certification of inability to operate due to the lack of an in-person quorum. The certification is available on the Board of Regents website and was included with the meeting materials. He indicated that all votes during the meeting would be done by roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Chabert asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2020

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 13, 2020.

MASTER PLAN YEAR ONE REVIEW AND THE PATH FORWARD

Chair Chabert stated that the Master Plan Year One Review and the Path Forward agenda item would be moved to the end of the meeting because Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed would be joining the meeting at a later time due to a meeting with the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINANCE

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2020-2021 OPERATING BUDGETS

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budgets.

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Solomon, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to accept the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budgets.

Chair Chabert thanked Mr. LaBruyere, Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, and their team for a job well done at the previous day's budget hearings. Regent Ewing said that he was impressed with the presentation of the budget hearings. He also noted that it might be beneficial to ask the systems to formulate a plan to generate more state revenue and self-generated funding for higher education, rather than dividing the limited funds that were available. Chair Chabert noted that until the Legislature gets involved, this would be a difficult task, but he said that he would speak to Dr. Reed and the system presidents about this issue.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

HURRICANE LAURA UPDATE

Mr. Chris Herring, Assistant Commissioner for Facilities and Planning, gave an update on the damages to campuses as a result of Hurricane Laura as well as the ongoing recovery plans. Mr. Herring

stated that the Office of Risk Management had already been to all affected campuses and was assessing damages. He said that most campuses would be covered by insurance, but the affected Lake Charles campuses would qualify for FEMA relief as well. He said that the campuses planned to move forward efficiently and avoid the types of delays experienced during recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He stated that he and Dr. Reed had visited campuses in Lake Charles, Eunice and Alexandria to offer support. He said that McNeese State University plans to reopen the campus by January 2021 and SOWELA Technical Community College plans to reopen campus by October 2020.

Regent May added that power had been restored to all but 1,600 people in Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, and Cameron Parishes. Chair Chabert thanked Mr. Herring for his work and stated that he was pleased by the fast and aggressive actions of everyone involved in the recovery efforts.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Ms. Janet Newhall, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs, provided brief explanations of the Academic and Student Affairs agenda items. Regent Ewing asked Ms. Newhall how many students would benefit from the proposed new academic programs. Ms. Newhall responded that the OTD in Occupational Therapy at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport would benefit 26 students and the PhD in Construction Management at LSU A&M would benefit on average three per year, but that number was expected to increase with full implementation of the PhD program. Regent Ewing further asked what the difference and demands were regarding the OTD in Occupational Therapy versus the existing Physical Therapy program, and whether there would be duplication of instruction. Ms. Newhall said that a report, to be reviewed for this information, would be submitted for the Occupational Therapy program in July 2022. Regent McDonald asked if the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) had submitted a request for an OTD in Occupational Therapy. Ms. Newhall stated that recent communications with ULM indicated that it has decided not to pursue the OTD and to stay with the Master's program at this time. Regent Solomon asked Ms. Newhall about a note in the supporting materials regarding the adequacy of faculty for the OTD program at LSUHSC-Shreveport. Ms. Newhall said that there was an issue raised in the external review because the institution did not have enough doctoral-level faculty. The institution submitted a

response indicating that two current instructors had completed/were about to complete their doctorates, helping to address this concern. The institution will also conduct further faculty searches and will not move forward with full implementation of the program until all required faculty are hired.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Termination of the Institute for Advanced Materials – LSU A&M
- b. Reauthorization of Existing Research Units
 - i. Center for Advancement of Meat Production & Processing – McNeese
 - ii. National Center for Advanced Manufacturing – LSU A&M
 - iii. Precision Agriculture & Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research & Applications Center – ULM
 - iv. Pugh Institute for Justice – LSU A&M
- c. Progress Reports for Conditionally Approved Academic Programs
- d. Routine Staff Approvals

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Ewing, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- a. Program Proposals
 - i. OTD Occupational Therapy – LSUHSC-S
 - ii. PhD Construction Management – LSU A&M

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

- a. Full Authorization of Conditionally Approved Research Units
 - i. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center – UL Lafayette
 - ii. Urban Entrepreneurship & Policy Institute – UNO

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Adley, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to:

- a. **Conditionally approve the proposed OTD in Occupational Therapy at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport and PhD in Construction Management at LSU A&M, with progress reports due July 1, 2022; and**
- b. **Approve full authorization of the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center at UL Lafayette and the Urban Entrepreneurship & Policy Institute at UNO, with requests for continued authorization due October 1, 2025.**

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Ms. LeAnn Detillier, Assistant Commissioner for Program Administration, presented the Consent Agenda items for Planning, Research and Performance. Ms. Detillier stated that once the new initial applications for State Authorized Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) were approved, there will be 100% participation of all four-year public institutions throughout the state.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
 - i. License Renewal
 - (a) Remington College – Garland, TX
- b. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) State Renewal (Louisiana)
- c. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
 - i. Initial Applications
 - (a) LSU Health Sciences Center -New Orleans
 - (b) Nicholls State University
 - (c) Southern University at New Orleans
 - ii. Renewal Application
 - (a) Xavier University of Louisiana

On motion of Regent Adley, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to:

- a. Approve the items on the Consent Agenda; and**
- b. Grant authority to Planning, Research and Performance staff to approve all future routine NC-SARA renewal applications, with annual updates on approved renewals provided to the Board.**

DEFINING POSTSECONDARY QUALITY CREDENTIALS OF VALUE

Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented this item, outlining the criteria and process used to establish variables to define a credential of value. Regent Seale asked if the terms “credential of value” and “on-ramp credential” were widely used. Dr. Brumfield explained that the term “postsecondary credential of value” is widely used across the country, while the term “on-ramp credential” was created by the teams that developed the policy. He further explained that on-ramp credentials are defined as preliminary to credentials of value, and by tracking these credentials, staff would have a better way to report to the Board the number of students in the pipeline toward a full credential of value. Regent Solomon stated that the Master Plan listed data from 2018 indicating that there were 40,000 credential recipients. He asked if these credentials of value

were included in that number and, if the number is adjusted, what the revised goal would be. Dr. Reed stated that all credentials of value were not included. She explained that the mechanism for collection and validation of data would have to be reassessed to determine whether the goal would change. Regent Solomon then asked if Dr. Reed was confident in the definition set by the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) of three-, four- and five-star job ratings, given that the Master Plan stated that 85% of jobs that will be available in 2030 have not yet been imagined. Dr. Reed indicated that while it is a challenge to refine and improve the rating system, there is ongoing work between higher education and LWC to be sure that the information is current and accurate, and reflects projections as well as historical employment information. Regent Ewing asked if this policy is a performance of accounting, or if it really changes current credential programs, as well as why programs are offered that do not lead to a living wage. Dr. Reed stated that the policy will lift pathways that lead to better living wages by defining credentials of value. She and Dr. Brumfield also stated that students are free to enroll in the programs of their choosing, which could include professional development certificates. She said that we want students to make better-informed choices regarding the value of credentials. Regent Solomon stated that it would be helpful to the Board if staff would note credentials of value in future program proposals.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Postsecondary Quality Credentials of Value Policy, which recognizes the role of academic and non-degree credentials in Louisiana's economy and workforce and will provide the Board with clarity and transparency for purposes related to attainment tracking and reporting.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, LOSFA Executive Director, presented the Consent Agenda items. Dr. Boutté stated that Governor Edwards signed Proclamation 122, which gave relief waivers for students in the wake of Hurricane Laura. In addition, LOSFA staff is in communication with Legislative staff about the impacts of Hurricane Laura on TOPS recipients in order that they may consider legislation with respect to TOPS exceptions.

- a. Approval of TOPS Exceptions

- b. Approval of Exception to provide documentation of initial TOPS eligibility no later than January 15 of the year following the student's final FAFSA deadline
- c. Approval of Emergency Rules to provide exceptions for TOPS, Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, and GO Youth Challenge recipients who were affected by Hurricane Laura and to provide deferments for those students who are currently in repayment status for Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program Recipients and TOPS Teacher Recipients

On motion of Regent McDonald, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

MASTER PLAN YEAR ONE REVIEW AND THE PATH FORWARD

Dr. Reed said that she was proud of the Board of Regents for setting what has become the state's plan for talent development. She stated that it is incredible to look back and think that one year ago, in August, Regents, along with the Governor, System Presidents and other partners, launched our audacious attainment goal of 60% of our population having a credential of value by 2030 as a way to move people from poverty to prosperity in Louisiana. She said that our commitment to talent development is more relevant than ever. In year one, the Master Plan was validated in a report by Moody's Investment Services. This year the validation of the work is shown in \$35.7 million in external funding to support every major initiative that we have identified in our year two efforts.

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, and Dr. Brumfield presented the Year One Review and the Path Forward. Ms. Robison reviewed the attainment goal and accompanying credential production goal. She said that in order to increase attainment, the state must expand access to and success in completing postsecondary education, eliminate persistent and damaging equity gaps, and significantly increase the education level for adults. She stated that in order to double the number of college completions by 2030, we need to educate, innovate and collaborate at scale.

Dr. Brumfield reviewed year one data showing that the state has made a 3% increase in postsecondary attainment. He said that we still have considerable work to do in order to close equity gaps. Ms. Robison focused on some year one strategy wins, including adoption of statewide goals, Dual Enrollment Task Force policy recommendations and legislation, budget increases for TOPS, GO, and START, adoption of new education delivery models, and elevation of research through a \$20 million NSF

award and contributions to the state's COVID-19 response. Dr. Brumfield indicated that the trajectory is moving in the right direction for us to achieve our goals, as evidenced by increases in total enrollment, as well as enrollment of minority and Pell students. Regent Pérez inquired as to how the numbers reflect the population of the state. Dr. Reed stated that the population of the state and percentages of enrolled students versus completers would be shared to give a full picture. Ms. Robison stated that COVID-19 has highlighted that we have the right goal and we are on the right path. Regent Ewing said that there is a unique opportunity with the high unemployment rate to achieve growth in community colleges through short-term credentials which make people job-ready. He said the challenge lies in helping the community to understand that these opportunities are available. Dr. Reed said that these are very important points. Many community colleges are doing community outreach and targeting displaced workers. Ms. Robison noted that part of the \$35.7 million investment (\$10 million) was used for short-term credential offerings. She stated that Regents has secured legislative support, grant support and federal support for our efforts.

Dr. Brumfield highlighted some of the Year Two priorities, including setting system and institutional goals, developing regional attainment goals, advancing math reform, addressing the digital divide, and creating a statewide portal for dual enrollment to promote the value and availability of college courses in high school. Regent Ewing asked if we have reached out to guidance counselors in high schools and extension agents at Ag Centers to help inform more students. Dr. Reed said that LOSFA does extensive outreach and she would seek additional information for him. Regent Pérez said that the Education Workforce Taskforce has submitted recommendations to the Resilient Louisiana Commission (RLC) and the work of the RLC is not yet done. Regent Pryor commended Dr. Reed and the staff on a job well done in year one of the Master Plan.

Dr. Reed gave a brief recap of the morning's meeting with Dr. Deborah Birx of the White House Coronavirus Task Force. She said that there is campus support for and good compliance with pandemic guidelines, but that more testing is needed and that students must be good citizens in order to help stop

the spread of COVID-19. Dr. Reed also noted that the state will begin campus COVID reporting for all public and private institutions in the state.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chair Chabert noted the following:

- He thanked the staff for their work on the Master Plan.
- He recognized the phenomenal work of Regent May and Regent Pérez during Hurricane Laura. Chair Chabert said that having them on the Board shows the quality of leadership on the Board and in the State. Regent May said that he appreciated the kind comments and it was an honor and privilege to work for the customers of the state. He also said that everyone should reach out to their legislators because the state will need federal aid to recover from this devastation. Regent Pérez said that she was proud of her employees who prepared for the storm. In addition, she said that the inaugural launch of a blimp provided cell service to Cameron Parish and that the AT&T network was the only one that did not go down during the hurricane.
- He thanked Dr. Reed and Mr. Herring for walking damaged campuses after Hurricane Laura to help get campuses back on track. He noted that what the people of Louisiana do best is take care of each other in the face of tragedy.
- He commended the staff on their participation in the staff retreat and their generosity in the electronics recycling drive and foster youth project.
- He then asked student member, Chandler Vidrine to speak. Regent Vidrine provided updates on some of the SGA projects around the state including:
 - All four systems' strategic ways to publicize the importance of the Census;
 - COVID-19 campus updates;
 - CoSBP meeting summary;
 - Creation of a partnership with LDH on a campaign to assist in encouraging students to get tested for COVID-19; and
 - Southern University's creation of a Mental Health Task Force, the first campus to do so.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Chabert again asked if there were any public comments. There were none. Chair Chabert noted that there will not be an in-person Board retreat in October. Chair Chabert stated that the Special Legislative Session begins next week and that staff would keep the Board informed of key issues. He thanked everyone for their time during the budget hearings and today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.