

MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS

August 13, 2020

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 10:17 a.m., Thursday, August 13, 2020, via video conference. Chair Marty Chabert called the meeting to order. Chair Chabert introduced and welcomed new student Board member Chandler Vidrine.

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  
Randy Ewing  
Robert Levy  
Phillip May, Jr.  
Charles McDonald  
Darren Mire  
Wilbert Pryor  
T. Jay Seale III  
Gary Solomon, Jr.  
Chandler Vidrine, Student  
Felix Weill

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Paul Price, LCTCS System  
Mary Werner, LSU System  
Lola Dunahoe, UL System

Absent from the meeting were:

Claudia Adley  
Sonia Pérez  
Gerald Theunissen

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 JUNE 17, 2020

**On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 17, 2020.**

### COVID-19 OVERVIEW

Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed gave an overview relative to the safe reopening of campuses, which included plans for developing guidance and working with public health and emergency officials, while listening to the concerns of students and maintaining safety protocols. Dr. Reed stated that as the fall semester begins, plans are in place and students are beginning their classes through a hybrid approach, with some courses online and others in person.

Dr. Reed shared some of the latest updates from the Office of Public Health. She stated that emergency exercises were held last week to test campus plans for dealing with positive cases and outbreaks. She said that it was important for campus leaders to receive the latest data from the Louisiana Department of Health, with a specific focus on 18-29-year-olds. Since 40% of infected people are asymptomatic, minimizing face-to-face instruction and working hard to maximize compliance with all safety protocols should help to mitigate the spread.

COVID-19 is very contagious and is spread via water droplets from sneezing, coughing and speaking. An infectious dose occurs when someone is exposed to COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes within a six-foot distance. Infected people can easily spread COVID-19 to two to three people, and individuals can be infected for two or more days before they experience symptoms. Dr. Reed said that there are students and faculty in Louisiana institutions who are at high risk and we are making sure they have online access so they can continue learning or teaching while staying safe.

The behavior of students aged 18-29 can greatly increase the spread not only on campus but also across a community. Campuses are messaging to students that they must be responsible partners in keeping campus safe. In order to remain open, colleges and universities must be able to demonstrate they can reliably stop the spread on campus. Campuses are engaging students, explaining how the virus is spread, and helping them to understand their roles and responsibilities.

Dr. Reed was impressed by some of the best practices that she heard during the tabletop discussions including: a Positive Case Guide and Pelican Pledge being used at Nunez Community College; Student Leader tabletop exercises being hosted at Dillard University; and Student Community Health Advocates at Xavier University. In addition, Dr. Reed thanked GOHSEP and the Governor's Office for their assistance in distributing more than 70,000 masks across all SGA offices at both public and private institutions. In addition, she thanked Regent Vidrine for joining her in the Safe Back-to-School segment on Channel 9. Dr. Reed said that by masking up, keeping six feet apart, washing hands and cleaning surfaces, and staying home when feeling sick, we can stop the spread.

She also said that more information regarding safety protocols, enrollment numbers and the impact on higher education budgets will be available next month during the budget hearings.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **AUDIT**

Regent Seale introduced Ms. Laura Soileau from Postlethwaite and Netterville (P&N) to present the Audit reports.

#### CONTRACT YEAR THREE UPDATE

Ms. Soileau stated that year three of the contract covers the period March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021. She stated that activities to date include a completed internal audit risk assessment, development of an initial internal audit plan, and completed review of the internal audit charter. In addition, P&N has received management responses to observations and finalized the personnel and human resources internal audit completed in contract year two.

#### REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

Ms. Soileau stated that an internal audit charter is required under the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards). Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 17:3138.6 requires the establishment of an internal audit function that adheres to the IIA Standards. P&N reviewed the Regents' internal audit charter and confirmed that the charter continues

to be in alignment with IIA Standards. Based on that analysis, P&N does not recommend any updates or changes to the current internal audit charter. Regent Seale concurred that no updates or changes are required.

**On motion of Regent Weill, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to accept the review of the internal audit charter.**

#### BOR IT SECURITY AUDIT UPDATE

Ms. Soileau presented an update on the BoR IT security audit. She stated that as of July 27, 2020, P&N had obtained and analyzed documented policies and procedures, conducted interviews and performed process walkthroughs with IT personnel at Regents, performed testing of technical documents, provided a draft report of observations to management, and held a meeting with management to discuss the draft report observations. The next steps include obtaining management responses to observations, finalizing the report, and presenting the report and management responses to the Audit Committee.

Regent Seale noted that the contract with P&N was in its third and final year. He stated that there were additional funds available for further auditing activities, if required, in the third year.

#### OTHER BUSINESS: DISCUSSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR MANAGEMENT LETTER DATED APRIL 29, 2020

Ms. Elizabeth Bourgeois, Assistant Commissioner for Audit and Compliance, presented the findings from the April 29, 2020 Legislative Auditor Management letter. There were two audit findings regarding payroll and purchasing cards. Ms. Bourgeois stated that there were no indications of fraud or misappropriations, all prior audit findings had been resolved, management has implemented corrective action, and she expects the new findings to be resolved in the next report.

### **FINANCE**

#### FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 UPDATE

Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, gave an update for informational purposes on the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget.

Regent McDonald asked if there were any federal funds designated for coronavirus testing on campuses. Mr. Ginn clarified that some campuses did have contracts with local health centers. He further stated that federal dollars were going directly to the state, not to individual campuses. Ms. Mary Werner, representative of the LSU Board of Supervisors, reiterated that the testing site at LSU was not a campus project, but rather part of the federal surge testing effort, which used the LSU location as a regional testing site. Dr. Reed stated that Senator Cassidy is working on securing federal funds for testing.

Regent Seale asked if the Board of Regents has considered the responsibility to develop a testing source vendor for all institutions of higher education. He said that this would be a service to the institutions and students. Dr. Reed stated that each campus had its own testing methods - the health sciences centers were testing and researching, other campuses were testing symptomatic individuals, and some campuses were hiring outside medical services to provide testing.

#### CARES ACT SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND FEDERAL UPDATES

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Administration, gave an update for informational purposes on the federal funding allocated to students and institutions as a result of the federal CARES Act Support for Higher Education.

#### **LEGISLATIVE**

Ms. Erin Cowser, Assistant Commissioner for Legislative and External Affairs, gave a recap for informational purposes on items affecting higher education taken up in the First Special Legislative Session. She highlighted HB59, SB10, and HCR12.

In addition, Ms. Cowser updated the Board on new legislative appointees as follows: HBCU Advisory Council: Rep. Jason Hughes; LaSTEM Advisory Council: Rep. Polly Thomas; and Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority: Sen. Cleo Fields and Rep. Buddy Mincey.

#### **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation, provided brief explanations of consent agenda items and program proposals, as well as the Master Course Articulation Matrix and the Louisiana Common Course Catalog, making recommendations after each agenda item.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Terminate AAS Helicopter Aviation - SLCC
- b. Continued Authorization to Offer Existing Programs 100% Online

**On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda items as presented.**

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- a. Letters of Intent
  - i. BMT Music Therapy – LSU A&M
  - ii. BS Occupational Therapy Assistant – UL Monroe
  - iii. MS Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics Leadership – Nicholls

**On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the letters of intent as presented.**

- b. Program Proposals
  - i. AAS Surgical Technology – Delgado
  - ii. AS Health Sciences – LSU-E
  - iii. PBC Accounting – LSU-A
  - iv. GC Cloud Computing & Machine Learning – LSU A&M
  - v. GC Interprofessional Leadership – UL Monroe
  - vi. PhD Nursing – LSU HSC-NO
  - vii. PhD Justice Studies – UNO

**On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent McDonald, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the proposed certificate and degree programs as presented.**

## 2020-21 MASTER ARTICULATION MATRIX

**On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Academic Year 2020-2021 Master Course Articulation Matrix and the Louisiana Common Course Catalog, authorizing BoR staff to continue to work with the institutions to expand and update the Matrix and the Catalog throughout the year.**

Chair Chabert had to depart early and presented his closing remarks before handing control of the meeting to Vice Chair Temple.

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Before leaving the meeting, Chair Chabert noted the following:

- He thanked the BoR members and staff for their continued participation and efforts during difficult times.
- He thanked Regent Vidrine for his service to the BoR and as president of Southern University's SGA.

- He thanked Tyson Lee, SGA President from LSU-Shreveport, for his service to the Board of Regents as our Governor’s Fellow for the summer.
- Chair Chabert acknowledged Dr. Reed as the 2020 SHEEO Exceptional Leader Award recipient. He stated that he was proud of her and thankful to have someone of her caliber leading the state.

## STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

### CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, LOSFA Executive Director, presented the Consent Agenda items.

- a. Approval of Rulemaking – Acts from 2020 Regular Session
- b. Approval of TOPS Exceptions

**On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.**

### PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Dr. Craig and Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda items for Planning, Research and Performance. Regent Temple asked if other states have reciprocity agreements with Louisiana institutions. Dr. Craig noted that Louisiana does have reciprocity agreements with other states. Regent Temple inquired as to how much revenue the institutions earn from out-of-state online learning. Dr. Craig said that she would research that information and provide it to Regent Temple.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- a. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
  - i. Initial License
    - (a) Strayer University
  - ii. License Renewals
    - (a) Upper Iowa University
    - (b) Walden University
    - (c) Wiley College
    - (d) Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- b. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
  - i. Initial Licenses
    - (a) Cross Road CDL Academy, LLC (Harvey, LA)
    - (b) NOLA Institute of Gaming, LLC (New Orleans, LA)
  - ii. Renewal Applications
    - (a) Advance Healthcare Institute, LLC (05/26/11)
    - (b) BAR/BRI (Baton Rouge) (05/23/12)
    - (c) BAR/BRI (New Orleans) (05/23/12)
    - (d) Ben D. Johnson Educational Center, Inc. (06/19/19)

- (e) Blue Cliff College--Alexandria (05/25/06)
- (f) Delta College of Arts & Technology (06/25/92)
- (g) Diesel Driving Academy (Baton Rouge) (06/25/87)
- (h) Global Trucking Academy (06/29/16)
- (i) Holmes Healthcare Training Center Corp. (06/19/19)
- (j) Instructors for Life, LLC (06/19/19)
- (k) Integrated Education Solutions, LLC (05/23/18)
- (l) Lincoln College of Technology (05/22/03)
- (m) Louisiana Institute of Massage Therapy (05/22/13)
- (n) McCann School of Business and Technology (05/23/18)
- (o) Med-Advance Training (05/22/17)
- (p) Oak Park School of Dental Assisting (05/28/09)
- (q) Operation Spark (06/29/16)
- (r) Ouachita Truck Driving Academy, LLC (05/22/03)
- (s) Petra College, Inc. (05/27/15)
- (t) Precision Weld Testing & Training, LLC (05/23/18)
- (u) Remington College (Lafayette) (05/26/11)
- (v) Remington College (Shreveport) (05/26/11)
- (w) SIHAF Career Institute (05/21/14)

c. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

i. Renewal Applications

- (a) Delgado Community College
- (b) Louisiana Tech University
- (c) Southern University at Shreveport
- (d) University of New Orleans

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

EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY POLICY FOR ADMISSIONS

Dr. Craig noted that the Emergency Policy for Admissions instituted in April 2020 was effective through Fall 2020.

**On motion of Regent Ewing, seconded by Regent Solomon, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the extension of the Emergency Policy for Admissions through Summer 2021.**

ADMISSIONS AUDIT PLANS FOR FALL 2019, FALL 2020, AND FALL 2021

Dr. Craig invited Ms. Bourgeois to present the proposed modifications to the current admissions audit plan. Dr. Craig stated that this plan was presented to campus and system Chief Academic Officers and all are aware of and/or in agreement with this plan.

**On motion of Regent Ewing, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the revised admissions audit plans for Fall 2019**

**through Fall 2021, and to grant authority to the Commissioner to approve adjustments to the plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Regent Temple welcomed Regent Vidrine. He also thanked Dr. Reed for all that she does and congratulated her on the SHEEO award. He mentioned the upcoming staff retreat featuring a theme of Reboot and Reinvent. Regent Temple said that this theme is appropriate because challenging circumstances present great opportunities for adjustments and change.

Regent Vidrine thanked the Board of Regents for the work in moving students forward. Regent David asked how COVID-19 would affect Fall and Spring enrollment and our Master Plan. Dr. Reed said that it is more important than ever to work on talent development. She stated that we will have updated enrollment information at the September meeting as well as a Master Plan year-one review. She said that many are predicting that we are looking at a 30-month recovery period.

Dr. Reed stated that the systems (except LSU) are reporting modest to more significant decreases in projected enrollment. While LCTCS is down as of the day of the meeting, they have reminded staff that about one-quarter of their enrollment comes throughout the semester in 4-week, 8-week and 12-week sessions that have not begun. In addition, LCTCS is using \$10 million in Governor's Emergency funds to support its Reboot Louisiana program, which could drive up enrollment.

Regent Temple noted that the budget hearings and next Board meeting will be held on September 22-23. He stated that the meetings for the remainder of the year will be held via Zoom.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.