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BOARD OF REGENTS
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AGENDA
STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 28, 2021
9:55 a.m.

Claiborne Building
Louisiana Purchase Room
1201 North Third Street, First Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Rulemaking to Implement Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that Increase the Chafee Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) from \$5,000 to \$9,000
- B. Approval of TOPS Exceptions

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

Committee Members: Randy Ewing, Chair; Charles McDonald, Vice Chair; Sonia Pérez; Terrie Sterling; Collis Temple III; Chandler Vidrine (student member); Felix Weill; Judy Williams-Brown
Staff: Dr. Sujuan Boutté, Executive Director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)

Agenda Item III.A.

Consent Agenda: Approval of rulemaking to implement provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that increase the Chafee Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) from \$5,000 to \$9,000.

Background:

LOSFA administers the Chafee Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) program in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

Staff was notified by DCFS that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 included a provision that increased the maximum Chafee ETV annual award amount to \$9,000 for the 2021 and 2022 federal fiscal years. DCFS indicated that the increased award amount would be made available to eligible students for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Staff proposes to implement rulemaking that provides for the increased award amount of \$9,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year. Staff also proposes to amend the section of the rules which provides that a student may appeal the award amount determined by his postsecondary institution. That provision currently states that a student may appeal in the event he is not awarded a Chafee ETV of \$5,000. Staff proposes to delete the reference to \$5,000 and replace it with the more generic “maximum annual award amount.” This amendment will prevent the need to amend this section of the rules in the event the award amount is decreased or increased in future years.

LOSFA Advisory Board Recommendation:

The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends that the Board of Regents authorize the Executive Director of LOSFA to publish a notice of intent to make these rules permanent.

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.”

Two requests for exception were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of March 11, 2021. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

LOSFA Advisory Board Recommendation:

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