

*Blake R. David*  
*Chair*

*T. Jay Seale III*  
*Vice Chair*

*Sonia A. Pérez*  
*Secretary*

*Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.*  
*Commissioner of*  
*Higher Education*



**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
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*Stephanie A. Finley*  
*Robert W. Levy*  
*Phillip R. May, Jr.*  
*Charles R. McDonald*  
*Darren G. Mire*  
*Wilbert D. Pryor*  
*Gary N. Solomon, Jr.*  
*Terrie P. Sterling*  
*Collis B. Temple III*  
*Felix R. Weill*  
*Judy A. Williams-Brown*  
*Cameron T. Jackson, Student*

AGENDA  
BOARD OF REGENTS\*  
Wednesday, June 16, 2021  
2:00 p.m.

Claiborne Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Thomas Jefferson A&B, Room 1-136  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2021
- V. Chair's Comments
  - A. Legislative Highlights
- VI. Master Plan – Harnessing the Power of Research Universities
- VII. Reports and Recommendations of Standing Committees
  - A. Audit
  - B. Legislative
  - C. Facilities
  - D. Academic and Student Affairs
  - E. Statewide Programs
  - F. Research and Sponsored Initiatives
  - G. Planning, Research and Performance
- VIII. Reports and Recommendations by the Commissioner of Higher Education
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment

\*Note: The Board of Regents reserves the right to enter into Executive Session, if needed, in accordance with R.S. 42:11 *et seq.*

DRAFT  
MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS

April 28, 2021

The Board of Regents met in session at 12:02 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Chair Blake David called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:

Blake R. David, Chair  
T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair  
Sonia A. Pérez, Secretary  
Robert W. Levy  
Phillip R. May, Jr.  
Charles R. McDonald  
Darren G. Mire  
Wilbert D. Pryor  
Gary N. Solomon, Jr.  
Terrie P. Sterling  
Collis B. Temple III  
Chandler C. Vidrine (student member)  
Judy A. Williams-Brown

Absent from the meeting were:

Randy L. Ewing  
Stephanie A. Finley  
Felix R. Weill

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2021

**On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 meeting.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair David made the following comments:

- He welcomed Regent Terrie Sterling, who was sworn in earlier that day.
- He acknowledged student member Chandler Vidrine and asked him to share his report. Regent Vidrine provided updates on some of the SGA activities around the state:
  - He noted that the last COSBP meeting of the academic year was held on April 10, 2021.

- He thanked BoR staff, specifically Harold Boutté, Erin Cowser, and Nikki Godfrey, for their assistance and leadership with COSBP.
  - He recognized LDH for its partnership with COSBP during the academic year and noted that the campuses would continue this partnership in the future.
  - He said that Texas Instruments has partnered with the ACT Prep program and he would be meeting with incoming student body presidents in an effort to adopt the ACT Prep program on all campuses.
  - He noted that the students have been enjoying the final days of their semester and are looking forward to returning in the fall to a sense of normalcy on campus.
- Chair David congratulated Regent Vidrine on his graduation.
  - He welcomed Regent Williams-Brown to her first in-person meeting.
  - He noted the passing of Dr. Virgil Orr and asked for a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Orr's dedication to higher education in the state.
  - Chair David recommended that Regent Phillip May be appointed to the Executive Committee.

**On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Regent May to the Executive Committee.**

- Regent May was sworn in by Victor Jones, Executive Counsel for the Board of Regents.
- Chair David provided an update on Title IX issues, stating that all systems have shared their policies, system and/or campus sexual assault prevention and awareness programs, campus Title IX office locations and staffing, and campus points of contact for reporting sexual harassment and assault, with each campus reporting having two or more confidential advisors, as required. He said that Regents is continuing our internal review of this data and information and we will use the comprehensive review to strengthen the policy environment at our institutions to ensure we are educating students in safe learning environments.
- He reminded the Board members to submit their Financial Disclosures to the Board of Ethics.

#### MASTER PLAN – IMPROVING AFFORDABILITY

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, reminded the Board that the Master Plan, adopted in 2019, established the goal of doubling the number of annual credentials conferred, in order to achieve 60% attainment among the working-age population in Louisiana by 2030. She said that the Master Plan acknowledges that if we want to improve access to college and a credential of value, we must improve affordability. She noted that the Executive Budget makes a historic investment in GO Grants, Louisiana's need-based aid program, and welcomed Dr. Rachelle Sharpe, Director of Postsecondary Finance and Affordability for HCM Strategists, to present a report on how to identify

specific strategies that would allow GO Grants to serve more students with financial need.

Dr. Sharpe noted that decreased funding of postsecondary education over the years has increased the cost of tuition to students, making college less accessible to low-income students, who are disproportionately students of color. She said that the role of financial aid is critical to offset tuition increases, and that, specifically, need-based aid positively impacts enrollment, persistence, choice of major, and completion. She said that the GO Grant funding has nearly doubled since the program's creation, offering priority to adult learners and serving a diverse population, noting that higher grant awards are associated with higher persistence. She highlighted the strength of the program and opportunities for improvement including removing the current 60%-of-need target which is no longer achieving the intended outcomes, allowing campuses to increase awards based on their priorities. Dr. Sharpe further recommended a statewide task force to review the following: to examine the allocation and recalculation rules and methodology to allow more students to receive timely information and disbursements; to eliminate separate applications for GO Grant; and to review the feasibility of early commitments of minimal awards.

Dr. Reed thanked Dr. Sharpe for her presentation. She said that the \$11 million infusion of need-based aid proposed in the Executive Budget is an enormous opportunity and this study was necessary to maximize the potential of the GO Grant program for the future. She noted that we support the recommendations as we focus on expanding opportunity across the state.

**On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to receive the report and adopt the included recommendations.**

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Chair David inquired if any member of the Board wanted to take up any of the Committee reports separately before a motion was made to accept all reports. There were no requests.

**On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the April 28, 2021 Committee meetings.**

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **2021 HOUSE BILL 2 UPDATE**

Mr. Chris Herring, Assistant Commissioner for Facilities, presented the Committee with a report

of the status of House Bill 2, which reflects the Capital Outlay Budget for 2021-22.

#### 2021 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE UPDATE

Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented the Committee with a report of legislative instruments of interest involving the Board of Regents and higher education.

#### M.J. FOSTER PROMISE PROGRAM

Dr. Monty Sullivan, President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, presented an overview of the planned M.J. Foster Promise program for adult financial aid. It is Senate Bill 148, which is authored by Senate President Page Cortez and is making its way through the legislative process.

#### **STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, Executive Director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), presented the items on the Consent Agenda.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

**Approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.**

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

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

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Innovation, presented the Consent Agenda, Academic Programs, and New Centers and Institutes items.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

**Approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.**

- A. LA Tech Program Terminations**
- B. Routine Staff Approvals**

#### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

**Approve the three letters of intent, five program proposals, and two program reconfigurations as presented.**

**A. Letters of Intent**

1. **BS Nursing – Southern University at New Orleans**
2. **BS Plant Health Management – LSU A&M**
3. **MA Teaching Special Education – Southern University at New Orleans**

**B. Program Proposals**

1. **UC Artificial Intelligence – LSU Shreveport**
2. **UC Cyber Security & Networking – LSU Shreveport**
3. **UC Professional Writing – Nicholls**
4. **UC Public History – Nicholls**
5. **BS Business Analytics – LSU A&M**

**C. Reconfiguration of BS Petroleum Services – Nicholls**

**D. Reconfiguration of AAS Cyber Technology – BPCC**

**NEW CENTERS AND INSTITUTES**

**Approve the two new academic research units presented.**

**A. Food Innovation Institute – LSU Ag Center**

**B. Patient Centered Rehabilitation Center of Academic Excellence – LSU HSC-S**

Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Institutional Research, presented a summary of the interim Dual Enrollment policy, and explained that extending this policy will allow staff to study the impact and performance of students within the period of the interim policy. She stated that extending the policy into the academic year 2022-2023 will allow for a thorough analysis of the interim policy, including its impact on increasing dual enrollment opportunities for Louisiana students.

**EXTENSION OF INTERIM DUAL ENROLLMENT POLICY**

**Approve the extension of the Interim Policy for Dual Enrollment through the 2022-2023 academic year.**

**RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

**FY 2020-21 BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Approve the FY 2020-21 BoRSF funding recommendations, with contingencies, as presented.**

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, highlighted the process for developing external evaluations for proposals submitted to the constitutionally prescribed program components of the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) and specific award recommendations for FY 2020-21, with contingencies. She noted that the Revenue Estimating Conference's most recent projection of revenue to the Support Fund would require a significant cut to the approved budget. She indicated that the funding recommendations for Board consideration included approval of an allocation of \$1,419,454

from previously unobligated fund (reserves) already earned in the Fund to mitigate reductions and noted that all reserve funds will be used to cut reductions in the Departmental Enhancement program.

### **PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Craig presented the Consent Agenda items.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.**

##### **A. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)**

###### **1. Initial Application**

- a. Business, Humanities, Science, & Ethics University, USA (BHSEU-USA)**

###### **2. Renewal Applications**

- a. Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRGM)**
- b. Bellevue University (BU)**
- c. Brandman University (BU)**
- d. Chamberlain University (CU)**

##### **B. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)**

###### **1. Initial Application**

- a. World Quant University**

Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, accompanied by Mr. Greg Trahan, Chair of the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC), and Ms. Susie Schowen, Vice Chair of the CEMC, presented an update including a high-level overview of the CEMC's duties, the purpose of the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund, the Request for Applications (RFA) developed by the Council and posted for response by the public postsecondary institutions, and the timeline for the RFA process.

#### **CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CEMC) TALENT DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATE**

**Approve funding from the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund for applications determined appropriate by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC), with a report to be provided to the Board in June on applications selected for funding.**

#### **STUDENT SUCCESS COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT**

Dr. Brumfield acknowledged Regent Vidrine for his participation in the Student Success Council (SSC). He then provided an overview of the purpose of the SSC, the first SSC meeting held in January, and subcommittees developed from the first meeting, to include Access to Success, Focus on Adults, and Continuing Students/Completers. Dr. Brumfield recognized the work of Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer and her

team at HCM Strategists as well as the Board of Regents staff liaisons with the SSC and these new subcommittees. He shared the schedule for the SSC quarterly meetings throughout the remainder of the year.

#### REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY DR. KIM HUNTER REED, COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Reed focused on recent meetings and events including:

- Last week the Census Bureau announced the inclusion of Louisiana's workforce and higher education data in its Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) Explorer tool, which combines labor market and higher education data to measure the impact of graduating, displaying earnings and employment outcomes for those who have graduated college in our state.
- The Governor has announced that masks will be retained in K-12, higher education, and early childhood settings. She said that we are continuing to see great partnerships with campuses regarding vaccines clinics and we are continuing COVID conversations, including upcoming meetings with the Digital Inclusion Task Force and the Association of Faculty Senates.
- Last week we celebrated the administrative staff with a breakfast in honor of Administrative Professionals Day and she thanked them for their work.
- Today is Tulane Day at the Capitol and Tulane President Mike Fitts will visit with staff later this afternoon. She looks forward to visiting with him and hearing more about the great things happening at Tulane.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair David noted that the next scheduled Board of Regents' meeting will be the Wednesday, June 16, 2021 in the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and will include the Joint meeting with BESE.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

## **Master Plan Spotlight: Harnessing the Power of Research Universities**

In the Board of Regents Master Plan, *Louisiana Prospers*, adopted in 2019, the Board established its attainment goal of 60% of the working-age population holding a postsecondary credential in Louisiana by 2030, incorporating all aspects of higher education success in service of this ambitious aim. A significant element of the Master Plan is harnessing the power of Louisiana's research universities, both to contribute to Louisiana's economic development and high-wage, high-skill workforce opportunities and to build our capacity to support cutting-edge innovation and discovery.

The Master Plan recognizes that the value university-based research contributes to the state is manifold, encompassing knowledge building, development of new technologies, increases in efficiency and effectiveness of existing technologies, opportunities for students at every level to acquire tools of analysis as well as specific skills relevant to our workplaces, and ways to serve the communities in which we live and work. As the Master Plan states, "research universities are essential contributors to the quality of life in the places in which they are located."

Thanks to major investment of almost \$1 billion through the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF), the state's extraordinary success in federal Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and Institutional Development Award (IDeA) competitions, established to broaden geographic distribution of research dollars, and major efforts on campuses across Louisiana to build sustained partnerships with business and industry, we have significantly advanced research efforts and built our capacity. Despite funding challenges at all public campuses and declines in research funding available through federal and state government sources, annual research expenditures at Louisiana campuses have grown approximately 10% over the past decade, from \$713 million in 2010 to \$778 million in 2019. Over the past year, we have secured major new statewide funding from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health, totaling \$38.5 million to support the Louisiana Materials Design Alliance (LAMDA) and the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network (LBRN). These awards bring opportunities for research, training, faculty development, and industry engagement to public and private campuses across Louisiana.

The COVID-19 pandemic raised the profile of research, putting us at the forefront of all aspects of the state and national response. Our campuses launched on-site manufacturing initiatives to produce personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, swabs and reagents, combining our medical, 3-D printing, and manufacturing expertise and engaging campuses from community colleges to the major research universities. LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans conducted the first autopsies of COVID-19 fatalities, revealing the essential connection between severe cases of the disease and clotting. LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport led major manufacturing and community testing initiatives. Our campuses pioneered sewage testing to identify hot spots for COVID infections and led the way in finding safe ways to continue education and training throughout more than a year of disruption.

Like our education efforts, research in Louisiana, even that not directly associated with COVID-19, never stopped despite the disruptions of 2020 and 2021. Researchers were highly active in pursuing federal and state funding, and a number of major initiatives were launched. Efforts were also made to address new federal requirements related to research data retention and accessibility, with plans to create a statewide,

centrally managed approach to serve all campuses engaged in federal programs. Statewide leadership is also proactively discussing responses to potential new federal opportunities should the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, currently being debated in the U.S. Senate and containing significant proposed new federal research funding, pass.

Recognizing our tremendous assets and the unique opportunities for research and development as we move into our “new normal”, Board staff hosted the first annual Louisiana Research Summit on May 28, 2021, focused on sustainable collaborations to exponentially expand our impact. Attended live by more than 100 administrators and faculty, and now streaming on the Board’s YouTube channel, this virtual session provided insights from three national leaders in R&D and the 21<sup>st</sup>-century workforce, along with profiles of three of our most significant ongoing partnerships. The Summit concluded with the presentation of a letter signed by all research campus and system heads endorsing and calling for sustained, high-level, cross-sector collaboration to drive our research forward (see Attachment I). The event’s insights and this unified call to action will form the foundation of an in-person summit in fall 2021, to provide a space for participants across all sectors to explore deeper collaborations going forward.

Louisiana’s research posture continues to improve and expand, and the coming years promise significant new opportunities for state research initiatives to contribute to our Master Plan goals. Our campuses are committed to serving their communities, linking big ideas with the new post-COVID innovation economy and service to their communities, regions, and the state.

# **ATTACHMENT I**



LOUISIANA  
**RESEARCH  
SUMMIT 2021**  
*Bringing Eureka to Life: Sustainable  
Campus-Industry Partnerships*

Dear Summit Participants,

Thank you for participating in this inaugural Louisiana Research Summit. Your participation reflects positively on your desire to advance Louisiana's research enterprise. It also reinforces the commitment of our state's university research leadership to building a robust research enterprise that leverages the tremendous intellectual talent in our research universities in a way to maximize the assets of our industry, our communities, and our citizens. Together Louisiana's higher education enterprise can drive collaborative research across our campuses that enables us to leverage our talented faculty and students, world-class facilities, established centers of excellence, and robust academic programs to compete and win at the highest levels.

Louisiana's deep collaborative research efforts have already brought together some of our state's public and private partners to increase meaningful research, innovations, and technology transfer advancements, which have advanced us to the elite among EPSCoR states. We are moving research from the bench to the market, but have the potential to do so much more. We all recognize that our partnerships must serve as a foundation for knowledge and product development and must be sustainable over the long term.

Research partnerships are the backbone of Louisiana's 21st-century economy, providing big ideas, significant training, and meaningful job opportunities for all citizens. Through this summit, you have demonstrated how our research leaders are leveraging state and federal government investments along with strong private sector partnerships to scale up Louisiana's economic competitiveness for the future. We recognize that we need more opportunities like these, and are actively supporting their development.

We thank you for your efforts and congratulate you for your successes. We urge you to build upon these successes and to expand the impacts of your work. We offer our commitment to provide leadership and support to innovative approaches establishing deep and sustainable research partnerships to advance Louisiana's economy and quality of life in the 21st century. We welcome both our own researchers and private-sector and government partners in any sector to come forward with their ideas for the future of this great state.

Kim Hunter-Reed  
Commissioner of Higher Education

Leslie K. Guice  
President, Louisiana Tech University

Tom Galligan  
President and Chancellor,  
LSU and A&M College

Michael Fitts  
President, Tulane University

Ray Belton  
President and Chancellor,  
Southern University and A&M College

Larry Hollier  
Chancellor,  
LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans

Jim Henderson  
President, University of Louisiana System

William Richardson  
Chancellor, LSU Agricultural Center

Orlando McMeans  
Chancellor-Dean, SU Agricultural Center

John Kirwan  
Executive Director,  
Pennington Biomedical Research Center

E. Joseph Savoie  
President, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

John Nicklow  
President, University of New Orleans

David Lewis  
Acting Chancellor,  
LSU Health Sciences Center, Shreveport