

MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS

June 16, 2021

The Board of Regents met in session at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, in the Thomas Jefferson Room A&B, 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 (present for Committee meetings)  
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)  
Felix R. Weill  
Judy A. Williams-Brown

Absent from the meeting were:

Randy L. Ewing  
Stephanie A. Finley  
Phillip R. May, Jr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2021

**On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting.**

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair David made the following comments:

- He thanked Governor John Bel Edwards for joining the Board earlier in the day, for his continued commitment to the goals of the Master Plan and for the financial support for higher education in the new state budget. In addition, Chair David expressed thanks to House Speaker Clay Schexnayder, Senate President Page Cortez, Appropriations Chair Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, Finance Chair Bodi White, House Education Vice-Chair Mark Wright, and Senate Education

Chair Cleo Fields, as well as our priority bill authors and session partners for an unbelievable legislative session. He also recognized Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne and Deputy Commissioner Barbara Goodson for their support during the Session and for joining us during the meeting.

- Chair David acknowledged that this was the last meeting for student member Chandler Vidrine and presented him with a plaque. Regent Vidrine thanked the Board and gave an update on his plan to attend LSU while seeking his Master's in Public Administration.
- Chair David noted that our new student member Cameron Jackson will be sworn in during the August meeting.
- Chair David welcomed Ms. Nina Gupta, an attorney at Nelson Mullins, LLP, and asked her to present an overview of the comprehensive review of the Title IX Report relating to policies, training and staffing.
  - Ms. Gupta noted a holistic, high-level review of the data was conducted, which would be used to develop a state-level template policy which combines federal and state regulations to create safe campuses for students, faculty and staff.
  - She further stated that this extensive work was completed quickly to ensure students would be welcomed back to safe campuses in the fall and noted that we must create a culture of care and compliance.
  - Regent Solomon asked if the Title IX laws extend to the transgender community. Ms. Gupta said that they do.
  - Dr. Reed said that this is a continuing process, and as federal guidance and policies evolve, we may need to revisit our policies. She noted that there are training requirements in place for all State Boards and employees.
  - Regent Sterling asked if there was legislation calling for the availability of prevention education to K-12. Dr. Reed responded that there was not, but we recognize that education is needed earlier.
  - Ms. Gupta noted that key factors to ensuring the policy will be effective are respect for everyone's bodily autonomy, and a culture of speaking up if violations are suspected.

#### MASTER PLAN – HARNESSING THE POWER OF RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

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. Dr. Reed said that the Master Plan focus for this month's meeting was the power of research. She then introduced Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs. Ms. Robison said that research is essential to our state and a critical component of achieving Master Plan goals. She noted that when faced with adversity during the COVID pandemic, our research universities, community colleges, and industries focused their energies on producing personal protective equipment, swabs, and autopsies were performed by the health science centers to better aid in understanding the virus. She said that the research

component of the Master Plan calls for innovation, stewardship of place, building and maintaining strong industry partnerships and providing training and opportunities for workforce development. Ms. Robison said that the Regents' first annual Research Summit, initially postponed due to COVID, was held on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and was a success, largely due to the steadfast, energetic support of Dr. Les Guice, President of Louisiana Tech University and Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research and Development.

Dr. Guice said that it is essential for us to bring our universities and industries together to benefit Louisiana for the future. He thanked Dr. Reed for the letter in support of the Research Summit, which was signed by the leaders of the public research systems and institutions across the state, noting that collaboration is a key component to success in research. He then discussed the Data Management Initiative, noting that Dr. Sumeet Dua of Louisiana Tech has submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation to launch an effort to establish a statewide research data repository. Dr. Khonsari discussed the work of the \$20 million NSF-funded Louisiana Materials Design Alliance (LAMDA) grant, through which five campuses have committed to hiring 14 new faculty members. He also told the Board that a major proposal submitted to NSF's Industry-University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC) program has been favorably reviewed and recommended for funding. Dr. Khonsari noted that 30% of graduate students who work with industry in the research activities during their studies are recruited upon graduation. Chair David thanked Drs. Guice and Khonsari for their excellent presentation.

## **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 Pérez, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the June 16, 2021 Committee meetings.**

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### INTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Laura Soileau from Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N) presented the Internal Audit items.

#### A. Approval and Review of Internal Audit Charter

Mrs. Soileau stated that the Internal Audit Charter was developed using the IIA model Internal Audit Charter and requires annual review and approval. This was last completed in August 2020.

**Approve the Internal Audit Charter as presented.**

B. Contract Year 3 Follow-Up Audit Status

Mrs. Soileau presented an update on Internal Audit work performed in Contract Year 3 with IT Security and LUMCON Vendor-Contract Management.

C. Approval of the Proposed Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2022

Mrs. Soileau presented a brief overview of the risk assessment process and Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2022. P&N derived the internal audit plan using a risk-based approach in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 17:3138.6.

**Approve the Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2022.**

OTHER BUSINESS: DISCUSSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR MANAGEMENT LETTER DATED APRIL 19, 2021

Ms. Elizabeth Bourgeois, Assistant Commissioner for Audit and Compliance, presented the results of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor Management Letter dated April 19, 2021. All prior findings have been resolved and no new findings were issued for FY 2020. This represents the first management letter and single audit report with no findings since FY 2015. No motion was required. Chair David recognized Regent Seale for his commitment to this work and the following Regents and LOSFA staff: Chandra Cheatham, Rhonda Webber, Chris Mestayer, Aisha Griffin, Elizabeth Bourgeois, Michelle Brandon, Jessica Patton, Kim Small, Carla Smith, Brett Hunt, and Cory Wicker for their efforts in accomplishing a clear Management Letter for FY 2020.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

REVIEW OF THE FY 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET DISTRIBUTION AND FY 2020-2021 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, provided an update on budget matters following the conclusion of the Legislative Session. He reported that higher education received the largest increase in funding since FY 2008-09 and that increased funding was provided for

faculty pay raises, mandated costs, funding formula, specialized institutions, and the TOPS and GO Grants scholarship programs.

### LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE REPORT

Ms. Erin Cowser, Assistant Commissioner for Legislative and External Affairs, provided an overview of legislative successes. She discussed the legislation impacting access, addressing equity gaps, and adult financial aid to align with Master Plan goals. On behalf of Regents, Ms. Cowser thanked all bill authors and legislative staff.

### **FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chris Herring, Assistant Commissioner for Facilities and Planning, presented the Facilities agenda items.

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

#### **A. Small Capital Projects Report**

- 1. LSU A&M: Alex Box Champions Club Seating Replacement**
- 2. LSU A&M: Design Building Boyce Gallery Renovation**
- 3. LSU A&M: Hill Memorial Library Rooms 108 & 109 Renovations**
- 4. LSU A&M: Hodges Hall Rooms 119, 132A, 132D, 148, & 150 Renovations**
- 5. LSU A&M: Thomas Boyd Hall Office of the Bursar Renovations**
- 6. LSU HSCNO: Data Center HVAC Replacement of Air-Cooled Chiller**
- 7. LSU-S: HPE Building Equipment Pavilion Climate Chamber**
- 8. LSU-S: Noel Library Student Development Suite**
- 9. LSU-S: Sports Fields Drainage Improvements**
- 10. LSU-S: Technology Center AHU Replacements**
- 11. PBRC: Renovations to Animal Metabolism and Behavioral Core Facility – Comparative Biology Building E**
- 12. RPCC-Reserve: Electrical Upgrades**
- 13. SUBR: Archives Building Renovation**
- 14. UNO: Chemical Science Building HVAC Replacement**

### ALTERNATIVELY FINANCED PROJECT: SUBR HONORS HOUSING AND STUDENT UNION

Mr. Herring stated that the Southern University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Southern University and A&M College (SUBR), submitted an alternatively financed project for the purpose of constructing new honors housing and a student union on the Baton Rouge campus, noting that both facilities are high priorities for SUBR and that the institution secured a federal Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) loan to cover all project costs.

**Approve the alternatively financed project submitted by the Southern University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Southern University and A&M College, to construct honors housing and a new student union.**

HOUSE BILL 2 (HB2) UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided an update on the final posture of HB2 noting that higher education fared well in the bill across all four systems. He highlighted the addition of \$25M in Major Repair (Deferred Maintenance) funding included in the bill towards the end of the legislative session as well as various highlights for all systems.

HURRICANE RECOVERY UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided the Board an update on the status of hurricane recovery in the Lake Charles area for McNeese State University and SOWELA Technical Community College. Commissioner Reed highlighted the exceptional job being performed by all stakeholders to ensure both campuses' damaged facilities are back online for the Fall 2021 semester.

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. MA Teaching Degree Consolidation – Southeastern Louisiana University**
- B. Progress Reports**
- C. Routine Staff Approvals**

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

**Approve the Program Proposals as presented.**

- A. Program Proposals**
  - 1. UC Diversity & Inclusion – McNeese State University**
  - 2. UC Geographic Information Systems – UL Lafayette**
  - 3. BFA Production & Design – Northwestern State University**
  - 4. BS Computer Science – LSU Alexandria**
  - 5. BS Nursing – Southern University New Orleans**
  - 6. GC Population Health – UL Lafayette**
  - 7. MS Medical Sciences – LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport**
  - 8. PhD Criminology & Justice Administration – Grambling State University**

## CLASSROOM TEACHER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (CTEP) POLICY UPDATE

Dr. Craig presented the CTEP policy update. She gave a brief overview of the CTEP program and the current policy. Dr. Craig explained that in April 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Regents (BoR) approved an emergency policy that changed operational aspects of the CTEP program to allow for online delivery of course instruction and online submission of applications. She then stated that BoR staff has consulted with institutional registrars and College of Education Deans/Directors/Chairs to discuss the implications of the emergency policy. BoR staff recommends making permanent the three major changes provided in the emergency policy: 1) allow for online delivery of instruction for courses; 2) allow for electronic signatures from the employing authority for the teacher; and 3) allow for electronic submission of the CTEP Application, if submitted using the teacher's district-issued email address.

**Approve the revised Classroom Teacher Enrollment Program (CTEP) Policy Guideline and Application as presented.**

## ADMISSIONS AUDIT FOLLOW-UP TO FALL 2018

Dr. Craig stated that the BoR audit team performed a procedural audit as a follow-up to the 2018 admissions audit findings and that four institutions were reviewed. Dr. Craig introduced Ms. Bourgeois, who presented the follow-up, briefly summarizing the results from the prior audit. She explained the scope of the current audit was to follow up on the implementation of corrective actions and that this review was designed with the intent of identifying policy and procedure weakness and providing helpful feedback to these institutions prior to the effective date of the new admissions policy.

**Approve the Admissions Audit Fall 2018 Summary and Follow-Up Report.**

## **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 Final Rulemaking to implement the provisions of Act 17 of the Second Extraordinary Legislative Session of 2020 with respect to Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta**

- B. Approval of Final Rulemaking to implement the provisions of Act 17 of the Second Extraordinary Legislative Session of 2020 with respect to Hurricane Zeta**
- C. Approval of Final rulemaking to add two dual enrollment calculus courses as TOPS core curriculum equivalents; to provide that the calculus courses will be graded on a 5.0 scale for the purpose of calculating a student’s TOPS high school GPA; to add a provision that proprietary and cosmetology schools shall report to LOSFA whether a student receiving a Chafee Educational and Training Voucher is making satisfactory academic progress for the purpose of determining whether a student meets the continuing eligibility requirements for the program; and to implement COVID-19 as an objective circumstance for which students may request an exception to the continuous enrollment, full time, and earned annual hours requirements for TOPS**
- D. Approval of TOPS Exceptions**

**RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Ms. Robison presented the Consent Agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA

**Approve the Consent Agenda item as presented.**

- A. Appointment of Endowed Chairholder without National Search: LSU and A&M College**

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS/ENDOWED FIRST GENERATION SCHOLARSHIPS MATCHING ALLOWANCES: INCREMENTAL PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Ms. Robison indicated that changes to the Endowed Professorships match rate in 2016 left some donors who had begun but not completed such contributions ineligible for matching without substantially increasing their anticipated donation. To allow these donors to complete contributions as planned, Senior Staff recommended that the Board permit submission at the previous 60% non-state/40% BoRSF match rate those Endowed Professorships and Endowed First-Generation Scholarships established with the intent that the BoRSF-eligible campus and/or its foundation would seek Support Fund match, but for which the donor intended to provide incremental donations over time in order to accrue the minimum amount required for BoRSF match. Upon approval, any Endowed Professorship or First-Generation Scholarship for which the donor entered into an agreement and began contributions prior to November 2, 2016 would be eligible for matching upon receipt of the full donor contribution for the 60%/40% rate. All other program policy provisions would remain in place.



Approve provisions to accept requests for Endowed Professorships and/or Endowed First-Generation Scholarships matching at the 60% non-state/40% BoRSF rate for incremental donations to these programs for which the donor intended the campus to seek BoRSF match and began contributions prior to November 2, 2016.

## PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Craig and Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, 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. Louisiana International College (LIC)
  - 2. Renewal Applications
    - a. DeVry University (DU)
    - b. Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)
    - c. Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)
- B. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
  - 1. Initial Applications
    - a. OceanPointe Dental Academy of Hammond
    - b. Safe Road Truck Driving School
    - c. Skillz Academy
  - 2. Renewal Applications
    - a. Academy of Acadiana, Inc. (03/22/2006)
    - b. At-Home Professions (04/22/1999)
    - c. Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy (03/26/2014)
    - d. Blue Cliff College - Houma (03/24/2005)
    - e. Blue Cliff College - Metairie (03/23/2000)
    - f. Blue Cliff College - Metairie, Satellite Location (03/23/2011)
    - g. CDL Mentors, LLC - Lake Charles (03/27/2019)
    - h. Charity Health Training Institute, LLC (04/22/2020)
    - i. Coastal College - Lafayette (04/23/1998)
    - j. Coastal College - Monroe (03/28/1996)
    - k. Delta College of Arts & Technology - Lafayette Branch (03/24/2005)
    - l. Elise Phlebotomy Training Center (04/22/2020)
    - m. Goodwill Technical College (03/25/2015)
    - n. Lenora School of Phlebotomy (04/28/1994)
    - o. Louisiana Culinary Institute, LLC (03/27/2003)
    - p. Professional Laser Training (1/14/2019)
    - q. Saint Christopher College (03/14/2017)
    - r. Southwest Dental Academy, LLC (04/22/2020)
    - s. Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center (03/15/2015)
    - t. Unitech Training Academy - Houma (03/22/2006)
    - u. Unitech Training Academy - Lafayette (04/24/1997)
    - v. Universal Technical Institute of Texas, Inc. (04/20/1984)
    - w. Universal Technical Institute-Florida Branch (04/23/1998)

## LOUISIANA CYBERSECURITY TALENT INITIATIVE FUND REPORT

Dr. Brumfield provided an update regarding the programs selected and funded in April by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC). He noted the programs chosen by the Council represent all Systems and all corners of the state and are very diverse in type. Regent Pérez reiterated the mindfulness of the selected representation in the northern part of the state. Dr. Brumfield said it speaks to the Master Plan goals to map and stack credentials, in addition to helping provide for a new educational delivery model, and stated the Board would be apprised annually of progress and performance regarding the investment of the Fund, as well as the work of the CEMC.

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

Commissioner Reed focused on recent meetings and events including:

- She noted that Louisiana is ranked number one in FAFSA completion and thanked Dr. Sujuan Boutté and her team at LOSFA, as well as the students, teachers and counselors of the state, for achieving this goal.
- Dr. Reed welcomed Dr. Clint Coleman, Program Administrator for STEM and Cybersecurity Initiatives, to the staff. She also noted the LaSTEM Advisory Council's recent tour of NASA's Michoud Facility.
- She welcomed Governor's Fellow Elizabeth Bueche, who will work with staff for ten weeks while attending a formal Governor's Fellow class at LSU, culminating in a higher education policy pitch to Governor John Bel Edwards.
- Dr. Reed expressed her deep appreciation for the staff and the Board for all of the great work during the legislative session.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair David asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There was none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.