

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

September 22, 2021

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 9:04 a.m., Wednesday, September 22, 2021, via video conference. 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 David, Chair
T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair
Stephanie Finley
Cameron Jackson, Student Member
Robert Levy
Charles McDonald
Darren Mire
Wilbert Pryor
Gary Solomon, Jr.
Terrie Sterling
Collis Temple III
Felix Weill
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Chip Jackson, LCTC System
Mary Werner, LSU System
Leon Tarver, SU System
Mark Romero, UL System

Absent from the meeting were:

Randy Ewing
Phillip May, Jr.
Sonia Pérez, Secretary

CERTIFICATION FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Chair David 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 25, 2021 MEETING

On motion of Ms. Werner, seconded by Regent McDonald, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2021 meeting.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair David made the following comments:

- Chair David thanked Commissioner Reed and her staff for weathering Hurricane Ida well and responding in a professional manner and he acknowledged Regents May and Pérez for their leadership and resiliency in the wake of the hurricane. He said that he hoped the Board members in the Hammond, New Orleans and Bayou regions were on the road to recovery. He noted that Hurricane Ida impacted 13 public degree-granting institutions, 8 private institutions, and LUMCON – affecting approximately 135,000 students, about 55% of our annual enrollment. In response, many campuses outside the disaster zone welcomed evacuated students, with UL-Lafayette, UL-Monroe and Louisiana Tech taking in students from UNO, Nicholls, and Southeastern. In addition, they also demonstrated the power of community by hosting supply drives and drop-offs, crowd-sourced funding programs and hot meals whenever possible. This week, all of our campuses are operational, whether in-person or remote, and Regents staff continues to exercise agility in supporting our campus leaders in their recovery efforts.
- Chair David said that another notable way Regents responded was by sharing Disaster Assistance and Emergency Funding information for students on our website and social media platforms. He said that students have an unwavering spirit to rebound quickly, identify lessons learned and step forward to help others in their communities, so making sure they have the resources they need to continue their studies no matter the obstacle is the top priority.
- Chair David acknowledged Commissioner Reed for reaching out to and visiting impacted campuses to see the damage and recovery efforts in person.
- Chair David said that even though several campuses were impacted, many still opened their doors to house emergency workers and National Guard members in their dormitories and parking lots. He noted that the resilience of Louisiana campuses, faculty, and students reveals the strength of our communities and our state and expressed thanks on behalf of the Board for their response and continued commitment to talent development.
- He acknowledged Student Member Cameron Jackson and asked him to share his report. Regent Jackson provided updates on some of the SGA action items around the state:
 - Regent Jackson reported that, following Hurricane Ida, the University of Louisiana System students donated supplies to the needy via the Stuff the Bus campaign, using the Louisiana Strong symbol and sharing the information via social media. In addition to helping students at UL campuses, he worked to compile links and other information for those in need at campuses across the state and shared this information via social media.

- Regent Jackson said that many Greek and non-Greek campus organizations across the state participated in the These Hands Don't Haze campaign. He emphasized that it is not necessary in these organizations to drift away from the true purpose of service.
- Regent Jackson said that there was a seminar called "Why Opt Out," which brought together police officers, campus organizations and students to debunk internet-based myths regarding the COVID vaccine. He said that he is working with LSU, Southern, and LCTCS SGA leaders to promote education across the state using this seminar. In addition, he has created a Mask Up, Vax Up, Stack Up incentive program to launch at Grambling State University and eventually share across the state, targeting home football games to spread the message of what is needed to keep the campuses safe.
- Regent Jackson thanked Ms. Erin Cowser, Assistant Commissioner for Legislative and External Affairs, for her help in accessing and disseminating information across the state.
- Regent Jackson said that he is working with former student Board member Chandler Vidrine to continue the work of expanding broadband access across the state.

MASTER PLAN – YEAR 2 UPDATE

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, said that when Regent David accepted his role as Chair, he stated that he saw education as the golden ticket – an opportunity to move people from poverty to prosperity. She said when we focus on all that we have recently been through, from the COVID pandemic to natural disasters, that singular focus of making sure that people prosper and have opportunity is more important than ever before. She reiterated the Master Plan goal of 60% attainment in Louisiana's working-age population and doubling the numbers of credentials awarded annually by 2030, saying that we must focus not only on the numbers, but also on the people. She said that despite being in a prolonged state of major disruption for the past year and a half in Louisiana, she is proud that our work has not slowed or stopped. Instead we are seeing gains and she is grateful for all of those continuing to move the work forward. She said that every disaster illuminates additional fault lines, but we must identify and address the systemic weaknesses so we can best support the people of our state by developing talent so that Louisiana prospers. Dr. Reed explained that we must educate, innovate and collaborate to ensure that more students enroll in postsecondary education and complete a credential. She said that if we are going to hurricane-proof, recession-proof, pandemic-proof and disaster-proof our people economically, the key is to get more citizens the education and training they need so they can literally weather any storm. The Commissioner noted that the higher education agenda is an economic

development and workforce development agenda and that recovery cannot exist without higher education as a strategic asset.

Dr. Reed explained that developing talent is a three-fold process: we must expand access to and success in completing postsecondary education, we must eliminate persistent and damaging equity gaps, and we must significantly increase the educational level of adults. As we respond to and recover from multiple emergencies, we acknowledge that educational attainment shapes future earnings, reduces the risk of being in poverty and gives our citizens the ability to rebound and respond to challenges. She noted that the recovery efforts remind us that our talent imperative includes a relentless commitment to today's students, who are not just traditional secondary-to-postsecondary freshmen, but include first-in-family college enrollees, working parents in need of retraining, adults in rural communities, foster youth, the incarcerated and the formerly incarcerated, and others. Our work is to provide renewed hope and a vision for their future. She said that while year two of our Master Plan implementation may have been defined by disaster, it revealed the urgency of our work and the importance of education and training. In a time of profound disruption and uncertainty, the Master Plan served as an anchor, highlighting the importance of our priorities, the urgent need to accomplish them, and the centrality of this work to building a prosperous and resilient Louisiana. She said that over the past twelve months Regents has reduced equity gaps, blurred the lines between high school and college through expansion of dual enrollment, improved digital access and hybrid learning, and increased college affordability.

She noted that one of the things we are most proud of is the reinvestment in higher education by Governor Edwards and the Legislature, with the budget passed earlier this year including the most significant higher education increase in 13 years, providing over \$100 million in additional dollars to support students, faculty, and staff. She said that education is critical to Louisiana's future success, and our Legislature recognized now is the time to make strategic investments in our people. She explained that increasing need-based aid through GO Grants with an historic \$11 million investment while also establishing the M.J. Foster Promise adult financial aid program means reducing student debt and eliminating a major barrier to success and prosperity for so many. Additionally, she noted that prioritizing

student safety and doing all we can through Title IX and power-based violence policies in tandem with robust training to make our campuses safe places to learn, grow and graduate has been critically important. She emphasized the sustained commitment to initiatives that blur the lines between high school and college, saying that we must continue to expand access to dual enrollment across our state and recognizing a \$2M federal grant which allowed Regents to expand low-to-no-cost textbook options for dual enrollment general education courses, which have made it more affordable than ever. In addition, she focused on the investments of federal COVID recovery dollars, which allowed higher education to assemble a Digital Inclusion Strategic Asset Team to address the rapid shift to online course delivery and understand the impact of the digital divide on student retention and resiliency. She highlighted establishment of regional STEM centers, which ensures a focus on future economic development and education-to employment opportunities for women, underrepresented minorities and underserved populations in high-demand fields, as well as the emphasis on statewide research success and opportunities featured in the first annual Regents Research Summit.

Reporting on progress to the goal, Dr. Reed stated that, according to the Lumina Foundation's Stronger Nation Report, Louisiana has increased its attainment by point-8 percent (.8%), from 47.3% in 2018 to 48.1% in 2019; this increase slightly outpaces the nation, which grew by only point-6 (.6%) percent, to 51.9%. To accomplish the Master Plan goal of 60% attainment, the state will need to achieve an 11.9% increase among Louisiana residents aged 25-64 by 2030. The data contain good news in terms of our persistent equity gaps, showing increases in enrollment and completion among African American students. We have also improved in the number of adults over the age of 25 who have earned an undergraduate credential. She noted that in order to reach our goal, we must have more completers and that fiscal policy must be aligned. Additional funds provided by state and federal COVID stimulus dollars will assist us in attaining our goal. She said that we must tie our attainment agenda to a recovery agenda, advancing both together, and thanked campus and system leadership as well as our Regents team in moving this work forward. She noted that Pam Northrup will join the team as a senior advisor on data

analytics, helping the systems and campuses to contribute to this goal. She added that system and campus support is essential to moving the goal forward.

Regent Weill thanked Dr. Reed and her colleagues for an outstanding report, saying that we must do everything we can to promote the opportunities that we are bringing to the table, particularly by using a peer-to-peer platform. Regent Sterling said that cascading goals within colleges and universities and public-private partnerships to create programs for completers would also be beneficial in attaining the goals. Chair David said that we must lead discussion by championing companies and organizations that offer completer programs. LCTCS President Monty Sullivan added that we must identify companies in Louisiana that offer tuition reimbursement programs, to guide us in finding employers who are willing to invest in the education of the workforce. He acknowledged Dr. Reed, Dr. Lisa Smith Williams, Associate Commissioner for Workforce Education and Training, Louisiana Economic Development and the Louisiana Workforce Commission for their assistance in the responding to the Good Jobs Challenge. Chair David said that it is good business, and not a charitable effort, for corporate leaders to encourage employees to complete their degrees. Regent Finley said that the military does an excellent job of encouraging their enlisted individuals to attain degrees by providing time allotments for classes and working with industries to educate these individuals.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINANCE

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2021-2022 OPERATING BUDGETS

Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented a brief overview of the operating budgets, which were discussed in depth the previous day during the budget hearings. Mr. Ginn said that the system presidents were asked three specific questions: 1. How did you use your new federal and state dollars?; 2. How did your spending support the Master Plan, Title IX compliance, and other system- and campus-specific initiatives?; and 3. What do you need in terms of the FY 2022-2023 budget? Mr. Ginn noted that Mr. Greg Albrecht, Chief Economist for the Legislative

Fiscal Office, and Mr. Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration, said that they fully intend to recommend funding for deferred maintenance, and continued overall support for higher education.

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to accept the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budgets.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

ACT 959 PROJECT: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE STUDENT UNION ROOF REPLACEMENT

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Disaster Services, presented the item. Regent Weill noted that he appreciated that Commissioner Dardenne included facility maintenance in the budget, noting that when we do not dedicate funds to maintain our buildings it becomes more costly in the future to replace them.

On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Act 959 project submitted by the Louisiana State University System Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Louisiana State University and A&M College, to replace the roof on the Student Union.

OTHER BUSINESS: HURRICANE IDA UPDATE

Mr. Herring presented a brief update on the damages to campuses caused by Hurricane Ida. He said that 13 public degree-granting institutions and LUMCON suffered damages, consisting of wind-driven damage, water intrusion, downed trees, and mold. He said that the cost of the repairs should be covered by the Office of Risk Management or insurance, and he will continue to provide updates as they become available. Regent Seale asked if we were upgrading our facilities to ensure they can endure more frequent storms and flooding. Mr. Herring said that he would survey institutions regarding their capabilities, lessons learned, challenges faced, and possible actions to be better prepared for the next storm. He said that the Capital Outlay requests would be moving forward. Dr. Reed recognized the excellent work of Mr. Herring and said that his role will be expanding to include a disaster response function, to assist in instruction for all of higher education in how to prepare pre-storm, to keep institutions open and ready to serve our students.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

a. Routine Staff Approvals

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Dr. Craig presented the Academic Programs items.

- a. Associate of General Studies – Central Louisiana TCC**
- b. AS Agriculture – LSU Eunice**
- c. GC Estate Planning & Taxation – LSU A&M**

On motion of Regent McDonald, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Academic Programs items as presented.

REPORT ON ACT 109 OF THE 2021 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION – HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT REINVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY (H.E.R.O.) FUND

Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Institutional Research, presented an overview of the report in response to Act 109 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session – Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund. She stated that the Louisiana Health Works Commission, a legislatively created commission comprised of postsecondary, legislative, and medical organizations, operating with Board of Regents staff support, is authorized to determine how Fund monies are allocated in a multi-year plan. Ms. Baker said that \$5 million was to be distributed to the following programs: Nurse and Allied Health Capitation, the Tuition Forgiveness Program, the Louisiana Council of Administrators in Nursing Education (LaCANE) Grant, Simulation Medical Training and Education Council Funding, and Nurse Aid Testing. Regent Sterling said that the recommendations are aligned with the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing priorities regarding advancing education for nursing.

On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the 2021 Act 109 H.E.R.O. Fund allocation submitted by the Louisiana Health Works Commission and authorize Regents staff to develop and execute a funding application process for each program.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Craig gave an update regarding the Shot for 100 program, an incentive program which provides college students \$100 Visa gift cards when they receive the COVID vaccine. She said that vaccine events were underway across the state with the help of the Louisiana National Guard, with 65 different events happening this week. She noted that Dr. Reed and Chair David were attending an event at LSU during the afternoon. Dr. Craig said that, as of this week, 6,705 Visa cards had been distributed, and thanked Governor Edwards for his support of the program. She noted that there was an expected uptick in vaccine acceptance as each system is instituting vaccination requirements for the Spring semester.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Sujuan Boutte, Executive Director of LOSFA, presented Consent Agenda items a-c.

- a. Approval of Final 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 for the 2021-2022 Academic Year only**
- b. Approval of ACT Deadline Exception**
- c. Approval of TOPS Exceptions**

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

Dr. Williams presented Consent Agenda item d.

- d. Approval of Eligibility List of Academic Programs Approved for TOPS Tech 2021-2022 Academic Year**

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

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Dr. Craig presented the Consent Agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)**
 - i. **Renewal Applications**
 - (a) **Fuller Theological Seminary (FTS)**
 - (b) **Research College of Nursing (RCN)**
 - (c) **Saybrook University (SU)**

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

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed presented several items to the Board:

- Dr. Reed said that Regents has been asked to present to the Select Committee on Women and Children on Tuesday, September 28th regarding adoption of our Uniform Policy on Power-Based Violence as well as our training sessions for postsecondary education board members, campus staff and confidential advisors. She said that she will be joined by the system presidents, who will be able to share the work and progress being made by their campuses ahead of implementation of up-the-chain incident reporting, which will begin on October 1st.
- Dr. Reed said that the Summer of Service projects at the Board of Regents were all successful. Regents staff delivered 20 backpacks and three dorm essentials baskets to the state's foster youth attending college for the first time this fall. In addition, more than 150 new and gently used books were collected to restock the dormitory book shelves at THRIVE Academy, a residential high school in Baton Rouge serving at-risk students from across the state. Thanks to our Governor's Fellow, Elizabeth Bueche, more than 250 pounds of food was delivered to the Baton Rouge Food Bank. Finally, staff cleaned out their closets and donated computers, televisions, cell phones and other electronics for recycling, so they do not wind up in our landfills. She expressed her pride in the efforts and enthusiasm of the staff around giving and community service.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair David noted that the next Board meeting would be held on October 20, 2021. He said that there will not be a November Board retreat this year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.