

Collis B. Temple, III
Chair

Gary N. Solomon, Jr.
Vice Chair

Sonia A. Pérez
Secretary

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



Blake R. David
Randy L. Ewing
Stephanie A. Finley
Robert W. Levy
Phillip R. May, Jr.
Charles R. McDonald
Darren G. Mire
Wilbert D. Pryor
T. Jay Seale, III
Terrie P. Sterling
Felix R. Weill
Judy A. Williams-Brown
Catarena M. Lobré, Student

BOARD OF REGENTS
P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.la.gov

Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council

Monday, September 19, 2022

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Claiborne Building
Iowa Room, 1st Floor
1201 N. 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting of the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2022 MINUTES

Ms. Kim Langlois called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Commissioner of Higher Education
Melisa Bayham	LA Rehabilitation Services
Dr. Gerlinde Beckers	Office of the Governor
Dr. Mary Breaud	Office of the Governor
Dr. Dan Bureau	LSU System
Amy Deaville	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Gerald “Mitch” Dillon	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Katherine Granier	Special School District
Dr. Caroline Jurisich	Senate Committee on Education
Dr. Jeannine Kahn	UL System
Johnny Manela	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Brittany Soden	House Committee on Education
Members Absent	Affiliation
Dennis Shields	Southern University System
Dr. Willie Smith	LCTCS

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers then asked the Council to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2022 meeting. On motion of Dr. Reed and seconded by Dr. Jeannine Kahn, the minutes were approved.

STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

Dr. Caroline Jurisich, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, provided a brief presentation on the UL LIFE Program. The program was created based on community need and support. The program has an 89% employment rate for graduates, but only a 25% acceptance rate, as they have a maximum number of students that they can support. The mission of the program is to provide personalized support to help young adults to become thriving members of their communities. She advised that not only do students take courses in their program area, but also courses to learn life skills as well as an opportunity to audit other courses. She explained that the program includes mentors who assist students in not only courses but also social events and internships.

Dr. Tristan Denley asked if there was specific training for the faculty members of the courses that students audit. Dr. Jurisich replied that training is offered to existing faculty on an ongoing basis as well as training for new faculty members.

Dr. Reed inquired about the students' areas of interest in terms of their studies. Dr. Jurisich responded areas of interest vary, with many in hospitality management, though students are also interested in early childhood studies as well as criminal justice.

Dr. Reed asked for clarification of the two-year and four-year programs. Dr. Jurisich advised the Council that 80% of the students who begin in the two-year program qualify for the four-year, more advanced program, which leaders were asked to create after the first two years of the program.

Dr. Kahn commented that when UL-Lafayette began their program, there were many other programs that shared their information, which created a true partnership.

Dr. Beckers then provided a brief presentation and showed a video on the work of LAPIE.

REQUIREMENTS OF CTP AND ACCREDITATION

Dr. Beckers presented to the Council with information on how a CTP program can become accredited. She explained the requirements, including academic components, to qualify to be considered a CTP program, and what qualifies a student to be part of a CTP program. She also described the federal financial aid is available to students.

Dr. Reed asked if all of the programs in Louisiana are CTP. Dr. Beckers replied that currently programs at Southeastern, BRCC, and BPCC are CTP; the program at LSU-A has recently started and is not..

Dr. Denley asked about the length of the process for a program to become accredited. Dr. Beckers replied that previously it was one year, while now, due to available templates and other support, it can be done in six months.

Dr. Dan Bureau asked if there are any other programs in Louisiana of which the Council is not aware. Dr. Beckers replied that there are none.

Dr. Beckers then explained the importance of the accreditation process for programs, including how accreditation will validate and strengthen programs and helps to hold programs accountable. She also reviewed the future direction of accreditation.

Dr. Denley asked whether the accreditation process is looking for best practices, as there are currently no accreditation standards. Dr. Beckers affirmed this is the approach.

SURVEY OF PROGRAMS DISCUSSION

Dr. Beckers then reviewed the surveys for both existing programs and institutions interested in offering a program, which were created after the last meeting. The Council discussed the surveys and made recommendations for edits as well as determining a period of two weeks for the surveys to be available. It was also decided that the surveys would be sent to campus presidents.

FUNDING AND APPLICATION DISCUSSION

The Council then discussed how to guide funding and application for new programs. Dr. Beckers advised that they should have a deadline of January for determining how to administer funds.

She also added that Florida has a great application process and is open to Louisiana using its application documents. Dr. Beckers suggested that CTP directors look at the documents and then send feedback to the Council. The goal is to confirm this in time for the October meeting with a mid-January return, so they can advocate for future funding.

Dr. Reed advised the Council that it is important when looking to expand existing programs and launch new programs that the Council look at the allocation of funds as well as balancing the dollars.

Dr. Beckers noted that she would like to see northern LA consider creating a program in that area, as the majority of current programs are in the southern part of the state.

Dr. Kahn asked why some institutions are missing from the LAPIE members list. Dr. Beckers replied that there has been no interest expressed from those institutions not on the list.

Dr. Mary Breaud asked if the Florida documents mentioned a dollar match. Dr. Beckers replied that they did not, but this could be a conversation on the next Council agenda.

Dr. Denley added that the application documents from the Cybersecurity program can be used to get the correct formatting.

Dr. Kahn asked if the existing programs would be able to capture demographic data. Dr. Beckers replied that this could be done.

Dr. Reed inquired about the retention rates of the state's current programs. Dr. Jurisich replied that the retention rates at UL-Lafayette are over 95%; Dr. Beckers and Dr. Breaud replied that their

retention rates are high as well and that the few students that they have lost left due to behavioral or financial issues.

Dr. Reed asked Council members for their thoughts on how best to expose the campuses in North Louisiana to these programs in order to generate interest. Dr. Kahn responded that perhaps members of the Council could have a meeting with the institutions in the area to discuss the concept and goals and gain feedback.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kathy Dillon commented on the importance of family involvement in the northern part of state in helping to advocate for the programs. Dr. Beckers added that there are seven families, including a parent at Grambling, who are already advocating for these programs.

Ms. Bambi Polotzola added that coupling parent advocates with passionate faculty can help in bringing awareness to the programs. She commented that her son is a Junior in the UL-Life program and that the experience has been life-changing. She also remarked on the importance of building relationships as well as reaching out to donors who may be willing to help fund these programs. Dr. Jurisich added that including a family member in meetings with the presidents can be very beneficial.

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Beckers announced the next scheduled meetings of the Council in September and October.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.