

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

October 19, 2022

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 12:38 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, in the Bayou Lafourche/Bayou Segnette Room, Student Life Center, Delgado Community College, 615 City Park Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Vice Chair Gary Solomon, Jr. called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Doreen Brasseaux called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

Gary Solomon, Jr., Vice Chair
Sonia Pérez, Secretary
Blake David
Randy Ewing
Stephanie Finley
Catarena Lobré, Student Member
Darren Mire
Wilbert Pryor
T. Jay Seale III
Terrie Sterling

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Willie Mount, LCTCS System
Arlanda Williams, SU System

Absent from the meeting were:

Collis Temple III, Chair
Robert Levy
Phillip May, Jr.
Charles McDonald
Felix Weill
Judy Williams-Brown

Appendix A

Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chair Solomon asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 MEETING

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2022 meeting.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Vice Chair Solomon made the following comments:

- He thanked the Board for coming to New Orleans, provided a recap of the events of the past two days, thanked student Board member Regent Lobré for opening her home campus, Delgado Community College, to the Board and asked her to present her report.
 - Regent Lobré thanked Vice Chair Solomon and noted that recently the first COSBP meeting was hosted at the Southern University Law Center. She thanked fellow Student Body President Nadia Foster for hosting the group. She noted that guest speakers included State Representative Larvardain and Dr. Ronnie Whitfield, who discussed the importance of mental health preventative measures and de-stigmatization. They also heard from Dr. Dana Hunter from the Governor's Office of Human Trafficking and received information on human trafficking including how to spot the signs and report suspicious interactions. The next COSBP meeting will be held the following month.
- Vice Chair Solomon noted that we are approaching election day and reminded all about Constitutional Amendment 1 and what it accomplishes. He noted his support of the amendment.
- Vice Chair Solomon noted Chair Temple's appointment of the following members to the Nominating Committee:
 - T. Jay Seale III, Chair
 - Blake R. David
 - Sonia A. Pérez
 - Wilbert D. Pryor
 - Terrie P. Sterling

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINANCE

APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY FORMULA FUNDING AND BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2023-2024

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented an overview of the budget request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, which, by law, must be submitted to the Division of Administration next month. Regent Ewing asked a series of questions specifically about the \$15 million designated for GO Grants, including whether it is in addition to the \$25 million already allocated, whether the increase would enable us to meet all GO Grant demand, and about the monitoring

process. Mr. LaBruyere explained that the dollars represent an increase and that the addition of \$15 million would bring the GO Grant allocation in the budget to \$70 million. He confirmed that even with the increase, we would still be short of providing full GO Grant support to all eligible students, noting that, according to LOSFA, the state's need-based aid program is currently serving less than half of all eligible students. Further, Dr Sujuan Boutte and Mr. LaBruyere responded that information is collected from institutions and audited by the Board's internal auditor, Postlethwaite and Netterville, and the Legislative Auditor, as well as LOSFA.

Regent Ewing asked about the National Cancer Institute designation. Regent Sterling provided a background on how the NCI designation came about and what it would do. Regent Ewing asked Regent Sterling whether there will be an effort to include other diseases, such as Alzheimer's, in this effort. Regent Sterling explained that while other diseases are part of the LSU Pentagon Agenda, the NCI appointment is specific to cancer, though efforts to focus on obesity and food and environmental factors that contribute to cancer are included in the holistic view. She noted that LSU AgCenter is included, as well as veterinary science and basic science. All of LSU A&M will be aligned with this work, along with the medical schools and the clinical partners (Pennington, Tulane, etc.). Regent Mire added that he toured LSU-HSC, and they are designating funds to facilities around the NCI designation.

Regent Seale requested that spreadsheet information for the formula allocation, be presented in a comparative way, to capture the previous years and the current year. Mr. LaBruyere confirmed that he would provide this information. There were no further questions.

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the State General Fund operating budget requests for all higher education systems, boards, and agencies for FY 2023-2024.

Mr. LaBruyere noted that after Board approval, staff will send a letter to the Commissioner of Administration outlining this request by November 1st, which will complete the budget request for higher education.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

IEB REQUEST: SUSLA COLLIER HALL ANNEX

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Disaster Services, presented the first item, an Interim Emergency Board request from SUSLA to modify the project scope for the renovation of Louis Collier Hall as the cost was underestimated. Regent Pérez asked if this might happen with any of the other expenditures. Mr. Herring responded that institutions typically request additional funding through the capital outlay process but this particular project was so severely underestimated that the campus decided it would be a more efficient use of funds and time to construct an annex across the street and seek to secure a larger portion of funding during the upcoming legislative session.

On motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Interim Emergency Board scope change request submitted by the Southern University System, on behalf of Southern University Shreveport, to utilize capital outlay funding originally appropriated for a comprehensive renovation of Louis Collier Hall to create a laboratory annex facility across the street from the current facility.

FY 2023-24 CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Herring presented a brief overview of the BoR FY 2023-24 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation. There are a total of 97 recommended projects as well as a request of \$170 million in deferred maintenance funding for FY 2023-24. He also explained the process for requests coming to the Board for consideration, in response to a question.

On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Finley, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Board of Regents' FY 2023-24 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation and provide staff the approval to make any necessary changes resulting from action taken by the Bond Commission during their October 2022 meeting.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, presented the Consent Agenda items.

- a. **Routine Staff Approvals**
 1. **LSU-HSC Shreveport: Request to change the CIP code for BS Cardiopulmonary Science from 51.0901 to 51.0908 to reflect the program's content more accurately.**
 2. **Southeastern Louisiana University: Request to change the name of the Department of Educational Leadership and Technology to the Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations to better reflect the current faculty, coursework, and degree offerings of the department.**
 3. **University of Louisiana at Lafayette: Request to offer the Post Masters Certificate (PMC) in Health Administration (CIP 51.0701) 100% online.**
- b. **Program Terminations**
 1. **Louisiana Tech University: Graduate Certificate (GC) in Special Education Mild/Moderate for Secondary Education, Grades 6-12.**

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley presented the following proposed academic program and provided a brief overview and description of the field of study.

Ph.D. Pathology and Translational Pathobiology – LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Ewing, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted to approve the proposed PhD in Pathology and Translational Pathobiology (CIP 26.0910) at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport with a progress report due October 1, 2024.

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Dr. Denley presented the following proposed institute and provided a brief overview.

- a. **Institute for Gerontology Education, Research and Training – University of**

Louisiana at Monroe

Regent Sterling asked Dr. Denley if the institute was a physical place or a philanthropic entity. Dr. Denley stated that initially the plan is to create a space on campus where faculty from a number of different disciplines can come together around this work. After this initial establishment, it may grow into a designated physical space or potentially a dedicated building.

On motion of Regent Ewing, seconded by Regent Finley the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted to authorize the Institute of Gerontology Education, Research, and Training. A progress report and request for continued authorization is due October 1, 2024.

REPORTS

- a. Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus Annual Report

Dr. Denley presented an overview of the Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Campus Annual Report. He noted that all 28 public institutions have met the requirements to be classified as Military and Veteran Friendly campuses, which represents 100% participation of our public institutions.

On motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve staff to forward the 28 institutions listed below to the Governor with an endorsement as having met requirements for continued designation as Governor's Military & Veteran Friendly Campus.

Louisiana Community and Technical College System

- **Baton Rouge CC**
- **Bossier Parish CC**
- **Central Louisiana TCC**
- **Delgado CC**
- **Fletcher Technical CC**
- **Louisiana Delta CC**
- **Northshore TCC**
- **Northwest Louisiana TCC**
- **Nunez CC**
- **River Parishes CC**
- **South Louisiana CC**
- **SOWELA**

Louisiana State University System

- **LSU A&M**
- **LSU Alexandria**
- **LSU Eunice**
- **LSU Shreveport**

Southern University System

- **Southern University A&M**
- **Southern University New Orleans**
- **Southern University Shreveport**

University of Louisiana System

- **Grambling State University**
- **Louisiana Tech University**
- **McNeese State University**
- **Nicholls State University**
- **Northwestern State University**
- **Southeastern Louisiana University**
- **University of Louisiana, Lafayette**
- **University of Louisiana, Monroe**
- **University of New Orleans**

b. TOPS Annual Report

Dr. Denley presented the TOPS Annual Report. He noted the increase in eligibility criteria for the performance and honors awards, which took effect this year. He also noted that the number of students who receive TOPS in the state of Louisiana has decreased and this change in trend results in part from a gradual transition whereby each incoming class is becoming smaller. He then delved into the data to explain this trend. He added that another underlying feature is a change in eligibility based on ACT score. He noted that trends show students are choosing not to take this award and speculated as to the reasons. Regent Pérez asked if staff are looking at data regarding the validity of utilizing the ACT score in determining TOPS eligibility. Dr. Denley responded that there has been significant research on this on a national level in past years. He added that it is irrefutable that students are able to score better on the ACT if they are able to take it more than once. He noted that we have been working towards other admissions criteria for students in Louisiana that does not negate the ACT but does recognize that it does not provide a holistic view of a student's ability. Vice Chair Solomon asked Dr. Denley to remind the Board where criteria for TOPS

eligibility are set. Dr. Denley responded that they are set in statute.

Dr. Denley discussed the decline in acceptance rates, noting that declines are occurring more among students of color and those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. Regent Pérez asked if there are data to show what potential students are doing instead of attending college. Dr. Denley stated that this is much harder to capture, but one of the questions being asked is whether students are going elsewhere. He noted that Regents staff are working with National Clearinghouse data to determine whether students went to college at all and chose to go out of state. He added that there are other ways to understand why students are choosing not to go to college. Regent Ewing asked if there is any correlation in the decline of TOPS students and the decline in enrollment. Dr. Denley responded that there is, overall, a decline in the student population, and that while it is broadly consistent with this number, it is impossible to say with certainty whether the same mechanisms are controlling the decline. Regent Pérez added that it would be beneficial to understand basing TOPS eligibility partially on a test score versus GPA, as many fine institutions across the nation are considering GPA but also looking at the student more holistically. She noted that it would be good to find out how much of a deterrent eligibility criteria actually are. Regent Pryor asked for clarity on Dr. Denley's statement that there is a large decline in students of color and socioeconomically disadvantaged students choosing to accept TOPS. Dr. Denley affirmed that this is the case.

Regent Ewing asked if we know how much help a student receives in preparing for the ACT and if Regents or BESE are responsible to support that. Dr. Denley acknowledged that, like other endeavors, preparation is key and that students who do not have those opportunities do not perform as well. Commissioner Reed thanked Regent Ewing for his comments and noted that all students are taking the ACT in Louisiana but the level of preparation and the ability to take the exam multiple times are where you see the gap. She noted that ACT data over the long term have shown that the students who take the test more than once have an increased test score. She believed that ACT is now providing waivers for students and schools, as is LOSFA, but we do not know who is encouraging students to take the test multiple times to improve their score. Regent Ewing stated that this would go back to guidance counselors, and Commissioner Reed agreed, adding that parents, teachers, etc. are important to share this information.

Regent Ewing asked whether ACT prep could be folded into dual enrollment to enhance students' ability to take the test. Ms. Arlanda Williams added that it would be better to expand test prep access beyond dual enrollment, to include early college academies on the two-year campuses. Dr. Denley added that admissions policies have expanded to incorporate early college experience as a demonstration of college readiness. Regent Lobré noted her struggle with test-taking anxiety and expressed her appreciation that this was being discussed.

Vice Chair Solomon asked if there is more that the Board and staff can do to understand what TOPS of the future will look like, to better serve the future students in the state. Commissioner Reed acknowledged that it sits with Regents to talk about TOPS of the future. She added that it is interesting that as we discuss debt avoidance and affordability, we see a program that provides free tuition declining in usage. She noted that Regents will know more when the National Clearinghouse study is conducted. She added that we have seen through natural disasters and the pandemic that those who have the wherewithal can sustain themselves and those who do not fall back.

Dr. Denley then shifted to a discussion of maintaining the TOPS award and trends in loss of award, including the importance of accumulation of credit. He notes that the strategies linked to the Meauxmentum framework are designed to help students maintain the accumulation of college credit. He added that there are numerous ways to enable students to take a fuller schedule across the full academic year, so they can maintain their TOPS eligibility. He also noted a change in legislation this year that mandates the annual TOPS Report should not include analysis of the impacts of family income on eligibility for TOPS.

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent David, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the “TOPS Report: Analysis of the TOPS Program from 2012-2021” and authorize the Commissioner of Higher Education to submit the report to the appropriate legislative committees on behalf of the Board of Regents.

POLICIES

- a. Revisions to Minimum Admissions Standards and AA 2.18 Gateway Mathematics and English Course Placement Requirements

Dr. Denley provided an overview of the new revisions to the Minimum Admissions Standards as well as to the AA 2.18 Gateway Mathematics and English Course Placement Requirements, which included the two new additions:

1. A provision for greater flexibility for well-qualified students who have not completed the full 19 core units as part of their high-school coursework; and
2. Establishment of a pathway for students with two corequisite placements to attend a regional institution provided one of those placements is sufficiently close to the cut-offs.

He further explained the difference in core units for out-of-state students and the impact of the policy based on questions.

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve:

- **The revisions to the Statewide Minimum Admissions Standards effective for the entering class of Fall 2023.**
- **The corresponding revisions to AA 2.18 Gateway Mathematics and English Course Placement Requirements.**

Dr. Denley thanked all the CAOs and system presidents who have been involved in these changes to admissions policies over the past few months.

LOUISIANA'S MATH PATHWAYS POSITION STATEMENT

Dr. Denley provided some background on work towards math alignment by the state's institutions over the years. He noted the diligence of a working group of math faculty and department chairs, along with Senior Staff, who developed a statewide Math Pathways Position Statement, which he presented to the Board for their information. This statement broadly states that students should take the math course that is pertinent to their discipline. Regent Pérez noted the significance of this as we look at students holistically in their fields of study and asked if this also included financial literacy. Dr. Denley agreed and added that the statement opens the door to a full understanding of the flexibility of mathematics. He stated that the working group has already committed to collectively creating two new mathematics general education courses: one in data

science and a second semester course in statistical reasoning. Regent Seale and Commissioner Reed agreed with the point relative to moving to the right mathematical courses by discipline.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner of Sponsored Programs, presented the Consent Agenda item, noting in response to a Board member's question that the division of a matched endowed chair had been done before.

- a. Request from LSU and A&M College to Divide BoRSF-Matched Endowed Chair

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

OVERVIEW OF BoRSF PLAN AND BUDGET, FY 2023-24

Ms. Robison then presented the overview of BoRSF Plan and Budget, FY 2023-24. This item is for information only and served as a preview of an action item to be brought to the Board for approval in December 2022. She provided key points regarding the revenue and expenditures, gave a high-level overview of the structure of the BoRSF and award types, and noted the major benefits to BoRSF investments. She also gave a timeline for consideration of the BoRSF plan and budget over the coming months.

Ms. Robison then noted the upcoming vote on Constitutional Amendment 1. She provided a breakdown of what the amendment would do and how it would affect the Support Fund.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, Executive Director of LOSFA, presented the Consent Agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Approval of Final Rulemaking – Rulemaking to amend Section 703 of the Scholarship and Grant Program rules to add Dual Enrollment Psychology as a TOPS core equivalent that can be graded on a 5.0 grading scale.**
- b. **Approval of Final Rulemaking – Rulemaking to extend the applicability of 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 from the fall semester/winter quarter of 2021 through the summer of 2022.**
- c. **TOPS Exceptions – TOPS provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.**
- d. **TOPS Home Study Exceptions – TOPS provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade.**

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Boutté provided an overview of FAFSA and how it relates to TOPS. She noted that students are not required to fill out FAFSA if they are only interested in TOPS/TOPS Tech awards, as these are merit-based programs. They are required to fill out FAFSA if they are considering applying for federal financial aid and GO Grants. She noted LOSFA is conducting a campaign and sharing a LOSFA decision tree graphic to provide students and parents with a clear understanding of these options. She shared this graphic with the Board during the meeting, indicating that it has also been shared via social media, on the LOSFA website, etc. The decision tree informs students on what filing the FAFSA accomplishes and to determine what forms they need to complete based on their plans.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)**
 - i. **Initial Applications**
 - (a) **Aspen University**
 - ii. **Renewal Applications**
 - (a) **Remington College**

- b. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission**
 - i. Change of Ownership Applications**
 - (a) Becker Professional – Online, Warren, PA**
 - ii. Initial Applications**
 - (a) Road Ready Driving Academy, Houma, LA**
 - iii. Renewal Applications**
 - (a) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy, Baton Rouge, LA – License #2220**
 - (b) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy, Denham Springs, LA – License #2154**
 - (c) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy, Lafayette, LA – License #2219**
 - (d) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy, Monroe, LA - License #2223**
 - (e) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy, Slidell, LA - License #2224**
 - (f) Advance Nursing Training, New Orleans, LA - License #2197**
 - (g) Ark-La-Tex Dental Assisting Academy, Shreveport, LA - License #2131**
 - (h) Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy-South, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2305**
 - (i) Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2335**
 - (j) Camelot College, Baton Rouge, LA - License #680**
 - (k) Coastal College - Alexandria, Alexandria, LA - License #991**
 - (l) Cross Road CDL Academy, Harvey, LA - License #2321**
 - (m) Digital Media Institute, Shreveport, LA - License #2198**
 - (n) Fortis College, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2134**
 - (o) Healthcare Training Institute, Kenner, LA - License #2109**
 - (p) Life Care, Marrero, LA - License #2182**
 - (q) MedCerts, Livonia, MI - License #2337**
 - (r) Medical Training College, Baton Rouge, LA - License #969**
 - (s) N.O.D.C. School for Dental Assisting, Harvey, LA - License #2160**
 - (t) NOLA Institute of Gaming, New Orleans, LA - License #2322**
 - (u) Opelousas Academy of Nondestructive Testing, Opelousas, LA - License #2275**
 - (v) RelyOn Nutec USA, Houma, LA - License #2156**
 - (w) Remington College - Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2277**
 - (x) River Cities School of Dental Assisting, Shreveport, LA - License #2089**
 - (y) Rock Bridge Training Institute, Shreveport, LA - License #2225**
 - (z) Stick It Phlebotomy, Jonesboro, LA - License #2226**
 - (aa) Synergy Massage Institute, Slidell, LA - License #2336**

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Seale, 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:

- She thanked Delgado Community College and Chancellor Larissa Littleton-Steib for hosting the October Board meeting as well as NASA Michoud staff for providing a tour of their facility the day before and Regent Gary Solomon Jr. for hosting the Regents at a reception following the Michoud tour.
- She noted that the Leading Ladies Luncheon, hosted at the Governor's Mansion, which provided an opportunity for a gathering of female SGA presidents, female chancellors and presidents and female superintendents of schools in Louisiana to talk about the path forward in education. She thanked Governor Edwards for opening his home for this luncheon.
- She thanked Representative Ken Brass for a fantastic Cradle to Career Day in St. James Parish, where over 100 high school students participating in dual enrollment learned about our new early college pathways for admissions. She noted an opportunity to join Representative Brass and Governor Edwards in Donaldsonville to announce a corporate donation to open a public early learning center on Main Street. She underscored the importance of making sure students have actionable information about opportunities in our state.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chair Solomon said that the proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2023 was included in the Board materials. He flagged that the February meeting has been removed for next year.

On motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Calendar of Meetings.

Vice Chair Solomon asked if one of these meetings would be on the road. Commissioner Reed responded that the Regents will plan to travel next October and more information will be forthcoming.

Vice Chair Solomon noted that the Joint BoR/BESE meeting, along with the regular Committee and Board meetings, will be held on Wednesday, December 14th. A Board development session is scheduled for the day prior, December 13th, beginning at 2 p.m., followed by the Board holiday social that evening, hosted by Chair and Mrs. Temple.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Pérez, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

NAME	AFFILIATION
Missy Sparks	Ochsner Health
Robert René	Southern System
William Tulaz	LCTCS
Anna Bartel	LSU
William F. Tate IV.	LSU
Roy Haggerty	LSU
Ashley Arceneaux	LSU
Jason Droddy	LSU