

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

March 22, 2023

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 10:40 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Collis Temple III called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:

Collis Temple III, Chair
Robert Levy, Secretary
David Aubrey
Christian Creed
Randy Ewing
Stephanie Finley
Catarena Lobré, Student Member
Phillip May, Jr.
Darren Mire
Wilbert Pryor
T. Jay Seale III
Terrie Sterling
Felix Weill
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Rhoman Hardy, LCTCS System
Leon Tarver, SU System
Mary Werner, LSU System

Absent from the meeting were:

Gary Solomon, Jr., Vice Chair
Blake David

Appendix A

Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2023 MEETING

On motion of Regent Ewing, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting.

RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2023

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to ratify the Committee assignments for 2023.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Temple made the following comments:

- He thanked Regent Solomon for chairing the January 2023 meeting in his absence.
- He highlighted the Board development session regarding artificial intelligence.
- He asked Regent Lobrè to provide an update to the Board:
 - Regent Lobrè gave an overview of the COSBP trip to Washington, D.C., where they met with Congressman Troy Carter and SBA Administrator Ted James as well as Senator Bill Cassidy. The students took U.S. Capitol and a White House tours, met with the Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young and Congressman Garrett Graves, and went to the Ochsner Suite with CEO Pete November. They also were able to meet Representative Steve Scalise and were recognized on the House Floor. They heard from Congresswoman Julia Letlow and Regent David Aubrey. Regent Lobrè thanked Mr. Harold Boutte and Ms. Melissa Maranto for their planning and support for the trip.
- Chair Temple asked to Regent Aubrey about the Washington, D.C. experience and Regent Aubrey noted that the students were great and they had an excellent conversation. He added that the students were very active and he enjoyed spending time with them.
- He then shared the publication of the annual report from the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication. In this publication, there is a photo of Chair Temple and Commissioner Reed working in the Legislature the previous year. He noted that he loved seeing efforts to improve college learning and the student experience.
- Chair Temple reminded the Board that HBCU Day at the Capitol is to be held on April 18, 2023 and encouraged those interested to attend.
- Regent Pryor recognized the death of Willis Reed, former basketball star from Grambling State University.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM SUMMIT

Chair Temple acknowledged the Meauxmentum Summit and noted that in attendance were teams from all 28 public institutions in the state who fill various roles at their respective institutions. He then transitioned to Commissioner Reed and Dr. Tristan Denley to speak about the Summit. Commissioner Reed noted that the Meauxmentum Framework is an evidence-based framework for moving students “to and through” to commencement that has been successful with a wide range of students. She noted the great participation at the Summit from institutions across the state, and noted the national experts that attended to provide information and insight. She acknowledged Dr. Denley, who has led Meauxmentum Summits in multiple states across the nation.

Dr. Denley thanked all the systems for their work in this effort and Governor Edwards for welcoming institutions to the Summit. He noted the development of this Summit centered around the main goal of the Master Plan's Pathway to 2030. He then gave a brief overview of the Summit itself and the Louisiana Meauxmentum Framework, noting that Framework ideas are based on foundational strands of student life including equity, resources, and learning mindsets. Campuses must work to understand the reality of the lives of the students served. He asked campuses to think about how they can be instrumental in improving student success through choice, pathways, milestones, and engagement. He suggested that campuses focus on success indicators during a student's first year in college, including: make a purposeful choice; attempt the first 30 hours of a clear pathway; complete gateway English and math; and to attempt nine hours in their academic focus. At the Summit, he had campuses work in teams, guided by Regents staff and national experts, to create an 18-month plan with deliverable goals at 30, 60, and 90 days.

Commissioner Reed acknowledged President Shields, who was present at the Board of Regents meeting, and thanked him, as well as the other system presidents and the institutions, for their work and participation in the Summit. President Shields then spoke, emphasizing that what drives him is student outcomes, and noted that he was excited to see the expertise that came from across the country to the Summit as well as the passion of the people who are on the campuses. President Shields expressed his interest in a large-scale bridge program, in which half of the entering class spends a month on campus ahead of their first semester enrolled in two classes, so they can have the experience of how to succeed in higher education. Chair Temple agreed with the importance of a transition to higher education such as a bridge program.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AUDIT

FY 2023 CONTRACT AUDIT PLAN OVERALL UPDATE

Mrs. Elizabeth Bourgeois, Assistant Commissioner for Audit and Compliance, along with Ms. Laura Soileau and Ms. Kristin Bourque, Postlethwaite & Netterville, provided a presentation on the audit plan and updates for informational purposes only.

Ms. Soileau provided an update on the overall status of the audit plan, then touched on the recently completed audit. The overall plan included audits of LUMCON and of the LaCarte purchasing program at BoR, LOSFA, and LUMCON, as well as follow-ups from prior audits of LUMCON accounting processes and RSI endowments. Also audited in fiscal year 2022 was LOSFA's GO Grants, but the report was rated low-risk with no follow-up needed.

FY 2023 AUDIT PLAN - COMPLETED

Ms. Bourque provided an update of the audit activities related to LaCarte purchasing. P&N examined policy, compliance and transactions and noted three moderate- and three low-risk observations. She provided an overview of the moderate risks, which include the internal policy that did not provide transaction approval procedures if purchasers were on extended absence. The other moderate risks were the annual comprehensive review of cardholder limits not completed for LOSFA, and Regents policy's lack of written account coding procedures, though they were happening. To mitigate these risks, Regents' finance team will add language to agency-wide policy to address approving transactions during extended absences and document account coding and payment procedures. These updates will be implemented no later than June 2023. Also, the LOSFA program will implement procedures to ensure cardholders and limits are reviewed on an annual basis.

Regent Aubrey asked what LaCarte purchasing was with Ms. Bourque explaining. Regent Seale asked the P&N representatives to explain how risk ratings are assigned and Ms. Soileau did so. Regent Seale then asked how priorities in audit are related to risk rating and Ms. Soileau explained that process.

Ms. Bourque then provided an update to the 2022 audit, which was performed to determine if observations had been remedied and management responses initiated. They had identified two moderate risks and determined through follow-up that one had been substantially remediated and the other partially remediated. She noted that the observation had not been fully remediated due to reasons outside of Regents' control, due to funding availability.

Ms. Bourque and Ms. Soileau gave an update on the original observations related to the Regents endowments and the status of remediation. Of the two observations ranked as "moderate", one of these observations was partially remediated and the other substantially remediated. They noted that while the observations were not fully remediated, this was due to conditions outside of Regents' control and not to lack of implementation by the Research and Sponsored Initiatives team. She also noted that the next assessment is expected to take place in fall of 2023.

FINANCE

FY 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BUDGET OVERVIEW

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, provided an overview of the executive budget. He noted that this was presented by Governor Edwards on February 17th to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Mr. LaBruyere noted that the FY 24 change from FY 23 was \$29 million, with adjustments made in the distribution of funds including increases in Talent Recruitment and Investment, GO Grants, etc. He noted the TOPS decrease was due to the lack of participation, emphasizing that the number of students participating in TOPS.

Regent Ewing referenced GO Grants and asked how well the program is positioned to utilize that amount of money in an efficient way. Mr. LaBruyere responded that each institution has its own packaging policy for GO Grants and that LOSFA is responsible for distributing these funds. Regent Ewing then asked how campuses have been using what is given and Mr. LaBruyere responded that they are not able to meet demand and there is still room to spend the dollars. Regent Ewing then asked if there was not a demand for TOPS funds. Commissioner Reed responded that the reasons for a decline in TOPS

participation include a decrease in high school class sizes, decline in eligible students and lower acceptance rates for those who qualify for TOPS over the past six years. Regent Ewing asked if TOPS should be made more attractive with higher incentives and reallocation of funds. Commissioner Reed replied that the National Clearinghouse had conducted a study to see where Louisiana students are going and stated that she would share this report with the Board members to inform conversation on the direction needed for TOPS.

Questions continued regarding TOPS, with Supervisor Werner asking if graduate students originally from Louisiana who left the state for their undergraduate studies and so did not use their TOPS dollars could be added to the conversation around restructuring TOPS. Regent Aubrey asked whether the Board of Regents should work with the legislature to reallocate funds when TOPS reaches a surplus. He added that if students come back to Louisiana after leaving the state for education, they may have no resources upon their return. Dr. Boutte responded that when students leave for another state, for every semester they are gone, they lose a semester of TOPS eligibility. In response to Supervisor Werner's comment on graduate students, Dr. Boutte responded that if a student stayed within state and gained a full-ride scholarship for their undergraduate career without utilizing TOPS, they are coded at LOSFA as "overawarded" and, if they continue on into graduate school, they would be able to utilize their TOPS award that they did not use in undergrad. Dr. Tarver requested that the TOPS analysis be shared and discussions had prior to legislative recommendations. Dr. Boutte responded that LOSFA is putting together an analysis on why there is a decline and will do a deeper dive of where students are going and why students in-state may not be using TOPS. Regent Ewing asked about the percentage TOPS pays and what will happen to money that is not needed for TOPS. Dr. Boutte responded regarding TOPS' financial impact. Mr. LaBruyere responded that some of the funds have been used to support other higher education budget increases.

Mr. LaBruyere added that during the executive budget presentation Secretary Dardenne mentioned that \$100 million in one-time money will be allocated to higher education for many issues including deferred maintenance, campus safety, workforce training programs, etc. Supervisor Werner

noted that since institutions are legislatively bound by tuition levels, as costs at institutions increase, they have to charge more for fees and services. As institutions must provide services to students, this creates additional costs. Chair Temple asked about the immediate course of action. Commissioner Reed responded that information will be distributed, follow-up discussions will occur and staff will review any legislative bills filed regarding TOPS.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FY 2023-2024 PRELIMINARY FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Mr. LaBruyere provided the review of the FY 2023-2024 preliminary funding.

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Ewing, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the preliminary distribution for all of higher education, which allocates proposed funding in accordance with the formula methodology of 50% base, 20% cost, and 30% outcomes.

LEGISLATIVE

LEGISLATIVE REPORT UPDATES

Ms. Brianna Golden, Policy Advisor, provided an update on the legislative reports since last January's meeting and noted that they have submitted ten annual reports and conducted two legislative studies.

a. LaSTEM Annual Report

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, provided an update on the LaSTEM Council and provided highlights from its annual report.

b. Cybersecurity Annual Report

Ms. Robison provided an update on the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) and the Cybersecurity Talent initiative Fund, providing highlights from the annual report.

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Commissioner Reed began the discussion of legislative priorities by discussing campus safety initiatives, indicating that Regents has requested campus safety priorities from each campus in the state and shared them with the Governor and the Division of Administration to talk through the one-time needs of the campuses. She also noted that she had the opportunity to provide an update from Regents to the Select Committee on Women and Children, which is continuing to shine a light on the issues of power-based violence and campus safety.

Ms. Brianna Golden then listed the priorities for this upcoming legislative session and noted that Regents intends also to focus on teacher reciprocity, governor's military and veteran-friendly campus designations, power-based violence, Regents Board meeting scheduling, teacher recruitment, recovery and retention, and HBCU Day at the Capitol.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

ACT 959 PROJECTS:

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, provided a brief history of Act 959 projects and presented the following projects for approval. He noted that the first project, from the Southern AgCenter, will allow increases in class sizes and is funded by an USDA grant. He also noted that the second item, from Southern University A&M, is asking to increase the project budget by \$500,000.

- a. Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center Meat Processing Laboratory Facility**
- b. Southern University and A&M College Public Safety Building Budget Increase**

On motion of Supervisor Tarver, seconded by Regent Levy, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Act 959 projects submitted by the Southern University System, on behalf of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Southern University and A&M College, to renovate and add space to the meat processing laboratory facility and increase the budget for the public safety building, respectively.

THIRD - PARTY PROJECT: GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT WELCOME AND SUCCESS FACILITY

Mr. Herring presented the third-party project which is a student welcome and success facility on Grambling State University's campus.

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the third-party project submitted by the University of Louisiana System, on behalf of Grambling State University, to construct a new student welcome and success facility.

Regent Aubrey noted that the GSU library construction began three years ago and there have been issues. He asked for an update and discussion of this issue at the next Board of Regents meeting. Commissioner Reed recommended asking appropriate representatives who are overseeing the project to attend so that they can report on what is happening.

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 A&M: Request to offer the MS in Finance (CIP 52.0801) 100% online.**
 - 2. LSU A&M: Request to change the name of the BS in Information Systems and Decision Sciences (CIP 52.1301) to the BS in Information Systems and Analytics. The request is based on the need to keep up with modern-day nomenclature and to make the program more identifiable to prospective students, parents, faculty and employers.**
 - 3. LSU-HSC Shreveport: Request to offer the BS in Cardiopulmonary Science (CIP 51.0908) 100% online.**
 - 4. McNeese State University: Request to offer the BS in Health Systems Management (CIP 51.2211) 100% online.**
 - 5. McNeese State University: Request to change the name and CIP code for the BA in Liberal Studies (CIP 24.0101) to the BA in Humanities (CIP**

24.0203). The request is based on the need to make the program more identifiable to prospective students and potential employers, avoid confusion with the General Studies degree program and for better consistency between the CIP and the curriculum.

- 6. University of Louisiana at Monroe: Request to change the name of the Institute of Gerontology Education, Research and Training (IGERT) to the Gerontology Education, Research, and Outreach Institute (GERO Institute) based on feedback from industry through the strategic planning process. The new acronym better references the focus of the institute's work.**

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley provided an update on the new methodology for creating academic plans and new requirements to provide information to the Board members. He presented the following proposed academic programs items:

- a. BS Cybersecurity – Southern University at New Orleans**
- b. BS Sports and Recreation Management – Northwestern State University**

Dr. James Ammons noted his excitement in presenting the proposal for the BS in Cybersecurity at SUNO. He noted that SUNO has worked with partners and there is significant need for this program, which will make a difference in providing credentialed graduates for the workforce. Asked about the partnership with the FBI and the advice the FBI gave when developing this program, Dr. Ammons indicated that the Bureau had already given tremendous advice and continues to speak with SUNO about needs in this area. He noted that the FBI will assist in some instruction, and SUNO is building a resource on campus with FBI insight to house technology to provide real-life experiences for the students. Regent Finley asked if this program will compete with another program at Grambling. Dr. Denley noted the great need for cybersecurity across the state and indicated SUNO's program will not compete with others. Regent Pryor asked if Southern University A&M students could take these courses. Dr. Ammons responded that they would need to enroll at SUNO to pursue the degree but can take courses via cross enrollment.

On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted to approve the academic programs as presented.

NEW CENTERS AND INSTITUTES AND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE DESIGNATION FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION CENTER – LSU A&M

Dr. Denley presented the following proposed institutes and Center of Excellence designation and provided a brief overview.

1. **New Centers and Institutes**
 - a. **Center for Economics, Business, and Policy Research – LSU A&M**
 - b. **Institute for Energy Innovation – LSU A&M**
2. **Center of Excellence Designation for Social Research and Evaluation – LSU A&M**

Regent May commented on the Institute for Energy Innovation and noted the importance of this sector and its growth.

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted to approve the new center, new institute, and center of excellence designation as presented.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **TOPS Exceptions – TOPS provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.**
- b. **TOPS Home Study Exception – 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 Williams-Brown, seconded by Regent Pryor, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

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. Renewal Applications**
 - (a) Herzing University**
 - (b) University of Southern California**
 - b. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission**
 - i. Initial Applications**
 - (a) Tender Loving Care Allied Health Training, LLC, Gretna, LA**
 - ii. Renewal Applications**
 - (a) Academy of Acadiana-Lake Charles, Lake Charles, LA – License #2139**
 - (b) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy – Hammond, Hammond, LA – License #2235*****
 - (c) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy – Lake Charles, Lake Charles, LA – License #2308*****
 - (d) Compass Career College, Hammond, LA – License #2327**
 - (e) Gonzales Medical Assistant School, Gonzales, LA – License #2164**
 - (f) Infinity College, Lafayette, LA – License #2140**
 - (g) Learning Bridge Career Institute, Houma, LA – License #2141**
 - (h) Melba Beauty, Prairieville, LA – License #2311**
 - (i) National Driving Academy, Greensburg, LA – License #978**
 - (j) New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute, Inc. (NOCHI), New Orleans, LA – License #2237**
 - (k) SIHAF Career Institute, Shreveport, LA – License #2347**
 - (l) Southern Security School, New Orleans, LA – license #2260**
 - (m) The Laser and Medical Aesthetic Academy at ACWH, Gonzales, LA – License #2346**
 - (n) Tulsa Welding School – Tulsa Campus, Tulsa, OK – License #2096**
 - (o) Unitech Training Academy- Alexandria, Alexandria, LA – License #2116**
 - (p) Unitech Training Academy – New Orleans, New Orleans, LA – License #2166**

Regent Finley asked for background information on the initial application from Tender Loving Care Allied Health Training LLC, for which Ms. Courtney Britton, Propriety Schools Program Administrator, provided an explanation. Regent Finley then asked about the Learning Bridge Career Institute, for which Ms. Britton provided an explanation.

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

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN TEACHING TRANSFER AGREEMENTS – POLICY UPDATE

Dr. Craig provided a policy update on the Associate of Science in Teaching transfer agreements. She noted the removal of the Praxis core in the 2022 Legislative Session but informed the Board that this legislation did not remove the Praxis content exam. The transfer policy is removing the Praxis Core as a requirement for the Associate of Science in Teaching, to align it with state law.

On motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve revisions to the Associate of Science in Teaching (Grades 1-5) Transfer Agreement.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- Chair Temple was celebrated as an SEC Legend during the SEC Tournament in Nashville, Tennessee.
- President Dennis Shields was congratulated on his investiture and was recognized as he takes on his leadership role.
- Dr. Susannah Craig and Mr. Barry Erwin had the opportunity to speak at the 2023 Louisiana School Boards Association's annual meeting about the work of the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery and Retention Taskforce.
- Dr. Craig attended the SREB Dual Enrollment conference and spoke about the work being done around dual enrollment in Louisiana.
- Congratulations were given to Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, on the arrival of her baby boy, Baker Simon Walker.
- Meg Casper Sunstrom was recognized for her years of hard work at the Board of Regents as she moves into a new role at the Legislative Communications Office.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Temple reminded the Board that HBCU Day at the Capitol will be on April 18th. He noted that the next Board of Regents meeting will be held on April 26, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Williams-Brown, seconded by Regent Sterling, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

NAME	AFFILIATION
James H. Ammons	SUS-SUNO
Greg Ford	SUNO
Arend Van Gemmert	LSU
Jackie Bach	LSU
Kimberly McAlister	Northwestern State
William Tulak	LCTCS
Brian Roberts	LUMCON/BOR
Bonnie Hymel	Pennington Biomedical
Robert Rene	Southern University
Drake Owens	NSU
Dennis Shields	SUS
Tara Tietjen-Smith	NSU