



Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) Meeting
Claiborne Building | Marbois Room 1-137
May 5, 2022 | 10:00 A.M.

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Rick Bateman
William Bradley
Bonnie Chelette
Gabriel Fagbeyiro
Les Guice
Kim Hunter Reed (Proxy – Tristan Denley)
Susana Schowen
Greg Trahan
Daphne Williams (Proxy – Greg Trahan)

Committee Members Not Present

Brian Landry
Tavares Walker

Staff Members Present

Clint Coleman
Carrie Robison
Jennifer Stevens
Lisa Vosper (via speakerphone)
Rhonda Webber

Welcome, Roll Call, and Updates

Dr. Clint Coleman called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m., welcomed the attendees, and called the roll. He established a quorum, and Chair Trahan led the meeting. Mr. Trahan introduced a new Council member, Ms. Bonnie Chelette, representing the Louisiana Department of Education. Ms. Chelette introduced herself.

Next, Mr. Trahan opened the floor for approval of the minutes from the first-quarter meeting, which took place on January 25, 2022.

On motion of Dr. Les Guice, seconded by Mr. William Bradley, the Council approved the meeting minutes.

Council Discussions

Mr. Trahan tabled the second agenda item until Ms. Schowen's arrival and moved into the third agenda item, new business. He provided a brief summary of the annual RFA and competition for funds. He noted a couple of points: 1) the applications were strong and there was a consensus from the group, and 2) Over \$560 million industry match (with a range of types) had been pledged, relative to \$1 million in funding, showing a strong level of commitment from industry. In addition, he stated the numbers (the Council's scoring) reflect consensus statistically on the strongest proposals and represent the majority of the Council. Based on these observations, Mr. Trahan recommended funding of the four strongest proposals. He further noted strong comments/feedback, mostly related to sustainability, maintenance of equipment/facilities, and impact. He stated that in advance of the next Regents Board meeting, he would work with Dr. Coleman and Ms. Stevens to send a request for data, to provide success stories to the Board to highlight the high return on investment. Dr. Denley suggested collecting aggregate data.

Dr. Coleman outlined next steps for approval of funding recommendation, including a vote of the Council and distribution of funds by the Regents' fiscal team. Any dollars remaining after all projects are full funded will be divided evenly amongst the awardees.

Dr. Denley asked for the total of remaining dollars, and Dr. Coleman responded that the total was around \$15,759. Dr. Denley stated it would be useful to expand in a maritime direction, and that the related proposal should

be encouraged. Dr. Guice noted that the number of submissions received had declined in the current competition. Dr. Coleman noted that at least three institutions interested in submitting applications struggled with the match requirement. Dr. Denley asked whether using remaining funds for planning purposes would be helpful, noting that currently there are no maritime cybersecurity programs in the state. Mr. Trahan stated he felt that Fletcher Technical Community College's maritime application was strong in concept and could be supported in the future with some development. Dr. Bateman mentioned that Bossier Parish Community College was already collaborating with Fletcher on this idea, that he would reach out to Dr. Strickland, and that it might be possible to tap into rapid response dollars to move the project forward. Ms. Schowen also noted that Louisiana Economic Development has been very interested in the project and has been talking to Fletcher and Nicholls, with the possibility that LED could provide some support. Dr. Guice asked if it would be appropriate to award all remaining funds to BPCC to help support that development of Fletcher's maritime effort. Dr. Denley supported this suggestion, noting that Fletcher was planning to adopt BPCC's program and modify it for maritime.

On motion of Ms. Susie Schowen, seconded by Dr. Tristan Denley, the Council unanimously approved funding for the following institutions/applications submitted in response to the 2022-2023 Request for Applications:

- ***Louisiana Tech University (Cybersecurity Talent Expansion Program): \$331,623***
- ***Louisiana State University (FIREStarter 2L Developing Cyber Talent with Hands-on Experiences in Digital Forensics and Industrial Control Systems): \$344,397***
- ***Southern University System (Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Program SUS-CyberTIP): \$242,181***
- ***Bossier Parish Community College (Accelerated Cyber Technology Training ACTT): \$81,799 (\$66,040 requested plus additional \$15,759 to support Fletcher Technical Community College adoption/adaptation of the BPCC program)***

Other Business

Ms. Schowen informed the group that on May 16th she will be leaving Louisiana Economic Development and moving to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. She noted she was happy to continue participating in the Council if allowed, and that the LED representative will now be Paul Helton.

Ms. Schowen then provided an update regarding the Good Jobs Challenge Grant Program, a federal funding opportunity through the American Rescue Plan Act, housed in the Economic Development Administration (EDA). This is a workforce development grant with a specific economic development focus. It is unusual in that it is designed to fund wraparound services, focus on target populations, and place a heavy emphasis with industry partnerships that involve a commitment to hire. She provided an overview of the framework of the statewide proposal and discussed the contributions and focus areas of each region.

Ms. Schowen added that work has already begun on the concept, as the Board of Regents is contracting with the proposal team to begin system development immediately. She noted that the proposal partners strongly believed that this work is essential whether or not grant funding is received.

Mr. Trahan mentioned a GNO, Inc./Fletcher EDA effort for the Build Back Better Program around decarbonization in the south Louisiana industrial corridor focused on alternative energy. He also suggested that since cybersecurity is unifying across all industries, there may be opportunities in the future for the Council to change the funding paradigm, including using central resources like LaSTEM to bring together partners across sectors. Ms. Schowen noted that the EDA wants effective partnerships, not competition or parallel efforts, that leverage disparate efforts as much as possible.

Mr. Trahan asked Dr. Coleman about CEMC funding in FY 2022-23, and Dr. Coleman responded that funds are in the budget currently under consideration by the legislature. Mr. Trahan summarized next steps and timeline, noting that the third-quarter CEMC Meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

There being no other comments or business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Bateman and seconded by Ms. Schowen. With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.