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Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Claiborne Building, 6th Floor
Board of Regents Conference Room, Room 6-242
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers called the meeting of the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022 MINUTES

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

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Commissioner of Higher Education
Melissa 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
Johnny Manela	LCTCS
Dr. Willie Smith	LA Developmental Disabilities Council
Brittany Soden	House Committee on Education
Members Absent	Affiliation
Dr. Caroline Jurisich	Senate Committee on Education
Dr. Jeannine Kahn	UL System
Katherine Granier	Special School District
Dennis Shields	Southern University System

Dr. Beckers asked the Council to approve the minutes from its November 1, 2022 meeting. On motion of Dr. Dan Bureau, seconded by Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed, the minutes were approved.

CONSIDERATION OF POSTSECONDARY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FUND APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Tristan Denley reviewed the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund (PIEF) recommendations as provided by the application review committee. He advised the Council of the applications that were received and reminded the Council that the definition of a new program includes programs that have been established for less than a year. He informed the Council that the review committee recommended funding for all the received applications.

Dr. Reed commented that she is excited to see the amount of interest and asked Dr. Denley to discuss the next steps. Dr. Denley explained that the next step needed to disburse the funds is affirmation of the use of funds from each institution's management board and he advised that those letters have been sent to the System Presidents.

On motion of Mr. Johnny Manela, seconded by Ms. Amy Deaville, the review committee's recommendation to fund all applications was approved.

APPROVAL OF LAPIE FISCAL AGENT

Dr. Beckers advised the Council that at the last Louisiana Alliance for Postsecondary Inclusive Education (LAPIE) meeting Southeastern Louisiana University was recommended to serve as the LAPIE fiscal agent. Dr. Beckers also reminded the Council that LAPIE was approved to receive \$150,000 from the PIEF.

On motion of Dr. Mary Breaud, seconded by Ms. Amy Deaville, the recommendation of Southeastern Louisiana University as the LAPIE fiscal agent was approved.

DISCUSSION OF REMAINING PIEF FUNDS

The Council then discussed the remaining funds in the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund and how they should be used. Dr. Beckers commented that LAPIE had met and expressed the concerns of the members. One concern is a program that has already received funds submitting an additional application to receive more monies. She stated the Alliance would like to see evidence that the programs used the funds as intended. The Alliance is also concerned about programs receiving funds for future years, and not a single one. She commented that she had been contacted by campuses that missed the submission deadline— and asked whether the process to submit should be reopened. Dr. Denley replied that everything that had been submitted had been brought forward, but the Council could decide to reopen submissions if there is additional interest.

Dr. Beckers asked the Council to consider whether the application process should be reopened immediately or at a later date. Dr. Breaud commented that reopening the application process will

give the additional two institutions an opportunity to submit and still leave remaining funds for the Council. Dr. Bureau added that it is important that the distribution of funds be maximized in the first year. Dr. Beckers remarked that the duration the application submittal be open should be the same as in the initial round of applications, to allow for equity and fairness. Dr. Reed commented that to ensure fairness application submission should be open to all institutions and an announcement sent to all public postsecondary institutions.

Dr. Bureau asked if the institutions awarded funds in the second round would be required to implement their programs this year. Dr. Denley replied that a program could receive the money this fiscal year, but the deadline for a new program to be operational is Fall 2024.

Dr. Beckers expressed concern that no programs applied from the northern part of the state. Dr. Reed asked Dr. Willie Smith if he had any insight. Dr. Smith replied that he shared the information with his colleagues, but as there is still so much going on post-pandemic. He advised that campuses are aware, but that he is not sure of reasons for the lack of interest, suggesting that budget constraints could be a contributing factor.

Dr. Beckers commented that LAPIE could reach out to the institutions to facilitate a partnership. Dr. Breaud added that when the program at Nicholls began, matching funds had been a concern, but LAPIE could provide potential applicants insights into how matching funds could be obtained.

Dr. Beckers inquired about a deadline for submission if the program reopened to applications. Dr. Denley responded that for the initial application submissions, institutions were given eight weeks due to the holidays. Dr. Reed suggested that six weeks would provide enough time to notify potential applicants and allow for a fair submission process. Dr. Beckers proposed Friday, April 14, 2023 as the submission deadline. Dr. Denley advised that the information could be sent out that day. Dr. Beckers asked how LAPIE could reach institutions interested in applying. Dr. Reed suggested that the informational webinar link be sent out with the application information. Dr. Denley added that the information would also be communicated to provosts and chief academic officers.

On motion of Dr. Reed, seconded by Dr. Breaud, the recommendation of reopening the application process for new and existing programs for a six-week window, closing on April 14, 2023, was approved.

UPDATE ON ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Denley provided an update on the annual report to the Legislature. He advised that the report was submitted to the respective legislative committees on January 12, 2023. He added that as the report deadline was prior to the deadline for application submittal, an addendum will be provided based on today's actions, including funding. Dr. Reed commented that the report shows that the funds are being used, as well as the interest in Postsecondary Inclusive Programs and that she hopes it helps in advocating for future funds. Ms. Deaville also commented that sending the addendum will help from an advocacy standpoint, as it shows the needs for funds.

Dr. Beckers inquired about the program at Northshore Technical Community College (NTCC). Dr. Smith replied that NTCC has a non-credit workforce program, but is interested in creating a for-credit program.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Bureau asked when institutions will be informed about their funding. Dr. Denley responded regarding notification. Dr. Bureau questioned whether timing should be considered if the submission process is reopened, in order to avoid confusion.

Dr. Reed reminded the Council that any remaining funds from PIEF can be carried forward, so there is no concern about funds being lost.

Ms. Deville added that the legislative roundtables began today and that they have positive communication with legislators. Ms. Brittany Soden suggested that it would be beneficial for mentors to speak to the legislators, with Dr. Reed adding that contact with both students and mentors would be helpful. Dr. Beckers announced that the video LAPIE uses is currently being updated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kim Langlois advised the Council that a Doodle poll will be sent to Council members to determine the next meeting date, which should be in mid- to late May.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.