

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

September 20, 2023

The Board of Regents met at 12:47 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 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  
Gary Solomon, Jr., Vice Chair  
Robert Levy, Secretary\*  
David Aubrey  
Blake David  
Samuel Gil, Student Member  
Darren Mire  
T. Jay Seale III  
Terrie Sterling  
Felix Weill  
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board representatives present were:

Alterman “Chip” Jackson, LCTC System\*  
Mary Werner, LSU System\*

Mgt. Board representatives not present were:

SU System Representative  
UL System Representative

Absent from the meeting were:

Christian Creed  
Randy Ewing  
Stephanie Finley  
Phillip May, Jr.  
Wilbert Pryor  
Terrie Sterling

Appendix A

Guest List

Chair Temple acknowledged the passing of Dr. Charles McDonald, who served on the Board of Regents from 2017 until 2022. Regent Levy noted that he, along with Commissioner Reed and Regent Williams-Brown, was able to attend the funeral of Dr. McDonald and noted that Commissioner Reed expressed, on behalf of the Board, our deepest condolences to the family and to those attending the funeral.

Regent Levy then spoke about Dr. McDonald's work at ULM, as well as his time as a student there, reflecting that Dr. McDonald had noted that it was his work there, in financial aid, that influenced his work in the legislature. Due to his efforts in the legislature, he became known as the "father of TOPS." Regent Levy noted that Dr. McDonald's "capstone exercise" was becoming a member of the Board of Regents, which was appropriate since he championed higher education throughout his work. Regent Levy stated that Dr. McDonald had a servant's heart and left an enduring legacy in higher education in this state. Chairman Temple thanked Regent Levy for his heartfelt comments and noted that Regent McDonald will be missed.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 23, 2023 MEETING

**On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2023 meeting.**

#### CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Temple made the following comments:

- He acknowledged Student Board Member Samuel Gil and gave him the opportunity to provide an update to the Board.
  - Regent Gil spoke about the COSBP meeting held the past week at Louisiana Delta Community College, saying that members had great discussion about campus safety and about the annual Washington, D.C. trip. He noted that COSPB will also be traveling to the College Convention in New Hampshire. He noted that this convention is not limited to SGA members and added that, in 2020, Louisiana had about 100 representatives, which was the largest group at that conference.
  - He reported that some of the institutions in Louisiana, including ULL, LSU, and SUBR, have hosted gubernatorial debates.
  - He added that some of the COSBP students were interviewed by LPB over the weekend, and LPB plans to use responses to lead into a question for the candidates participating in the gubernatorial debate hosted by LPB on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - He noted that, as discussed in the Budget Hearings the previous day, with enrollment decreases there will likely be budget decreases and increased student fees may be proposed to fill in the gap. He stated that raising student fees is not the answer to filling budget gaps as they put an undue burden on the students.
- Chairman Temple noted that Commissioner Reed joined Governor Edwards on August 28<sup>th</sup> for a ribbon cutting for the Lafourche Crossing GUMBO Project in Thibodaux, a newly completed

project to bring high-speed internet to over one hundred families and businesses in Lafourche Parish. He commented that we are first in broadband expansion across the nation.

- He announced that Regents staff attended the annual staff retreat at the Capital Park Museum, where he had the opportunity to open the retreat and Regent Sterling gave the keynote, specifically talking about having a work-life balance.
- Regent Solomon and Regent Sterling had the opportunity to celebrate Governor Edwards' healthcare and higher education investments at LSUHSC – New Orleans.

## MASTER PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, presented to the Board the Master Plan Year 4 report. He reiterated the goal that shapes the Master Plan - 60% of the adult population with degree/credential attainment by 2030. He was excited to announce that Louisiana is currently at 49.5% attainment, which is the highest attainment rate the state has ever seen. He noted the importance of the return on investment related to growth and said he hoped to bring data to the Board next year. He went through the strategies that have been employed to achieve this goal – to increase college going, improve college success, and recognize all credentials of value – and provided details related to each of these elements.

Discussing the first factor, increasing college going, Dr. Denley noted the importance of dual enrollment, observing an overall 15% increase in participation over the last two years. He also indicated that there are 1,800 more African American students taking dual enrollment in 2022-2023 compared with 2021-2022. Other strategies to increase college-going include promoting admissions and the M.J. Foster Promise Program.

Dr. Denley noted the second strategy, to improve student success, will focus on scaling up corequisite math and English and advancing the Meauxmentum Framework. He provided a brief overview of these elements, citing as significant impacts reverse transfer, universal transfer pathways, and counting credentials from other providers.

Regent Solomon asked, regarding the chart showing the pathway to the 2030 goal of 85,000 students with a credential, how degree attainment aligns with the credential attainment goal laid out by LCTCS. Dr. Denley answered that there is a need to clarify what credentials are counted, which can be complicated. He talked about the differences in completion of degrees, stackable credentials, and

complete terms, noting that we need to be consistent about how these pieces fit together. He added that workforce credentials will comprise a significant number of these 85,000 degrees that Regents is aiming to produce. Regent Solomon asked if work had been done to see how the attainment goal is dispersed between different systems. Dr. Denley responded that with our expanded data set we now have the information that will allow us to do so. Regent Solomon noted that, in reference to resource planning, if the goal is to align the finite resources to increase degree attainment, it would be helpful to see the breakdown of expected degree attainment by system to understand how to allocate resources and set expectations as part of our operational and programmatic planning. Commissioner Reed acknowledged that this is an important point and noted the significance of the expanded data set that Dr. Denley has now developed, which includes all credentials of value from other providers, to enable the Board to have these planning conversations.

#### REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Temple inquired if any member of the Board wanted to take up any of the Committee reports separately before a motion was made to accept all reports. Regent Aubrey asked if the Board would take up separately Agenda Item IV: Third-Party Project: ULL Football Stadium Seating Replacement from the Facilities Committee. Before discussion was had, Regent Temple asked the Board to approve all committee recommendations, except those of the Facilities and Property Committee.

**On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Gil the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations, except Facilities and Property Committee, from the September 20, 2023 Committee meetings.**

After this vote was taken, Regent Mire moved to approve all items on the Facilities and Property Committee agenda except Agenda Item IV: Third-Party Project: ULL Football Stadium Seating Replacement.

**On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Board voted unanimously to approve all items on the Facilities and Planning Committee agenda, except Agenda Item IV: Third-Party Project: ULL Football Stadium Seating Replacement, from the September 20, 2023 Committee meetings.**

Regent Aubrey noted his dissent on Agenda Item IV and explained his view that it sets a precedent of approval of the project though fees from parking and a master plan student fee will support it. Regent Weill asked for discussion regarding the approval of the third-party project, including the reasoning for and against approval.

Commissioner Reed asked Lawrence Sisung, Sisung Group, to speak specifically on the student impact regarding the master plan fee given the board's concerns. Mr. Sisung explained that this is a structure in which parking revenues will be used for a parking facility. He noted that when the parking facility was originally built, the master plan and parking fees were built around this credit structure. Mr. Sisung noted that these fees cannot be used towards luxury suites, as this is prohibited by law. He added that the whole project includes the master plan student fee and explained that the master plan student fee can only be applied to general seats, as these can be utilized by the general public. Regent Gil asked, regarding the master plan fee direction to this project, how this project will benefit students. Mr. Sisung noted that the project benefits students by providing an improvement in campus facilities, which will positively impact campus student life as well as yield increased economic impact. When asked, he clarified that the student fee is actually a parking fee paid by students and all others who choose to pay for parking on campus. Regent Seale asked whether, if these fees were eliminated, the project would still be built, but at a higher interest rate. Mr. Sisung confirmed this. Regent Aubrey asked if there was a dedicated master plan student fee outside of the parking fee. Mr. Sisung confirmed that it is part of the credit structure and that no new student fees are being assessed for this project which he stated has been approved by the UL system board as well. Regent Seale asked for clarification on how a Regents negative vote would affect the project. Mr. Sisung explained that the project would not move forward.

After this discussion, a roll call vote was taken for Agenda Item IV: Third-Party Project: ULL Football Stadium Seating Replacement. Agenda Item IV was passed by a vote of 8-1.

Board Members voting to approve Agenda Item IV.

Blake David  
Samuel Gil  
Darren Mire

T. Jay Seale  
Gary Solomon, Jr.  
Collis Temple III.  
Felix Weill  
Judy Williams-Brown

Board Members voting against Agenda Item IV.  
David Aubrey

## AUDIT

### POSTLETHWAITE & NETTERVILLE (P&N) INTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION:

- A. Internal Audit Risk Assessment**
- B. Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2024**

Mrs. Kristin Bourque from Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N) provided an overview of the Annual Internal Audit Risk Assessment and summarized the objective and scope as well as the current year procedures. After this, Mrs. Bourque presented the Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2024. In the current plan, she noted three areas selected for auditing in FY 24: LOSFA's Information Technology Security Processes, BOR's Finance and Administration Human Resources, and BOR's Research and Sponsored Initiatives LASTEM.

**Regent Seale requested a motion to approve P&N's Internal Audit Plan for FY 2024. On motion of Regent Weill and seconded by Regent Solomon, the motion passed unanimously.**

## FINANCE

### REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGETS

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, began his presentation by stating that the September Board of Regents' budget hearings provided an entire day for the Board to receive budget presentations from each of the management boards regarding their campus and system budgets as well as from the Board of Regents, including the programs of LUMCON and LOSFA. The hearings focused on the FY 2023-2024 Operating Budgets, allowing for questions and discussion on immediate and long-term budget adjustments. The schedule for the budget hearings was as follows:

**Schedule of Budget Hearings for Tuesday, September 20, 2022**  
**Board Conference Room, Claiborne Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

9:00 a.m.	Introduction
9:05 a.m.	Revenue Outlook and Statewide Overview
9:45 a.m.	Board of Regents
9:55 a.m.	Break
10:00 a.m.	Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)
10:30 a.m.	Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)
11:00 a.m.	Break
11:05 a.m.	Louisiana Community and Technical College System
12:05 p.m.	Lunch Break
12:45 p.m.	Southern University System
1:45 p.m.	Break
2:00 p.m.	Louisiana State University System
3:00 p.m.	University of Louisiana System

Following the hearings, today the Finance Committee met to review and consider acceptance of the FY 2023-2024 operating budgets. BoR staff presented statewide summary information for the Board's consideration.

**Approved the funding recommendations for all Higher Education Systems, boards and agencies for FY 2023-2024.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. LaBruyere mentioned that this month's actions represent the final step in the FY 2023-2024 budget development cycle. Next month, staff will update and prepare the funding request for FY 2024-2025, which will be the first step in the FY 2024-2025 budget cycle.

Regent Aubrey asked Mr. LaBruyere to explain the previous formula reviews and what to expect in an upcoming review. Mr. LaBruyere explained the collaborative process with the systems undertaken in the past and added that the next review process is still being planned. Once set, the Board would be made aware of the review process.

**FACILITIES AND PROPERTY**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, reported on the Consent Agenda Report containing the small capital projects staff approved since the previous meeting:

**Approved the Consent Agenda, including the small capital and third-party projects reports, as presented.**

**A. Small Capital Projects**

1. **BPCC: Server Room Project, Rayne, LA** – Bossier Parish Community College, Maintenance Reserve Account Revenues \$357,000
2. **LSU Ag Center: Rice Research Station New Greenhouse, Rayne, LA** – Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Rice Research Board Revenues \$550,000
3. **LSU Ag Center: Greenhouse Generator, Rayne, LA** – Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Rice Research Board Revenues \$179,925
4. **LSU A&M: Enchanted Forest Safety and Security Improvements, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Enhancing the Core Fee Revenues \$450,000
5. **LSU A&M: Evangeline Circle Horseshoe ADA Sidewalk and Site Improvements, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Facility Access Fee Revenues \$180,000
6. **LSU A&M: PERTT Equipment Yard CO2 Wellbore and Flow Loop Installation, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$450,000
7. **LSU A&M: Thomas Boyd Hall Suite 146 Renovations, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$335,000
8. **LSU A&M: Tiger Park Stadium Premium Seating Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$225,000
9. **LSU-S: Business and Education Building Business Engagement Center, Shreveport, LA** – Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Operational Funds \$465,885

**B. Third-Party Projects**

1. **La Tech: Track and Field Complex Practice Fields, Ruston, LA** – Louisiana Tech University, Private Donations \$550,000
2. **NSU: Prather Coliseum Interior Renovations, Natchitoches, LA** – Northwestern State University, Private Donations \$90,000
3. **NSU: Softball Complex Improvements, Natchitoches, LA** – Northwestern State University, Private Donations \$980,000



### THIRD-PARTY PROJECT: ULL FOOTBALL STADIUM SEATING REPLACEMENT

The University of Louisiana System (ULS), on behalf of the University of Louisiana – Lafayette (ULL), submitted a third-party project for the purpose of constructing seating improvements within the football stadium. ULL will enter into grounds and facilities leases with Ragin’ Cajun Facilities, Inc. (RCFI), who will be responsible for the project. The project is a portion of a larger stadium renovation project to demolish the west side of the stadium and rebuild with improvements. The overall improvements include new premium seating, which is expected to include luxury suites, midrange suites, lower bowl loges, club-level loges, and club seating. This project will involve construction of new seating outside the premium seating areas. ULL, through RCFI, intends to use the proceeds of revenue bonds issued through the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority to finance the project. Annual debt service for the bonds will be secured and payable from lease payments made by the ULS, on behalf of ULL, to RCFI and will be derived from a parking registration fee paid by students, faculty, and the public for the purpose of parking on campus, a master plan student fee, and a subordinate pledge of parking fees derived from the Zone 15 parking lot. ULL requested that a maintenance reserve fund not be applicable for this portion of the project due to this portion consisting of primarily concrete and metal seating improvements.

Regent Levy inquired as to whether any of the fees were long-running assessments or if they had a sunset. Mr. Herring stated that the parking fees are ongoing fees for parking on campus.

Supervisor Jackson asked for clarification on the master plan fee. Mr. Herring stated the master plan fee was a fee levied on students to assist ULL in meeting the goals laid out within the institutions most recent master plan.

Regent Gil requested a copy of the fee legislation related to parking. Mr. Herring invited Lawrence Sisung with the Sisung Group (representing ULL) and Matt Kern with Jones-Walker to come to the table

to provide additional insight. Mr. Walker stated that the parking fee is not a student self-assessed fee levied solely against students. The parking fees associated with the project are levied against any person (students, faculty, staff, or the general public) who would like to park on campus each semester.

Regent Aubrey sought confirmation that parking fees and the master plan fee would be used to fund the stadium improvements.

Mr. Sisung stated that the parking fees would not be used to fund the stadium improvements directly but would continue to fund the debt service associated with the Louis Street parking garage. The credit package involved with the Louis Street garage would be used for the seating project to achieve a lower interest rate for the transaction.

**Approved the third-party project submitted by the University of Louisiana System, on behalf of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, for the purpose of construction and renovation of football stadium seating improvements.**

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Herring provided the Board with an update on the FY 2024-2025 Capital Outlay Budget recommendation, which will be presented during the October meeting. He followed up on Commissioner Dardenne's comments from the budget hearings while highlighting the number of projects received by the BOR for FY 2024-25 consideration and the year one funding requests for those projects. Specifically, he noted the number of total requests received by the management boards, including the number of ongoing projects from their submissions. Lastly, he informed the Board that the primary focus of the FY 2024-2025 recommendation will be on moving ongoing projects forward.

Regent Seale asked under what circumstances the Board would focus on new projects again. Mr. Herring stated it would be prudent to focus on completing ongoing projects, which include new facilities across all systems, before recommending new projects. Commissioner Reed mentioned that conversations would need to be held with the Division of Administration to discuss prioritization of the ongoing projects going forward due to capacity limitations.

Regent Solomon asked, if the BOR focused solely on moving ongoing projects forward, how the process would work if institutions went directly to their local delegations to fund specific projects. Commissioner Reed stated that staff will need to work with the current, and future, Commissioners of Administration to determine what their focus will be in terms of capital outlay.

## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine staff approvals.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approved the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.**

#### **A. Routine Staff Approvals**

- 1. River Parishes Community College: Request to offer the CAS in Medical Coding Specialist (CIP 51.0707) and the AAS in Drafting and Design Technology (CIP 15.1301) 100% online.**
- 2. LSU A&M: Request to establish a Graduate Certificate (GC) in Agribusiness (CIP 52.0203) with a progress report due October 1, 2024.**
- 3. LSU Alexandria: Request to offer the BA in History (54.0101) and the BS in Elementary Education (13.1202) 100% online.**
- 4. LSU Alexandria: Request to establish an Undergraduate Certificate (UC) in Echocardiography (CIP 51.0920) with a progress report due October 1, 2024.**
- 5. Southern University at New Orleans: Request to offer the BS in Forensic Science (CIP 43.0406), the MSW in Social Work (CIP 44.0701), the BS and MS in Computer Information Systems (CIP 11.0401) and the BS in Business Administration (CIP 52.0201) 100% online.**
- 6. Grambling State University: Request to offer the MA in Mass Communication (CIP 09.0102) and the MAT in Special Education & Special Ed. M/Moderate Grades 6-12 (CIP 13.1205) 100% online.**
- 7. McNeese State University: Request to offer the BS in Early Childhood Education Grades PK-3 (CIP 13.1210) and the BS in Elementary Education Grades 1-5 (CIP 13.1202) 100% online.**
- 8. University of Louisiana at Lafayette: Request to offer the BSBA in Marketing (CIP 52.1401) and the MEd in Special Education, Gifted (CP 13.1004) 100% online.**
- 9. University of New Orleans: Request to offer the MS in Hospitality and Tourism Management (CIP 52.0901), the BA and MA in English (CIP 23.0101), the MFA in Creative Writing (CIP 23.1302) and the BA in Philosophy (CIP 38.0101) 100% online.**

## NEW CENTER OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FOR THE STUDY OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Dr. Denley presented the request from LSU A&M, with the LSU AgCenter, to establish the new Center of Research Excellence for the Study of Invasive Species and to designate it as a Board of Regents Center of Research Excellence. LSU A&M and the LSU AgCenter wish to capitalize on a strong history of research in invasive species, and specifically their impact on the Lower Mississippi River Delta Region, including how those invasive species harm agriculture.

**Approved the Center of Research Excellence for the Study of Invasive Species with conditional designation as a Center of Research Excellence.**

## 2023 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PLANNING

Dr. Denley presented the Strategic Academic Plans for 2023. He noted that it is important that the plans are focused on the 2030 goal and that students receive the credentials they need. Previously, institutions provided 60 programs that are in various stages of initial implementation. This year, nine institutions recommend termination of 28 programs that do not meet the needs of students. He added that the academic plans do not take the place of the program approval process currently in place.

Additionally, institutions have been provided access to regional labor market information, via Lightcast, to use as part of their academic planning process to meet the economic needs of the state. He presented a list of the top high-demand occupations that will be used to assist in academic planning going forward.

Dr. Denley presented to the Committee 54 new degree programs for the coming year which campuses wish to develop for full consideration and advised that all have gone through an extensive review process by staff, as well as Louisiana Economic Development.

Supervisor Werner asked about the proposal from LSU A&M to terminate both the Master of Education in Gifted Education and the Master of Education in Special Education, as both are included in the list of economic needs. Dr. Susannah Craig noted that many institutions are transforming individual master's programs in Education disciplines to unified programs that include multiple concentrations,

though she stated that she was not aware if this is LSU's plan. It was later confirmed by Dr. Craig that LSU does intend to unify the program and offer multiple concentrations.

**Approved the following actions on the 2023-2024 institutional academic plans:**

- **Receive and accept the year one list of planned new degree programs.**
- **Receive and accept the progress report on recently approved programs.**
- **Approve the requested program terminations.**

## **RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES**

### APPOINTMENTS OF ENDOWED CHAIRHOLDERS WITHOUT NATIONAL SEARCH: UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, indicated that two institutions, Xavier University of Louisiana and Louisiana Tech University, had requested a waiver of the Endowed Chairs national search requirement to appoint current faculty to vacant Chairs:

- Xavier University/State of Louisiana Endowed Chair in Science Freeport McMoRan, Inc. Chair, matched FY 2007-08: Anderson Sunda-Meya, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Daniel D. and Linda D. Reneau Eminent Scholar Chair in Biomedical Engineering, matched FY 2016-17: Dr. Collin Wick, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Science

She reviewed the current policy provisions for such a request and the assessments provided by out-of-state consultants of the proposed holders' qualifications, noting that both requests were recommended for approval.

**Approved the request from Xavier University of Louisiana to appoint Dr. Anderson Sunda-Meya to the Xavier University/State of Louisiana Endowed Chair in Science and from Louisiana Tech to appoint Dr. Collin Wick to the Daniel D. and Linda D. Reneau Eminent Scholar Chair in Biomedical Engineering. As stipulated in Board policy, copies of the Letters of Appointment to these appointees must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of this approval.**

### LIMITED WAIVER OF ENDOWED CHAIRS AND ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS EXPENDABLE FUNDS CAP: LSU HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER – NEW ORLEANS

Ms. Robison stated that LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans requested a temporary waiver of the cap on spendable balance for a total of thirty-nine (39) BoRSF-matched faculty endowments (Endowed Chairs and Endowed Professorships). The waivers were requested to ensure impactful spending after a build-up of expendable dollars in these accounts due to travel and other

restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that the waiver of this policy provision is recommended to be effective only for FY 2023-24, with the understanding that all slots will be fully in compliance with the cap on expendable balances by June 30, 2024.

**Approved the LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans’s request to waive the cap on expendable balances in faculty endowment funds for the thirty-nine (39) endowments specified in its letter of request. The waiver will expire on June 30, 2024, at which time all endowments shall be in compliance with the affected policy provision.**

MORATORIUM ON CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF ENDOWED CHAIRS WITHOUT A NATIONAL SEARCH

Regent Aubrey recommended the addition of a separate agenda item related to a moratorium on consideration of requests to appoint endowed chairholders without a national search rather than handling it with the previous agenda item on this topic. Chair Solomon noted that a voice vote is required to add an item, with unanimous agreement of all Committee members in attendance to consider the item.

Regent Aubrey moved to add an agenda item to address a moratorium on consideration of requests to appoint endowed chairholders without a national search. Ms. Robison called the voice vote, with voting as follows:

Yea: Regent Aubrey, Regent Seale, and Regent Solomon

Nay: None

Having gained the required unanimous vote of all members present, the item was added to the agenda as Item III.C and discussed.

**Approved a moratorium on consideration of requests made under this policy provision, effective immediately, until staff recommendations for related policy revisions are considered by the Board in spring 2024.**

DIVISION OF ENDOWED CHAIR INTO ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS: UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Ms. Robison indicated that UNO had requested to divide the Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Chair in Engineering, a \$1 million endowed chair matched in 1993-94, into four Endowed Professorships, each with a corpus value of \$250,000.

**Approved the division of the Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Chair in Engineering into four (4) endowed professorships, each with a \$250,000 corpus, as follows: (1) Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Chair in Engineering I; (2) Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Chair in Engineering II; (3) Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Professor of Practice I in Engineering; and (4) Jack and Reba Matthey Endowed Professor of Practice II in Engineering.**

## **STATEWIDE PROGRAMS**

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

**Approved the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.**

- A. Approval of Rulemaking – Reinstates COVID-19 as an objective circumstance for which a student may request an exception.**
- B. TOPS and M.J. Foster Exceptions – TOPS and M.J. Foster provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.**
- C. 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.**

#### **A. Approval of Rulemaking**

Dr. Boutté noted that this rulemaking reinstates 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 the 2023-2024 academic year. To inform this exception provision, staff proposes to include a new definition, which will be applicable to COVID-19 exceptions for the 2023-2024 academic year:

- The student has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- A member of the student’s family with whom they reside has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- The student was exposed to COVID-19 and must adhere to quarantine protocols for COVID-19; or
- The student lives with a family member or provides care to a family member who is at high risk for complications due to COVID-19.

Dr. Boutté noted that Board authorization would allow the executive director to publish a notice of intent to make permanent rules to reinstate objective COVID-19 exceptions through the end of the 2023-2024 academic year.

### **B. TOPS and M. J. Foster Exceptions**

Dr. Boutté noted that both TOPS and the M.J. Foster Promise Program require student recipients to maintain continuous enrollment. Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules require TOPS recipients to continue to enroll in the fall and spring semesters of each academic year, to remain enrolled throughout the semester, and to earn the annual credit hours required by the end of the academic year. Section 2103.E authorizes the governing body to grant an exception to these requirements when the student/recipient has exceptional circumstances that are beyond their immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non- enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution.

Similarly, Section 2207.A.5 of the M.J. Foster administrative rules provide that students must maintain continuous enrollment, unless granted an exception for cause in accordance with §2103 of the Scholarship and Grant administrative rules. The same exceptions that apply for TOPS students apply to all programs administered by LOSFA, including M.J. Foster.

Dr. Boutté noted that 27 TOPS and two M.J. Foster exceptions were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meetings on August 2 and September 13, 2023. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance. The LOSFA Advisory Board has recommended approval of these requests.

### **C. TOPS Home Study Exceptions**

Dr. Boutté indicated that the TOPS statute requires that a student begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year. Act 95 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature implemented a provision which allows the administering agency to grant exceptions to this



requirement when a student provides documentation that the transfer to a home study program later than the statutorily provided time frame was beyond the student's control.

Dr. Boutté noted that four requests for an exception to the deadline to begin a home study program were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meetings on August 2, 2023, and September 13, 2023. The students have presented facts and documentation that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

### NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

Dr. Allison Smith, Assistant Commissioner for Student Health and Wellness, provided an overview of the state's college recovery programs and initiatives, noting that September is Collegiate Recovery Month nationwide. She summarized the history of the collegiate recovery movement, issues around student recovery, the necessity of solving related problems, and the benefit to both students and campuses in providing these services. Dr. Smith then profiled several new recovery programs available at campuses across the state and ongoing activities to support these programs and the students they serve. She also noted support provided for mental health services and the expanding programs that will result from the funding.

## **PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE**

### CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda which included an item related to licensure of academic degree-granting institutions, which was a renewal application (South University).

**Approved the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.**

- A. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)**
  - 1. Renewal Applications**
    - a. South University**

**REPORT ON ACT 109 OF THE 2021 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION – HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT REINVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY (H.E.R.O) FUND**

Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, provided an overview the H.E.R.O. Fund, which was created by ACT 109 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. She noted that the Louisiana Health Works Commission, which brought forth its annual report to the Board in April 2023, determines how the H.E.R.O. Fund will meet the current and growing healthcare employment demands. Building on the Health Works Commission annual report recommendations, the Commission approved the creation of the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership Program. This program has been designed for higher education institutions to partner with healthcare providers and regional not-for-profits to establish specific innovative programs that increase the number of healthcare graduates in their labor market. Ms. Baker gave an overview of the purpose of the program and highlighted the nine program participants, including:

Higher Education Institution	Regional Partner(s)
Elaine P. Nunez Community College	Louisiana Children’s Medical Center, New Orleans East Hospital
Fletcher Technical Community College	Terrebonne General Health System, Cardiovascular Institute of the South, Terrebonne Parish Recreation District #7, Terrebonne Parish School District, and Ochsner Health System
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University	Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System and HOPE Ministries
LSU Health Shreveport	Ochsner Lafayette General
Louisiana State University at Alexandria	Rapides Regional Medical Center, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Avoyelles Hospital and CHRISTUS Central Louisiana Surgical Hospital
Louisiana Tech University	Northeast Louisiana Healthcare Alliance
Northwestern State University	Natchitoches Regional Medical Center
Southern University and A&M College	Ochsner Health and Southern University System Foundation
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Ochsner Lafayette General and Oceans Healthcare

**This item was for information only; no action was required.**

#### REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She acknowledged Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research and Development, on his election as a National Academy of Inventors Fellow.
- She expressed her excitement that a Louisiana team was selected to attend the American Association of College and University's (AAC&U) inaugural Institute on Digital Equity led by LOUIS's Rebecca Kelley. This is a seven-month program that will allow Louisiana to develop a statewide digital equity plan that will provide all postsecondary education institutions in Louisiana with the framework to initiate a project or to scale up additional existing digital inclusion efforts.
- She stated that she has been visiting the nine regional STEM centers, with her most recent stop at the fantastic Bayou STEM Chemistry Roadshow at Fletcher. She noted that she has two more STEM centers to visit (Lake Charles and Lafayette).
- She noted the celebration of National College Colors Day by Regents staff.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Temple asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There was no other business. He noted that the offsite Board of Regents meeting will be held on October 17-18, 2023 in Lafayette, LA. Board development will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, with the Board meeting to follow on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Gil, seconded by Regent Solomon, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Hampton Grunewald	LSU AgCenter
Mike Stout	LSU AgCenter
Kristin Bourque	P&N
Scott Hebert	UL
Anna Bartel	LSU
Amanda Tevis	OPB
Robert Rene	SU System
Luria Young	SUBR
Sean O'Neal	Ellucian
William Tulak	LCTCS
Blair LeBlanc	HLS