

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

January 23, 2024

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, in the Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100, Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 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  
Christian Creed  
Blake David  
Samuel Gil, Student Member  
Darren Mire  
Wilbert Pryor  
T. Jay Seale, III  
Terrie Sterling  
Felix Weill  
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present were:

Collis Temple, Jr., LSU System  
Stephen Smith, LCTC System

Mgt. Board Representatives absent were:

SU System Representative  
UL System Representative

Absent from the meeting was:

Randy Ewing  
Stephanie Finley  
Phillip May, Jr.

Appendix A  
Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

## OATHS OF OFFICE

### **Board Officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary)**

The newly appointed officers for 2024 were sworn in by Ms. Brianna Golden. She administered the oaths of office to Regent Gary Solomon, Jr. as Chair, Regent T. Jay Seale III as Vice Chair and Regent Darren Mire as Secretary.

### **Members to Serve on the Executive Committee**

The members of the 2024 Executive Committee were sworn in by Ms. Brianna Golden. The members of the executive committee that were sworn in include Regent Collis Temple III, Regent Blake David and Regent Terrie Sterling. Regent Phillip May, Jr. was absent and would be sworn in at the next Board meeting.

## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Solomon made the following comments:

- He thanked Chair Temple, as well as past Chairs Blake David and Marty Chabert, who led during his tenure at the Regents, for their leadership. Chair Solomon thanked the Board, Commissioner Reed and staff for their work, reflected on his time at the Regents thus far and expressed his commitment to the work ahead in this coming year.
- Chair Solomon introduced Susie Schowen, newly appointed Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) and noted her past accomplishments and vision for the future of the LWC.
  - Secretary Schowen noted that she looks forward to working collaboratively with Louisiana's educational systems and Louisiana's leadership. She provided an overview of her role at LWC and mentioned current challenges impacting workforce development. She discussed including Commissioner Reed and members of the Board of Regents in helping to develop a federally mandated and comprehensive Workforce Development Plan for Louisiana.
  - Chair Solomon asked if the Board had any questions. Regent Levy asked about the disconnect between the number of jobs available and the number of individuals seeking jobs. Secretary Schowen responded that there is often a mismatch between the skills required and a job seeker's skill set. She suggested that educational institutions will need to better align instruction and training with the skills needed in the workforce and that a lack of reliable and affordable childcare, transportation, and health insurance also contributes to the problem. She noted that LWC aims to move toward integrated social services. Secretary Schowen stated that her goal is not only to have people survive poverty but also to assist them in escaping poverty. Rather than bringing more social services to Louisiana, Secretary Schowen emphasized that she wants to better use the services already available while also looking at the differences in labor force participation rates in urban versus rural areas of the state. Regent Weill then asked to what extent the

LWC tracks the demand side of employment. Secretary Schowen responded that the demand side is reported in LWC's occupational long- and short-term forecasts. There are plans for expanding and enhancing these forecasts and for a supply-demand gap analysis. Regent Seale asked about labor participation rates across comparable states and why these states are succeeding. Secretary Schowen noted that states surrounding Louisiana—Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, and others—have labor force participation rates comparable to Louisiana's. Many states with the highest labor force participation rates (+70%) are in the Northeast. These states tend to have equally high numbers of success in their K-12 educational systems and their postsecondary institutions, but Secretary Schowen stated that she feels the cause falls on long-term poverty more than on any other factor. Regent Aubrey asked for Secretary Schowen's thoughts on broadband access being a contributing factor to Louisiana's workforce issues. She noted that improvement in broadband access is an important component for at-home learning/training, especially in rural areas. Broadband also offers opportunities for economic development, according to the Secretary. In conclusion, Commissioner Reed acknowledged the Secretary's depth of knowledge and commitment to partnership.

- Regent Pryor acknowledged the presence of Collis Temple, Jr., LSU System representative, and thanked him for his historic contributions in laying the foundation for student-athletes and community members across Louisiana.
- Chair Solomon asked Regent Samuel T. Gil, student member, to present his update.
  - Regent Gil noted that some members of the Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP), accompanied by Harold Boutte, attended a college convention in New Hampshire, where they learned about the presidential campaign process.
  - He added that COSBP will visit Washington, D.C., and plan to meet with Senator Bill Cassidy and Representatives Garrett Graves, Julia Letlow, and Troy Carter. They also planned tours of the White House and U.S. Capitol, where they hope to meet with House Speaker Mike Johnson.
  - Regent Gil is interested in looking at engagement among students on campuses, especially related to long-term effects of COVID on student interactions. He suggested exploring student involvement on campus and how that will translate to the workforce.
  - Regent Gil also mentioned a deferred maintenance need of approximately \$1.6 billion, expressing his hope that the Louisiana Legislature will address these concerns on campuses across the state.
- Chair Solomon noted that Regent May was a featured speaker at the 2024 Outlook Louisiana Economic Forum.
- Chair Solomon also noted Regent Aubrey's role in a recent AT&T contribution of \$25,000 to the Southeastern Louisiana University Foundation to address digital literacy among low-income adults and seniors in Livingston Parish. The collaboration will endeavor to improve digital literacy skills.

#### RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2024

**On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to ratify the Committee assignments of 2024.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2023 MEETING

**On motion of Regent Gil, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting.**

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, introduced Dr. Luria Young, Interim Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Southern University and A&M College. Dr. Young congratulated Chair Solomon on this new appointment and greeted the other Board members. Since starting her work in Academic Affairs in September 2023, Dr. Young stated that she has been a participant in the Meauxmentum Framework helping to accelerate and systematize ongoing programs throughout the Southern University System. She noted that at Southern University A&M, Meauxmentum has become known as “Jags Gaining Meauxmentum.” Meauxmentum activities are now a requirement across the Southern University A&M campus through university-wide collaborations that have the support of Interim Executive Vice President John Pierre and President Dennis Shields. Work has begun on plans for next month’s Meauxmentum Summit. Last November, Dr. Denley was invited to visit Southern A&M to discuss the Board of Regents’ Master Plan and more specifically the Meauxmentum Framework. His visit helped to solidify Southern A&M’s focus on retention and workforce development. Dr. Young noted that Southern A&M is focusing on starting with the end in mind to ensure strategies are in place for retaining students through graduation. She noted that business and industry clusters, which meet monthly with faculty and students, have been reinstated. Dr. Young indicated that faculty need to be aware of workforce needs so they can train students to become part of Louisiana’s workforce and she add that there is an effort underway to provide learning experiences outside the classroom for students. Southern A&M has launched a new professional development and advancement platform, Academic Impressions, for the faculty and is also fully implementing EAB’s Navigate, a customer relations management tool.

In news about students, Dr. Young mentioned that last summer, Southern A&M hosted the second cohort of the Jaguar Success Academy (JSA), an eight-week academic residential program for academically challenged students providing academic assistance and support. Of the 162 students enrolled in the

Academy, over 50% earned a 2.5 G.P.A. for the 2023 Fall semester with work underway to secure more funding to expand the program. Dr. Young mentioned the co-requisite model being used in English and mathematics, noting plans to implement it in biology soon. In addition, Southern A&M is hiring more counselors to support students' mental health. Finally, Dr. Young re-emphasized her commitment to giving students experiences outside the classroom through workforce development with support from Southern A&M alumni around the world. Commissioner Reed thanked Dr. Young for her presentation and her leadership as part of the Meauxmentum Movement to make needed changes to improve student outcomes. Regent Pryor asked about TOPS usage and dual enrollment at Southern A&M. Dr. Young said that about 350 students are dually enrolled, but added that she did not have specific information about TOPS at Southern A&M. The campus is working with school systems across the state to increase its dual enrollment numbers. Dr. Denley added that Louisiana's Higher Education Meauxmentum Summit will be held February 7-8, 2024, at the Raising Cane's River Center. Approximately 400 department chairs, faculty and other leaders from campuses around the state will be in attendance.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **AUDIT**

#### OVERVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2024 AUDIT PLAN

Ms. Kristin Bourque, Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N), presented an overview of the Fiscal Year 2024 audit plan, which includes two audits currently in progress—LOSFA IT Security Processes Audit and Regents Expenditure Process Audit. At the time that materials were due for the presentation, the following steps had been completed for the LOSFA IT Security Processes Audit: reviewed policies and procedures, conducted interviews and walkthroughs, completed testing procedures, and communicated initial results to IT management. Since then, P&N has issued a draft report. Next steps will be to hold an exit meeting with management to discuss observations and obtain management's responses so a final report can be drafted. The Audit Committee Chair will receive the final report once it is completed. Ms. Bourque then discussed the Regents Expenditure Process Audit, which was added to the audit plan during the October Board

meeting. To date, the following steps have been completed for this audit: reviewed available policies and procedures, conducted interviews and walkthroughs, performed analysis on data reports, held follow-up meetings with the Finance Team, and completed initial policy assessments. Next steps for this audit include the following: complete testing, draft a report for management, discuss report with management, obtain management's response, finalize the report, and present the report and management responses to the Audit Committee. P&N will then meet with management to discuss next steps for finalizing the 2024 Audit Plan.

## **LEGISLATIVE**

### **LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

Ms. Brianna Golden, Policy Advisor for Strategic Planning and Student Success, provided an overview of progress on fifteen annual legislative reports. To date, eight have been submitted, two are provided for consideration during this meeting—Teacher Recruitment, Recovery and Retention Task Force Report, and the Power Base Violence Report—and five remain to be completed for submission to the Legislature.

#### **a. Teacher Recruitment, Recovery and Retention Task Force Report**

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, began the review by stating that during the 2023 Legislative Session the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery and Retention Task Force had been extended for two additional years. Regents, in coordination with the Task Force and the Louisiana Department of Education, is studying declining numbers in enrollment in teacher preparation programs, strategies for increasing recruitment, and efforts to bolster teacher retention. The group has met five times over the last year to discuss compensation, different teaching pathways, loan forgiveness, professional development, and enrollment and completion in teacher preparation programs. Dr. Craig shared that the number of teachers working in Louisiana currently (51,965) has risen above the number posted before the pandemic. Dr. Craig expressed gratitude for the continued support of the Louisiana Legislature. She noted milestones such as increased teacher compensation, elimination of some barriers for teachers coming from out of state to work in Louisiana, removal of Praxis core evaluations as a component for acceptance in teacher training programs, and creation of the Geaux Teach Scholarship

Program. Dr. Craig noted that the Task Force has focused on the Pre-Educator Pathway, a program that presents an opportunity for high school students identified by their teachers as potential successful future teacher candidate to enroll in early level education courses as part of dual enrollment.

Another focus of the Task Force has been the Para-to-Teacher Model, an opportunity for paraprofessionals interested in teaching to obtain a bachelor's degree. Dr. Craig also discussed teacher compensation and increased mentor teachers. Finally, Dr. Craig mentioned the Department of Education's New Teacher Experience, a program that provides support to new teachers. The major areas of focus for 2024 are teacher compensation, strengthening the educator pipeline, and continued elevation of the teaching profession. Supervisor Collis Temple, Jr., LSU Representative, asked about the average pay for paraprofessionals. Dr. Craig responded that paraprofessionals across the state probably make less than \$20,000. The Para-to-Teacher Model allows them to continue working while earning a degree with, in some cases, tuition assistance from local school systems. In addition, Supervisor Temple asked what percentage of paraprofessionals work in high schools as opposed to middle schools and which areas, urban or rural, are most impacted by the Para-to-Teacher program. Dr. Craig indicated she would check with the Department of Education for an answer to those questions and share them.

**On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent David, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the 2023 final report for HCR 37 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session and authorize Regents staff to submit this report to the House and Senate Committees on Education.**

#### **b. Power-Based Violence/Title IX Report**

Ms. Julia Hine, Power-Based Violence Compliance Program Coordinator, presented the Power-Based Violence/Title IX Legislative Report, which was submitted in January to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the Select Committee on Women and Children. Ms. Hine noted some of the highlights of the report, including the training of over 31,000 employees (88%) systemwide by the end of 2023, a training rate of 99.5% for designated confidential advisors, and fewer formal complaints in 2023 than in 2022. Ms. Hine expressed thanks to the Legislature for its continued funding to ensure campus safety. In 2023, the Legislature reinvested \$5 million in Title IX programs statewide. The following

recommendation is included in the report regarding the submission of the annual report: shift submission date to January 15 for the training portion to ensure a complete report of annual training. Based on this change of submission date for the training report, a change in submission of the BoR Legislative Report from January 15 to February 15 is requested. Ms. Hine noted that the report highlights a new resource website launched in January 2024: the Power-Based Violence and Title IX hub. While the website is not a tool for reporting incidents, it does provide links to 24/7 support for students. Regent Mire thanked Ms. Hine for her thorough report and noted the progress in this area over the last few years.

Regent Levy commented on the drop in the number of complaints from 2022 to 2023 and asked why that might be. He also commented on the Title IX funding allocations, asking whether there is a formula used to determine these allocations. Ms. Hine attributed the drop in complaints to continued widespread education about the issues of power-based violence. Ms. Brianna Golden added that some incidents may be reported, but not all reports rise to the level of a formal complaint. Regent Levy followed up with a question about the number of reports versus the number of complaints from 2022 to 2023. Ms. Golden said she would follow up on that question but assured him that there are no campus barriers to making reports or complaints. Commissioner Reed added on the funding question that each system's identified their Title IX needs to determine the funding request. Chair Solomon inquired as to whether the upcoming Climate Survey will touch on the work of the Power-Based Violence Taskforce and students' comfort level in reporting incidents. Commissioner Reed stated that it will, noting that it has become easier to make a complaint, but that education and prevention remain important. Regent Sterling mentioned that, in reviewing the ratio of complaints to students, we would conclude that we are grossly underreporting, and asked what the ratio of complaints to students would be in a student environment deemed safe. Ms. Hine said she would investigate a possible national ratio, but Ms. Golden added that the passing of laws has helped encourage both transparency and reporting, which is an unpredictable process. Ms. Hine mentioned several student-led initiatives in this area, including those at ULL and Southern Law.

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Levy, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to receive the Power-Based Violence/Title IX Report.**

## AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFORM POLICY ON POWER-BASED VIOLENCE

Ms. Hine stated that currently the language of the policy does not specify a deadline by which law enforcement agencies are to execute memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the institutions. Act 211 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session established a 30-day deadline for execution of MOUs with public postsecondary institutions. Ms. Hines asked the Board to consider a revision to the policy to incorporate the 30-day deadline.

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Levy, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to amend the Uniform Policy on Power-Based Violence.**

## AUTHORIZATION TO DEVELOP 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Ms. Brianna Golden presented a recommendation from Board senior staff to grant the Commissioner and Board Chair authority to finalize the 2024 legislative agenda and act on legislation as needed. The Board will be updated at the March 2024 meeting.

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to grant the Commissioner and Board Chair authority to finalize the 2024 legislative agenda and act on legislation as needed.**

## **FACILITIES AND PLANNING**

### ACT 959 PROJECT: SOWELA PIPELINE TRAINER PROJECT

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, presented on behalf of SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA) an Act 959 project to construct a new pipeline training unit on the Lake Charles campus to offer hands-on experience in pipeline construction, maintenance, and repair. Act 959 allows institutions to pursue certain capital projects not exceeding \$10 million if projects do not include state dollars. This project is similar to the Delgado project discussed in December 2023 in that a designer was engaged to develop plans to bid the project; however, determination that the estimated cost would be over the \$1 million threshold triggered the need for approval as a 959 Project.

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Vice Chair Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Act 959 project submitted by**

**the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, on behalf of SOWELA, for the purpose of constructing a pipeline training unit on the Lake Charles campus.**

#### OTHER BUSINESS – CAMPUS SAFETY ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Mr. Herring presented an overview of funding for campus safety upgrades. During the last Regular Legislative Session, the Board received \$10 million for campus safety infrastructure upgrades and an additional \$1 million for campus safety assessments. The staff has been working with the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT), which is housed on the LSU A&M campus, to perform the assessments. Two institutions per system will participate in the assessment initially. The assessments cover office training, staffing levels, lighting assessment, and identification of safety vulnerabilities for which an institution can seek funding in the future. There should be limited funding remaining after the first round to fund a second round with fewer institutions involved. Regent Aubrey asked how the \$10 million allocation is broken down across systems, specifically whether it is based on enrollment. Mr. Herring responded that each system was asked to identify priorities. In addition, Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, stated that a two-pronged approach of considering enrollment and the top five safety projects identified by each campus as factors in the allocation decision. Since the top five safety projects totaled more than the \$10 million allocation, systems' top priorities became the determining factor.

### **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

##### **a. Routine Staff Approvals**

- 1. LA Tech: Request to establish an Undergraduate Certificate (UC) in Health Coaching (CIP 51.0001) with a progress report due October 1, 2024.**
- 2. LSU Eunice: Request to establish a Certificate of General Studies (CGS) (CIP 24.0102) with a progress report due October 1, 2024.**

3. **LSU Shreveport: Request to split the College of Business Department of Management and Marketing into the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship and the Department of Marketing and Information Systems.**

**On motion of Regent Gil, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley presented for approval the Associate of Applied Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management at Delgado Community College and the Bachelor of Science in Governmental and Administrative Affairs at Grambling State University. Dr. Denley noted that each of these programs aims to achieve the alignment of workforce skills and training to which Secretary Schowen referred in her earlier presentation. The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management at Delgado is a first-of-its-kind undergraduate degree in the state. Delgado worked with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to develop the program. Two sister institutions will coordinate with Delgado as they make plans for similar programs. The second proposed program, at Grambling, is designed for students interested in working in governmental affairs at local, national, and international levels. This is a 100% online program with a required internship. Regent Seale asked for more information about the internship, specifically what kinds of organizations would host interns. Dr. Denley noted that Grambling has partnerships with the City of Grambling, the Office of Public Health, Housing and Urban Development, the Lincoln Parish Health Unit, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and Oschner Health System. He also mentioned that the Board of Regents is currently working to secure national partnerships. Regent Aubrey noted that Dr. Denley mentioned a similar program at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO). He asked how the new program at Grambling will be different. Dr. Denley noted that the programs, though in a similar area, have different focuses. Regent Aubrey asked if Grambling has eliminated its undergraduate degree in public administration and expressed concerns about the decision to add a new program rather than just expanding a similar existing program. Dr. Lemmy Akoma, Department Head and Professor of Public Administration at Grambling, responded that Grambling's undergraduate degree in public administration and political science undergraduate program were discontinued over thirteen years ago. He explained that the new program has two

concentrations—government and law and international relations and diplomacy. Neither of these is currently available in Louisiana.

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

## **RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES**

### **STATEWIDE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research and Development, presented an overview of the 2010 Fostering Innovation through Research in Science and Technology in Louisiana plan (FIRST) and proposed updates to the plan in 2024. FIRST was initially developed in 2010 in collaboration with campuses and systems across the state. Dr. Khonsari outlined the steps that the EPSCoR and ACARL committees have taken to update FIRST, which will become FIRST Louisiana 2030. The update is needed to respond to federal agencies' requirements, support the Board's Master Plan, guide institutional planning, build capacity throughout the state, and guide state research and development investments. Dr. Khonsari reviewed components of the FIRST Louisiana 2030 plan which were first presented to the Board at the December 2023 meeting—Foundations (Human Capital), Building Blocks (Infrastructure), Networks of Excellence (R&D Centers), Innovation and Incubation, and Target Industry Sectors. He then explained what each component encompasses.

**On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the update to Fostering Innovation through Research in Science and Technology in Louisiana (FIRST Louisiana), the statewide science and technology plan, as presented.**

## **STATEWIDE PROGRAMS**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, Executive Director, LOSFA, presented the Consent Agenda items. Before her presentation began, Chair Solomon acknowledged a public comment card received for Statewide Programs. Lakendra Moore submitted the comment, but she indicated that she did not wish to speak publicly. Ms.

Moore’s comment referred to a challenge she is having with LOSFA. Dr. Boutté started by mentioning that her staff had contacted Ms. Moore and begun working to address the issue.

**1. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Final Rulemaking – Rulemaking to implement Act 287 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.\***
- b. Approval of Final Rulemaking – Rulemaking to implement Act 279 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.\*  
Approval of Final Rulemaking – Rulemaking to implement the provisions of Act 267, Act 224, and Act 405 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and re-organizes the core equivalent tables.\***

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

LUMCON UPDATE

Dr. Brian Roberts, Executive Director and Chief Scientist of LUMCON, presented an update on LUMCON’s Strategic Plan Framework. Chair Solomon took a moment to thank Dr. Roberts for including him in the ribbon-cutting for LUMCON’s Blue Works, a new facility on the Houma Maritime Campus. Dr. Roberts then proceeded to present an overview of LUMCON’s five-year strategic plan to meet its legislatively mandated mission to promote and facilitate research in marine and coastal sciences among Louisiana’s universities. Dr. Roberts stressed that LUMCON strives to connect, enrich, and transform Louisiana’s coastal and marine environments. He noted that LUMCON is a Louisiana Board of Regents program that brings together a consortium of all 32 public postsecondary institutions in addition to the 10 member institutions of LAICU. LUMCON is also a statewide resource located on the coast that supports research and science, education and outreach, and vessel and dive operations. Dr. Roberts mentioned that LUMCON fosters deep engagement with partners across Louisiana through an open and collaborative structure represented in the following initiatives: 1) two State of the LUMCON Consortium meetings annually; 2) overhaul of the LUMCON Council; 3) convening of advisory committees; and 4) liaison efforts

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\* Act 287 – Changes to the MJ Foster Promise Program  
Act 279 – Creates Patriot Scholarship Program for Louisiana National Guard Members  
Act 267 – TOPS Core Curricula Additions and Changes  
Act 224 – Tuition Waiver for 100% Disabled Veterans: These individuals will not receive a TOPS Award  
Act 405 – Amends Louisiana Residency definition for certain TOPS recipients

with the consortium. Dr. Roberts reviewed the overarching goals for the Strategic Plan Framework and indicated work would be continuing throughout the spring to finalize the strategic plan and action steps needed.

## **PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda, which included two initial applications and three renewal applications for licensure of academic degree-granting institutions. The Consent Agenda also included one voluntary withdrawal of a conditional license.

In addition, Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented an update of information shared in September 2023 related to an amendment to the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund Fiscal Year 2024 Plan. Ms. Baker stated that the Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership Program was created to respond to the H.E.R.O. Fund legislation. The Board was asked to consider the expansion of the H.E.R.O. Fund from \$3.9 million to approximately \$5 million.

#### **1. Consent Agenda**

- a. R.S. 17:1808 (Academic Licensure)**
  - i. Initial Applications**
    - a) CBD College**
    - b) Moreland University**
  - ii. Renewal Applications**
    - a) Aspen University**
    - b) Lamar State College - Orange**
    - c) Liberty University**
  - iii. Voluntary Withdrawal of a Conditional License**
    - a) Louisiana International College**
- b. Amendment of Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund Fiscal Year 2024 Plan**

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

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She congratulated Chair Solomon on his appointment as Chair and thanked Regent Temple for his past leadership and support.
- She shared the logo commemorating the Board of Regents' fiftieth year. Commissioner Reed mentioned that throughout the year the Board will observe "golden moments" and provide "golden activities" as part of the year-long commemoration.
- She recognized Mellyn Baker and the Dual Enrollment Taskforce and mentioned a report from Columbia University's Teacher College about ways in which states can improve partnerships with dual enrollment. The report mentions Louisiana five times for its work on the dual enrollment portal, the Task Force, and the FAFSA completion rate, among other items.
- She celebrated another successful SCCC (State Combined Charitable Campaign) donation year for the Board and its staff.
- She recognized the upcoming visit to Washington, D.C., planned for student government association representatives from across the state and thanked the chaperones working to make the trip a great learning opportunity for the students.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Solomon reminded members that the Board will not meet in February and that the next meeting will be March 27, 2024.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Mire, the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, January 23, 2024

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Lemmy G. Akoma	Grambling State University
Roshunda Belton-Cardoza	Grambling State University
Edwin Legnon	OCD-DRU
Ginger Moses	OCD-DRU
Susie Schowen	LWC
Darrell P. Kruger	University of New Orleans
Blair LeBlanc	House Fiscal
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Sujuan Boutte	LOSFA/BoR
Regine Williams	LWC
Kristin Bourque	P&N
William Tulak	LCTCS
Luria Young	SU A&M
Lakendra Moore	Strategies to Empower People (STEP)