

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

March 27, 2024

The Board of Regents met at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, in the Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100, Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, 1st Floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Chair Gary Solomon, Jr. called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:

Gary Solomon, Jr., Chair
T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair
Darren Mire, Secretary
David Aubrey
Misti Cordell
Christian Creed
Blake David
Stephanie Finley
Samuel Gil, Student Member*
Robert Levy*
Wilbert Pryor
Terrie Sterling
Collis Temple III
Felix Weill
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present were:

Alterman “Chip” Jackson, LCTC System*
Dr. Leon Tarver, SU System*
Mary Werner, LSU System*

Absent from the meeting was:

Phillip May, Jr.

Appendix A

Guest List

* Present for Committees, absent for BoR Meeting

At the beginning of the meeting, Brianna Golden, Policy Advisory for Strategic Planning and Student Success, swore in the newly appointed Board Member, Misti S. Cordell.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2024 MEETING

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 meeting.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Solomon made the following comments:

- He noted that, in the absence of Regent Gil, the student member update presentation would be deferred until the April meeting.
- He observed that the Board has recently participated in several events, including the Trusteeship Conference on March 26, 2024, which have brought together Louisiana higher education systems and boards to learn more about the Governor's priorities and legislative initiatives' impact on higher education. At the Trusteeship Conference, Susie Schowen, newly appointed Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission moderated a roundtable of system presidents focusing on how higher education can better align the delivery of postsecondary education to meet workforce demands. Josh Davies, the keynote speaker, shared lessons learned since the onset of the pandemic in 2020 about what higher education must do to remain relevant. Chair Solomon thanked Regent Aubrey and AT&T for sponsoring a reception following the conference to celebrate fifty years of the BOR. Several former Regents and former student members attended the reception.
- He noted that March 19, 2024, was the annual HBCU Day at the Capitol. The event began with a meeting of the HBCU Advisory Council and recognition by the Legislature of the great work HBCUs do to serve their student populations. During a reception, BOR highlighted students from each HBCU campus who were present to discuss their programs. He thanked PepsiCo and Bayou Research Institutes for their sponsorship of this event.
- He noted that in February 2024, Regent Pryor, Regent Williams-Brown, and Deputy Commissioner Tristan Denley attended Chancellor Robert Smith's annual State of the University Address at LSU Shreveport. The address highlighted record-breaking enrollment numbers and expansion of academic offerings.

NSF ENGINES GRANT – LSU'S FUTURE USE OF ENERGY IN LOUISIANA (FUEL)

Chair Solomon announced that the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded a Louisiana team led by LSU A&M \$160M Engines grant. He invited members of the research team leading the Future Use of Energy in Louisiana (FUEL) project—Andrew Maas, LSU Associate Vice President for Innovation

and Ecosystem Development and Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research and Development—to provide information on the project. Mr. Maas proceeded to introduce other members of the team present and noted that developing the proposal for the grant was a large, collective endeavor, adding that this is the largest NSF grant ever awarded. The purpose of the funding is to focus as a statewide initiative on energy research and development, workforce development in the energy space, and technology commercialization in the energy space. Mr. Maas shared a chart highlighting businesses and government entities partnering in the project. Work on the proposal began in 2022 and the award was announced in January 2024. Mr. Maas discussed Louisiana’s ideal location and geology for storing carbon gases underground.

Chair Solomon asked Supervisor Mary Werner, the LSU representative in attendance, to make a comment. She expressed pride in the leadership LSU provided for this project. In addition, she recognized the partnership among institutions throughout the state. Commissioner Reed asked Mr. Maas to describe how the work will engage participants across institutions and how the money from the grant will flow. Mr. Maas responded that industry is charged to identify critical needs within the state, which will trigger an RFP to solicit projects at partner universities, who can then apply. Third-party reviewers will score the applications and, based on the scores, a committee will select projects for support. The funds will be deployed under subcontracts. Industry will be encouraged to co-fund research and development projects. Commissioner Reed asked Mr. Maas to discuss the timeline for spending the grant funds and the reporting process. Mr. Maas responded that this is a ten-year project that incorporates quarterly reporting and in which funding is scaled. Mr. Maas described the grant as an experiment provided by NSF to spark place-based economic development.

Regent Aubrey asked if the grant had any in-kind requirements from LSU or the state and whether there are any gaps. Mr. Maas mentioned that they received a \$67.5M commitment from Louisiana Economic Development, but there was not a matching requirement for the proposal. Industry

partners committed personnel who will participate in committee meetings and team activities. The remaining gap is how to fund the initiative over the long term and replicate it in sectors beyond energy. Mr. Maas cited several centers of excellence at LSU that are involved. Regent Gil asked if the RFP process will solicit proposals only from partners included in the initial proposal and if sustainable energy will be studied. Mr. Maas indicated that the research and development opportunities will be open to any institution in the state. He added that while the specific focus is carbon, other forms of low-cost energy will be engaged in the project. Students will have the opportunity to perform research and development and they will collaborate across institutions. Commissioner Reed commended the LSU leadership and the whole project team from across the state, conveying praise from President William Tate about the quality of their NSF site visit, conducted as part of the grant selection process.

UPDATE TO BYLAWS

Chair Solomon asked Dr. Uma Subramanian, General Counsel, to describe the process for adopting updates to Regents' Bylaws. Dr. Subramanian stated that in 2023 a law was amended to allow the Board to meet anytime in January for its first meeting of the year. Before that change was adopted, the Board was required to meet on or before the second Monday of each January. She explained that the Bylaws now need to be amended to meet the requirements of state law. She noted that any amendment to the Bylaws requires a 30-day notice to all Board members before the amendment is adopted or a waiver of such notice be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board.

On motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to waive the 30-day notice to Board members about an amendment to the Bylaws and proceed with a vote. Since this process requires approval of a two-thirds majority of the members present, Chair Solomon asked Dr. Subramanian to call a voice vote, which yielded unanimous agreement to waive the notice and proceed with voting on the proposed change to the Bylaws.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent David, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the Bylaws about the timing of the January meeting.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, reported on the second Meauxmentum Summit held on February 7–8, 2024. A group of nearly four hundred individuals comprised of department chairs, deans, presidents, provosts, faculty, and students—all looking to improve student success at their institutions—attended the summit. The annual summit, focused on improving student success, is part of the Pathway to 2030 initiative, which is focused on achieving the goal of having 60% of Louisiana’s working-age population holding a credential. Dr. Denley explained that the Meauxmentum Framework and the Summit structure. The hope is that attendees will use knowledge gained to implement actions at their individual institutions to support student success.

Dr. Denley shared the names and affiliations of well-known experts in attendance at the summit. National organizations supporting Louisiana Meauxmentum include SHEEO, Strong Start to Finish, Lumina Foundation, Strada Educational Foundation, and Complete College America. Several of these organizations have already partnered with universities and community colleges in the state. He mentioned that Strada and Lumina Foundation have awarded the BoR more than \$1 million in grant funding to support this work.

Dr. Denley also discussed the scaling of corequisite remediation, full implementation of which began in 2022. Math corequisite remediation was introduced across the state for the first time in Fall 2023. Dr. Denley shared statistics showing the growth realized since 2017 through these efforts. English will scale in Fall 2024. In addition, Dr. Denley reviewed great progress in the 25–34 age group in attaining a credential. In this age group, Louisiana has reached the record level of 51.5% attainment, outperforming regional neighbors Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Chair Solomon commented that when he had a chance to meet the national foundation leaders who supported the Summit, he was pleased to hear them say that no other states are “doing things quite like this.” He congratulated Dr. Denley on the work of the summit.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Solomon 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.

On motion of Regent Weill, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the March 27, 2024 Committee meetings.

AUDIT

INTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Laura Soileau and Mrs. Kristin Bourque from Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N), also known as EisnerAmper, presented a status report on the Board of Regents Fiscal Year 2024 Internal Audit. Mrs. Bourque explained that the LOSFA Information Technology (IT) Security Processes Audit was complete, the Regents Expenditure Process Audit was in progress, and that P&N would begin the Regents LaSTEM Processes Audit within the next month. Further, Mrs. Bourque also discussed updates related to previous fiscal years' audits including Board of Regents IT security processes and Board of Regents Support Fund endowment processes. Further, she noted that three auditable areas remain in the planning stage including finance accounting processes and IT security processes at LUMCON and the Board of Regents agency's LaCarte Procurement Card Program. This presentation was for informational purposes only and required no action.

FINANCE

FY 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE BUDGET OVERVIEW

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, began his presentation by stating that the FY 2024–2025 Executive Budget was presented to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) on February 8, 2024, and includes a total

recommended State General Fund (SGF) decrease for higher education of \$104M. The decrease includes one-time (non-recurring) State General Fund allocations **(\$68.5M)**, mandated costs reductions of \$15.1M in retirement cost savings, a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) decrease due to participation declines **(\$0.6M)** and an offsetting means of finance swap between State General Funds **(\$23.8M)** and the TOPS Fund (\$23.8M). The decreases are offset by increases of \$3.4M for the LSU First benefits program and \$0.6M for Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) to match federal funds for the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) program.

The \$104M decrease includes the following:

- **(\$68.5M)** – Legislative line items that were non-recurring
- **(\$15.1M)** – Mandated costs decrease
- **(\$23.8M)** – Reducing TOPS SGF due to \$23.8M increase in the TOPS Fund
- **(\$0.6M)** – Reduction to TOPS as a result of decreased student participation
- \$3.4M – Increased funds for LSU First
- \$0.6M – Increased funds for LUMCON’s federal match

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FY 2024-2025 PRELIMINARY FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Mr. LaBruyere stated that annually, no later than March 31, the Board of Regents is required to submit to the Senate Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Finance, House Committee on Education, and House Committee on Appropriations any formula created and adopted by the Board for funding institutions of postsecondary education in the ensuing year. The formula submission is based on funds recommended for higher education in the Governor’s Executive Budget.

Mr. LaBruyere explained that the preliminary state budget submission is based on a standstill budget for all of higher education distributing adjustments to the respective agency/institution. In the event funding levels change as the appropriations bill moves through

the process, a new allocation aligned with the latest version of the appropriations bill will be submitted to the Legislature.

Approved the preliminary distribution, which allocates proposed funding in accordance with the methodology listed above and will continue advocating for increased funding during the legislative process.

LEGISLATIVE

LEGISLATIVE STUDY REPORTS UPDATE

a. **Dual Enrollment Update**

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, provided a brief overview of the Dual Enrollment Task Force and its previously submitted annual reports. Dr. Denley provided information on the new set of recommendations adopted by the Task Force in January 2024, which were included in the 2023 Dual Enrollment Annual Report. Regent Pryor asked if homeschool students are allowed to participate in dual enrollment. Dr. Denley stated that there were no policies prohibiting dual enrollment for homeschool students and that homeschool students do participate in dual enrollment. Mr. Adam Lowe, Education Strategy Group, noted that some institutions have different criteria to gauge college readiness, as homeschool students may not have a typical transcript like traditional students. Supervisor Jackson asked if students who are enrolled in an early college academy (giving an example of the one located in Lafayette) are considered dual enrolled students. Dr. Denley noted that these students are considered dual enrolled and elaborated on these academies, which are offered in Louisiana. Mr. Lowe added that the Lafayette academy, as well as one hosted by River Parishes Community College, are the longest established and largest ones in the state. He added that across the state last year, 240 students earned an associate's degree while still in high school and he recalled that over half of those were at those two facilities. Regent Sterling asked,

regarding the 240 students who earned a degree, what the predominant degree earned was. Mr. Lowe noted that the predominant is the general education transfer degree, with only fifteen in an applied science field. Regent Sterling noted the opportunity for healthcare training in this space; Mr. Lowe responded that healthcare is common in the one-year and shorter-term certificates.

Regent Aubrey asked whether dual enrollment is measured as part of the outcomes portion of the funding formula and asked for details. Mr. LaBruyere affirmed that the outcomes portion of the funding formula includes this and provided additional information. Regent Gil asked what is being done to increase dual enrollment for students in southwest Louisiana and whether certain barriers are inhibiting this. Dr. Denley responded to this question. Regent Sterling asked about the large participation in dual enrollment in West Feliciana and how that parish has such high numbers; Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, provided information on the specific circumstances related to this area. Regent Seale and Regent Mire noted the low participation in their respective parishes, Tangipahoa and Orleans, and general discussion was had regarding ways to increase participation. Regents Solomon and Mire discussed convening stakeholders in Orleans to help connect districts to institutions, thereby increasing knowledge of and participation in dual enrollment.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Ms. Brianna Golden, Policy Advisory for Strategic Planning and Student Success, and Ms. Uma Subramanian, General Counsel, provided an overview of the current 2024 Legislative Priorities and other legislative items impacting higher education.

2024 BoR Legislative Priorities

- **Workforce Solutions – SB 293, Sen. Edmonds:** Authorizes the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) to coordinate the delivery of business workforce solutions in coordination with the various workforce and educational agencies of the state.
- **Career and Technical Education – SB 352, Sen. Mizell /HB 551, Rep. Brass:** Directs the Dual Enrollment Task Force to recommend options for expanding career and technical education and virtual instruction programs to increase the participation of dual enrollment course offerings in school districts across the state and expands task force membership.
- **Professional Service Contracts – HB 410, Rep. Brass:** Increases the threshold for postsecondary institutions and consortiums submitting projects to one of the three professional services selection boards (architect, engineering, and landscape) from \$500,000 to \$1 million to mirror the authority granted to institutions and consortiums to manage projects with a budget of up to \$1 million or less.
- **Power-Based Violence – SB 353, Sen. Barrow:** Revises current power-based violence laws to shift reporting dates for campus training.

A few questions were noted regarding the overview of legislation. Regent Temple asked about HB 606 and what these programs would offer. Regent Sterling provided information regarding the importance for Louisiana of the expansion of a midwifery/doula program. Regent Sterling asked about SB 59 and whether we understand the mental health counseling access already available for all students, apart from student athletes. Ms. Golden referred to her colleague Dr. Allison Smith, Assistant Commissioner for Student Health and Wellness, who could better answer this question. Dr. Smith later followed up with Regent Sterling. Regent Gil asked why, with HB 452, TOPS Tech would be phased out if there is an increased emphasis on workforce; Commissioner Reed provided an explanation of its relationship to the two bills regarding the M.J. Foster Program.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, provided an overview of the reports on the Consent Agenda, which contained the small capital projects staff had approved since the previous meeting:

A. Small Capital Projects

1. **BPCC-Natchitoches: Fume Extraction System Installation, Natchitoches, LA** – Bossier Parish Community College, Act 120 of 2021 Regular Legislative Session \$186,115
2. **LSU AG: Rice Research Station Quantitative Genetics and Milling Lab Renovations, Rayne, LA** – Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Rice Research Foundation Board \$450,000
3. **LSU AG: Grant Walker Educational Center Wastewater Treatment Plant, Pollock, LA** – Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Act 120 of 2021 Regular Legislative Session \$400,000
4. **LSU AG: Burden Center Windrush Gardens Stormwater Improvements, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Operational Funds \$450,000
5. **LSU A&M: Athletic Administration Building 504A Information Technology Room Renovation, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$216,000
6. **LSU A&M: Digital Media Center Generator, Uninterrupted Power Supply and Cooling Backup for Servers, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$275,000
7. **LSU A&M: Oyster Hatchery Repairs, Grand Isle, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Hurricane Ida FEMA Funds \$250,000
8. **LSU A&M: Peabody Hall Renovations to Suites 111, 113, 114, 223, and 226, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$200,000

9. **LSU A&M: School of Veterinary Medicine Main Building Room 1642 and 1701 Restroom Reconfiguration, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$350,000
10. **LSU A&M: School of Veterinary Medicine Suite 1213 Renovations, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$800,000
11. **LSU A&M: Student Union Chiller Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$740,000
12. **LSU A&M: Tiger Stadium Third Floor Renovations, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$590,000
13. **LSU A&M: University Administration Building Room 118 Break Room and Restroom Renovations, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$396,100
14. **LSU A&M: University Recreation Chilled Water Heat Exchanger for Lazy River, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$195,000
15. **LSU HSCNO: Lions Eye Center Second Through Fourth Floor Restroom Renovations, New Orleans, LA** – Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans, Operational Funds \$375,000
16. **LSU-S: Administration Building Cubicle Renovations, Shreveport, LA** – Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Operational Funds \$452,300
17. **La Tech: Student Counseling Center Improvements, Ruston, LA** – Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana Department of Health Grant \$424,000
18. **Nunez: Heavy Equipment Garage, Chalmette, LA** – Nunez Community College, Louisiana Workforce Commission Grant \$300,000
19. **SU AG: Additions to the Agriculture Financial Office, Baton Rouge, LA** – Southern University Agricultural Center, Operational Funds \$407,806
20. **UNO: Science Building Lab 1024 Renovation, New Orleans, LA** – University of New Orleans, Private Donations \$390,000

B. Third-Party Projects

1. **La Tech: President's Home Repairs, Ruston, LA** – Louisiana Tech University, Private Donations \$250,000

Approved the items on the Consent Agenda, including the small capital and third-party projects reports.

ACT 959 PROJECT – LSU HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER NEW ORLEANS SETON CLINIC AND CENTER FOR ADVANCED LEARNING AND SIMULATION BUILDINGS STAIR CONNECTOR

Act 959 of 2003 permits institutions to initiate certain capital projects not exceeding \$10 million that are funded with self-generated/auxiliary revenues, grants, donations, local or federal funds. The LSU Board of Supervisors submitted an Act 959 project on behalf of LSU HSCNO for the purpose of constructing a new exterior stair connector between the Seton Clinic and CALS buildings. The elevated walkway is a major component of campus circulation that currently connects most buildings. The recent repurposing and renovations to the CALS building has greatly increased capacity and use of the building, putting more demand on the campus circulation system. This project will connect the elevated walkways, which are within one hundred feet of each other, and provide safe, direct access between the buildings for visitors, staff, and students.

The project scope involves construction of a custom exterior covered stair connector from the existing Level Two walkway to the existing Level Four bridge connector between the Seton Clinic and CALS buildings. Landings, guardrails, handrails, lighting, and emergency and security systems will be installed. The project also provides new direct access to the Seton Clinic building. The direct connection to the clinic building from other campus buildings will alleviate congestion on other routes. The total estimated project cost of \$1.425 million will be funded with self-generated revenues derived from clinic and contract revenues.

Approved the Act 959 project submitted by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New

Orleans, for the purpose of constructing a new exterior stair connector between the Seton building and the Center for Advanced Learning and Simulation.

HOUSE BILL 2 UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided the Board with an update on the Capital Outlay bill (House Bill 2) which was introduced by the Louisiana House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 20th. The initial version of the bill contains a total of ninety (90) projects funded by all funding sources for all four systems, Regents, and LUMCON. The total Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) funding, between priority one (P1) funds and cash, totals approximately \$428 million. Thirty (30) of the ninety (90) projects received new P1 and/or cash funding for FY25 totaling approximately \$224 million.

Vice Chair Weill asked about the amount of deferred maintenance funding in the current version of HB 2. Mr. Herring stated there was no deferred maintenance funding in the initial version of the bill.

Regent Aubrey requested an update on the Grambling State University Library project. Mr. Herring responded that he would seek information and provide an update.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Denley presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine items including Staff Approvals.

Approved the items on the Consent Agenda

a. Routine Staff Approvals

- 1. Grambling State University: Request to offer the MA in Mass Communication (CIP 09.0102) 100% online.**
- 2. McNeese State University: Request to offer the BS in Radiologic Sciences (CIP 51.0911) 100% online.**

3. **McNeese State University: Request to change the degree designation for baccalaureate programs in Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, Management and Marketing from Bachelor of Science (BS) to Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) in accordance with program accreditation recommendations.**
4. **McNeese State University: Request to terminate the MS in School Counseling (CIP 13.1101) due to ongoing issues with program sustainability.**
5. **McNeese State University: Request to change the name of the BS and MS in Health and Human Performance to Kinesiology to better align with the programs' CIP code and content.**
6. **South Louisiana Community College: Request to change the name of the AAS in Business Office Administration to Administrative Professional Studies to better reflect program content and purpose.**

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley then presented for approval the Associate of Applied Science in Cardiovascular Sonography at Fletcher Technical Community College, the Associate of Applied Science in Invasive Cardiovascular Technology at Delgado Community College, the Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy at Louisiana State University and A&M College, and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering at Southern University and A&M College.

Conditionally approved the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Cardiovascular Sonography (CIP 51.0901) at L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College, with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

Conditionally approved the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Invasive Cardiovascular Technology (CIP 51.0901) at Delgado Community College, with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

Conditionally approved the proposed Bachelor of Music Therapy (CIP 51.2305) at Louisiana State University A&M, with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

Conditionally approved the proposed Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (CIP 14.0901) at Southern University and A&M College, with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

REVISED UNIFORM POLICY ON GOVERNOR’S MILITARY AND VETERAN-FRIENDLY CAMPUSES

Dr. Denley presented proposed changes to the Governor’s Military and Veteran-Friendly Campus policy to create gold, silver, and bronze tiers of additional recognition for campuses designated as Governor’s Military and Veteran-Friendly. He advised that the tiers are structured around seven specific offerings to military and veteran students on campuses. He advised that the tier criteria will be added to the biannual renewal process. Regent Finley commended Dr. Denley for the work being done to recognize veterans on campuses. She then asked Dr. Denley to provide an example of the kind of graduation event that would be held to recognize military and veteran graduates. Dr. Denley responded that it would be an event in addition to the graduation ceremony and would allow students to receive recognition for their military service. Supervisor Mary Werner stated that she is excited to see the added student services for military and veteran students being offered on campuses.

Approved the revised Board of Regents Uniform Policy on Governor's Military and Veteran-Friendly Campuses.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

APPOINTMENT OF ENDOWED CHAIRHOLDERS WITHOUT A NATIONAL SEARCH AND REINSTATEMENT OF TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON WAIVERS

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, provided a brief overview of the goals and objectives of the Board of Regents Support Fund’s Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars program and the conditions under which appointments without a national search are permitted. She noted that based on the frequency with which this waiver is requested and possible negative consequences to the program and the state’s investment, in September

2023 the Board approved a moratorium on consideration of such waivers. The moratorium was set to expire in spring 2024.

Ms. Robison indicated that since the moratorium was approved, three institutions – LSU AgCenter, LSU A&M, and LSUHSC-NO – have submitted requests for waiver of the national search requirement. She indicated that, based on external review of the proposed holders’ qualifications and their alignment with policy requirements for such appointments, staff recommended approval of these three requests. She noted that no additional requests were outstanding. She asked the Board to consider reinstatement of the moratorium to provide time for the staff to complete development of recommended policy revisions, including related to the waiver provision, for Board consideration in early fall 2024.

Approved the requests for waiver to appoint endowed chairholders without a national search as follows:

- **LSU AgCenter: Dr. Kenneth Gravois to the American Sugar Cane League Chair in Sugarcane Production;**
- **LSU and A&M College: Dr. Prosanta Chakrabarty to the Edwin K. Hunter Chair for the Communication of Science Research; and**
- **LSU Health Science Center – New Orleans: Dr. Brian Copeland to the Carl Baldrige Chair in Neurology.**

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.

Approved reinstatement of a temporary 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 August 2024.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Final Rulemaking – Amends the LOSFA Advisory Board Bylaws to implement Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. – Open Meeting Laws**

Dr. Sujuan Boutté explained that at its August 23, 2023, meeting, the Board of Regents authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to amend the bylaws of the LOSFA Advisory Board to enable usage of the provisions of Act 393 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. This allows the LOSFA Advisory Board to conduct no more than one-third of its annual meetings electronically, provided certain conditions are met. The LOSFA Advisory Board recommended that the Board of Regents authorize publication of the final rule.

B. TOPS Exceptions – TOPS provision that requires students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year

Dr. Sujuan Boutté informed the Regents that 17 requests for TOPS exceptions were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meetings of January 10, 2024, and February 21, 2024. The LOSFA Advisory Board reported that the students have presented facts and circumstances that justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance and the LOSFA Advisory Board recommended Board of Regents approval.

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.

Dr. Sujuan Boutté informed the Regents that two 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 of January 10, 2024, and February 21, 2024. The students have presented facts and documentation that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance, and the LOSFA Advisory Board recommends Board of Regents approval.

Approved the Consent Agenda items as presented.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda, which included three renewal applications from licensure of academic degree-granting institutions as well as two initial applications and fifteen renewal applications from the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission.

Approved the items listed under the Consent Agenda.

A. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)

1. Renewal Applications

- a. California State University – Northridge**
- b. High Tech High – Graduate School of Education**
- c. William Carey University**

B. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission

1. Initial Applications

- a. Feliciana Medical Training Academy – St. Francisville, LA**
- b. Trinity Bay Vocational Institute – St. James, LA**

2. Renewal Applications

- a. Academy of Acadiana – Lake Charles – License #2139**
- b. Brow Design by Dina – License #2345**
- c. Compass Career College – License #2327**
- d. Infinity College – License #2140**
- e. Learning Bridge Career Institute – License #2141**
- f. Melba Beauty – License #2311**
- g. National Driving Academy – License #978**
- h. New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute (NOCHI) – License #2237**
- i. SIHAF Career Institute – License #2347**
- j. Southern Security School – License #2260**
- k. The Laser and Medical Aesthetic Academy at ACWH – License #2346**
- l. Tulsa Welding School – Tulsa Campus – License #2096**
- m. Unitech Training Academy – Alexandria – License #2116**
- n. Unitech Training Academy – New Orleans – License #2166**
- o. Zollege Healthcare Career School – Gonzales – License #2164**

PROPRIETARY SCHOOL ADJUDICATORY HEARING RESULT

Ms. Courtney Britton, Director of Licensure, provided background information related to TDS Trucking, Training & Technology, located in Patterson, Louisiana. She noted that it has been operating as a school without a license, even after it received a “cease and desist” letter from the Board of Regents. The school has accepted a stipulation agreement and had a public hearing at the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting on January 31, 2024, where the Commission voted to accept the presented stipulation agreement submitted by Tomika Willis and TDS Trucking, Training & Technology and recommended assessment of the agreed-upon penalty of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the following violations:

1. One (1) violation of La. R.S. 17:3140.3(A)(1), which provides, “No proprietary school subject to the provisions of this Chapter shall do business in this state unless the owner holds a valid license approved and issued by the board. Applications for licensure shall be made to the commission as provided in this Chapter and rules established by the board”;
2. One (1) violation of La. R.S. 17:3140.3(A)(2), which provides, “No course of instruction shall be established, offered, or given, and no diploma, degree, or other written evidence of proficiency or achievement shall be offered or awarded until the owner of the school planning to offer or offering such course of instruction, diplomas, or degrees has obtained a license”; and
3. One (1) violation of La. R.S. 17:3140.16, which provides, “No owner of a school or solicitor for a school shall publish or cause to be published any advertising materials until the owner or solicitor obtains a valid license or a permit issued in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.”

Accepted the recommendations of the Commission including the corrective action of the fine, based on the record of proceedings conducted before the Commission.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She recognized amazing systemic change as witnessed in the Meauxmentum Summit, including the money secured to effect even more positive change.
- She thanked the staff for their hard work in supporting the many events scheduled to celebrate the Board’s “golden” year.
- She noted that Annual Dual Enrollment Report was recently launched in Lake Charles at an event hosted by the Lake Charles Boston Academy, whose staff provided a tour of the Virtual Instruction Program (VIP). She noted that Student Board Member Samuel Gil attended this event.
- She spoke about a visit to Donaldsonville High School, where River Parishes Community College is supporting the CTE program located in the high school. Students participate in career and technical classes during the day and adults participate in the evening. Many Donaldsonville community leaders and business and industry leaders in the area attended this event.
- She mentioned three events celebrating Women’s History Month related to women in STEM:
 - Tulane STEM event for girls in grades 5–7 to meet with graduate and undergraduate faculty to learn about STEM activities that could lead to potential careers;
 - A middle school “white coat” event for students completing a course in hydroponics growing catfish and lettuce; and
 - A UNO event for female students in grade 8 to meet the female engineering dean, the UNO President, a female faculty member, and two female students majoring in STEM.
- She recognized Deputy Commissioner Dr. Susannah Craig for organizing a Read Across America Day at Jefferson Terrace Academy in Baton Rouge, where she had a chance to read to students in PreK through grade 3. She also mentioned that Dr. Craig’s husband is a special education teacher at the academy.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Solomon asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. Regent Aubrey voiced concern about helping systems with the budget during the legislative process. He suggested peer conversations to discuss ways to address budget impacts and voiced a desire to be part of those discussions. He asked for a follow-up on the Grambling Library status and asked for information regarding the \$10 million allocated across the various campuses to combat crime and provide for campus safety.

Chair Solomon once again welcomed the new member, Regent Misti Cordell.

Chair Solomon asked Vice Chair Seale to share thoughts the two of them had discussed related to artificial intelligence (AI) and Board development. Vice Chair Seale suggested that the Board become fully cognizant of AI as a phenomenon in higher education, business, and society. He suggested forming a standing committee of the BOR to provide a monthly presentation and handout on AI, with the goal of educating Board members on the expansion of AI. Chair Solomon asked Commissioner Reed and Dr. Tristan Denley to be prepared to address the Board at the next meeting about broad aspects of AI, focusing on its role in higher education. Regent Sterling suggested inventorying across institutions to identify experts as well as gaps in this area.

Commissioner Reed took a moment to introduce two members of the audience—Blair LeBlanc, the budget analyst from the House Fiscal Office, and Vickey Silas, a PhD student working in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Cordell, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Appendix A
Board Meeting Guest List
Wednesday, March 27, 2024

NAME	AFFILIATION
Blair LeBlanc	HLS
Judith Rhodes	LSU – FUEL Engine Social Research & Evaluation Center
Daniela Mainardi	Louisiana Tech University
Vickey Silas	EBRPSS
Stephanie Styles	
Rosaria Guastella	Delgado Community College
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Margaret Finch	LSU A&M
Danielle Vauclin	Fletcher
Sujuan Boutte	LOSFA/BoR
Darrell P. Kruger	UNO
Kristin Bourque	P&N/EisnerAmper
Jodi Duet	Fletcher
Monty Sullivan	LCTCS
Kamile Geist	LSU A&M
Eric Lau	LSU A&M