

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

June 12, 2024

The Board of Regents met at 1:04 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, in the Thomas Jefferson Room A&B, Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Gary Solomon, Jr. called the meeting to order. Chair Solomon asked Ms. Brianna Golden to conduct a ceremonial swearing in of Student Member Kennedy Orr, who had been officially sworn in, with her family in attendance, before the start of the joint Regents/BESE meeting.

**Roll Call**

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

Present for the meeting were:

Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner  
Gary Solomon, Jr., Chair  
T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair  
Darren Mire, Secretary  
David Aubrey  
Misti Cordell  
Christian Creed  
Blake David  
Stephanie Finley  
Robert Levy  
Phillip May, Jr.  
Kennedy Orr, Student Member  
Wilbert Pryor  
Terrie Sterling  
Collis Temple III  
Felix Weill  
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present were:

Willie Mount, LCTCS System  
Dr. Leon Tarver, SU System

## **Public Comments**

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

## **Approval of the Minutes of the April 24, 2024 Meeting**

**On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent Cordell, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2024 meeting.**

## **Chair's Comments**

Chair Solomon made the following comments:

- He introduced Kennedy Orr, a Chicago native who is studying agribusiness at Southern University A&M, as the new Regents student member. Regent Orr serves as the Student Government Association president at SUBR. Chair Solomon noted that Regent Orr is assigned to the following committees: Academic and Student Affairs; Facilities and Property; Legislative; Artificial Intelligence; and Planning, Research, and Performance. Regent Orr expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Regents and stated that she looks forward to working with all the Board members.
- He noted that Regents hosted the LaHEC (Louisiana Association of Higher Ed Coalition) Summit on May 22, 2024. He pointed out that the Summit focused on mental health, an important component of the overall wellness of students. Chair Solomon mentioned a study by the Lumina Foundation that found 55% of students who considered ending their higher education endeavors cited emotional stress as the main factor in their decision. Commissioner Reed addressed 200 mental health professionals at the two-day conference.
- He noted that Regents honored Louisiana's future educators on National Teacher Appreciation Day at the Old State Capitol. Institutions across the state nominated the top students in the teacher education programs for awards. State Superintendent Cade Brumley, BESE President Ronnie Morris, and Louisiana Teacher of the Year Kylie Altier shared words of support and inspiration. Forty-five future educators, including five high school students, were recognized. Regent Cordell attended the event.
- He mentioned that Regents extends condolences to the family of LSU Board of Supervisors member Richard Zuschlag, who passed away June 5, 2024. Several Regents shared a few words about the generosity and overall impact of Supervisor Zuschlag.

## **Update to Bylaws**

Dr. Tristan Denley presented an update about the requested bylaw change led by Regent Seale at the March 2024 meeting, which creates a committee focused on artificial intelligence

(AI). He informed the Board that the Committee membership is as follows: Regent Seale, Chair, Regents Aubrey, Cordell, David, May, Sterling, and Orr (Student Member).

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the revision of the Bylaws for the Internal Operation and the Transaction of Business for the Board of Regents to establish an Artificial Intelligence Committee.**

Dr. Denley then presented an update on artificial intelligence and advised that Louisiana is represented on the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) by Dr. Denley, BESE's president Ronnie Morris, and Representative Jason Hughes. He noted that a total of sixteen states are part of SREB. He also advised that SREB is charged with determining the policy framework for the use of AI in K-12 and postsecondary education and with crafting instructional guidelines for use of AI in the classroom, with SREB and Regents creating a definition for AI.

He mentioned that TeachAI is a coalition that is led by Code.org, a group familiar to Regents due to its involvement in computer education. Dr. Denley shared a graphic produced by TeachAI depicting the potential benefits and risks of AI in education and explained that, on an international level, the European Union has created a risk pyramid as a guide for legislation enacted to govern the use of AI.

Regent May commented that issues with bandwidth could impact accessibility of AI to some students, which will have to be addressed. Regent Sterling asked if anyone had begun teaching AI literacy. Dr. Denley responded that most of the campuses in the state have already begun to address AI literacy in various ways including embedding AI literacy within a degree curriculum, providing experiences as part of continuing education, and conducting prompt engineering.

## **Master Plan Update – Meauxmentum Moment**

Chair Solomon welcomed Dr. Jayda Spillers, Chancellor of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC), Ms. Ashley Ellis, Pre-Educator Program Director at Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC), and Dr. Rick Bateman, Chancellor at Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC), to present updates on the ongoing work of their campuses on their Meauxmentum plans.

Dr. Spillers presented information about NLTCC's plumbing program. The program has brought together union and non-union organizations including Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors of LA (PHCC) to address the huge shortage of trained plumbers. NLTCC is using PHCC's curriculum to offer various training opportunities, including a high school dual enrollment opportunity.

Ms. Ellis then provided information about LDCC's Registered Teacher Apprenticeship program. This program is a partnership with the University of Louisiana Monroe to offer an accelerated model for obtaining a bachelor's degree in elementary education. The goal of the program is full certification and future employment. This registered apprenticeship program with on-the-job training is a "Grow Your Own Teachers" effort supported by the school districts in the area.

Dr. Bateman presented information about BPCC's LPN-to-RN apprenticeship, the first of its kind in Louisiana. The state Board of Nursing approved the program as a pilot with Willis-Knighton Health Systems. This new apprenticeship will reduce the clinical training time for students to one year.

Regent Pryor voiced support for the work being done by community colleges across the northern part of the state. He mentioned that he felt the accelerated approach to some of the

apprenticeship programs combined with allowing students to earn money while completing required coursework would resonate with young people eager to get started on a career path.

Regent Sterling asked that Regents staff look at data related to if and how programs like the three discussed are helping to fill the workforce shortages exacerbated by COVID, especially in nursing, across the state.

Dr. Denley also recognized Mr. Osmar Padilla, Assistant Secretary for Workforce Development. Assistant Secretary Padilla added his support and that of Secretary Susana Schowen for apprenticeship programs throughout the state.

Regent Aubrey asked Ms. Ellis what degree students will receive once they complete the program. She responded that they would earn a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. He also asked if any of the school districts help to cover some of the program costs. Ms. Ellis advised that she was awarded a Community Congressional Grant from Congresswoman Julia Letlow to explore the education apprenticeship program and added that the districts pay \$11 and the grant \$5 for each hour students participate in the program. Regent Aubrey then inquired about the availability of internet connectivity due to the virtual nature of the program and Ms. Ellis advised that the availability of broadband wi-fi is still a challenge, but some students in the program utilize school wi-fi networks to complete their coursework. Regent Aubrey emphasized his continued support of all three of the programs discussed.

Regent Pryor asked Dr. Bateman how many students are enrolled at BPCC, and Dr. Bateman responded that there are currently 6,000 students, with an anticipated increase of 700 students this fall. Regent Pryor also asked Dr. Spillers which high schools are participating in NLTCC's plumbing program. She advised that NLTCC collaborates with school districts in the following parishes: DeSoto, Red River, Webster, Claiborne, Bienville, Caddo, and Bossier. Dr.

Spillers stated that NLTCC has three campuses: Mansfield, Minden, and Shreveport. Regent Pryor then asked Dr. Spillers what Regents could do to get the NLTCC programs into urban high schools to attract young people into professions where they can make a good wage. She emphasized the importance of collaboration, dual enrollment, and shared resources, as well as funding support for the School Course Allocation Fund (SCA) and the Career Development Fund (CDF).

### **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 Temple, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board approved all recommendations from the June 12, 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, as well as the follow-up on observations made during prior yearly audits and management's action plans, noting that two are completed and three are in the wrap-up stage. She then moved into an overview of the Expenditure Process Internal Audit of the Board of Regents, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA program), and Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), which assessed processes, policies, and procedures related to all expenditure actions. Mrs. Bourque explained that this audit was added to the internal audit plan in response to a letter discussing the risk of material misstatements due to management's override of controls as issued by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) in

the fall of 2023. Mrs. Bourque explained the procedures taken by P&N in completing the audit and noted that two observations were determined, both with a low-risk rating. She further stated that the exit meeting and management responses were completed, and a finalized report had been issued.

Mrs. Bourque then presented an update on the LaSTEM Process Assessment, stating the action steps completed included a review and assessment of policies/procedures and interviews with key personnel. The next steps are to meet with management and discuss the draft report, following which a finalized report with any observations and necessary management responses will be provided. This presentation was for informational purposes only and required no action.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Brett Hunt, Director of Fiscal and Administrative Services with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, provided an overview discussion of the updated organizational structure of audit within the agency. Mr. Hunt detailed each position and its responsibilities within the new audit structure and introduced Mr. Patrick Roque as the audit team leader. Regent Temple asked Mr. Roque how long he had been with LOSFA; Mr. Roque responded that he had been at LOSFA since 2019 and within state government for 15 years total. Regent Aubrey asked for a clarification of the new audit report structure; Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, responded that he would provide an organizational chart to all Regents members. Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith noted the high level of communication and collaboration that exists amongst all finance personnel across the three programs within the agency. Chair Solomon noted that this action had been reviewed by Vice Chair Seale and himself, and both agreed that it is an improved efficiency for the agency.

## FINANCE

### **Review and Approval of the FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget Distribution**

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, stated that at its March 2024 meeting the Board of Regents approved a preliminary distribution of the higher education operating budget as proposed in the Governor's Executive Budget. The Executive Budget recommended \$1.28B in State General Funds for higher education entities, which represented a decrease for higher education of \$104M, including a one-time (non-recurring) State General Fund allocation reduction of (\$68.5M), mandated costs reductions of (\$15.1M) because of retirement cost savings, a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) decrease (\$0.6M) due to participation declines and an offsetting means-of-finance swap between State General Funds (\$23.8M) and the TOPS Fund (\$23.8M). The decreases were 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.

Mr. LaBruyere stated that during the legislative process, the Legislature increased the recommendation by adding \$33.4M in State General Funds. The enrolled version of HB1 appropriates to higher education \$1.31B in State General Funds for FY25, representing a decrease of \$70.7M. In addition, the Legislature passed HB782 (Supplemental Bill), which was sent to the Governor for signature. This bill appropriates to higher education entities an additional \$12.8M in the current fiscal year (FY24).

He added that the FY25 budget maintains \$10.5M in M.J. Foster Scholars adult financial aid funding and \$70.5M in GO Grants, the state's need-based aid program, as well as fully funds TOPS. With the State General Fund adjustments from HB1 enrolled, the FY 2024–2025 operating

budget distribution by system for all means of finance (State General Fund, Interagency Transfers, Self-Generated Revenue, Statutory Dedications, and Federal) was presented as illustrated below:

FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget Distribution						
Entity	State General Fund	Interagency Transfer	Self-Generated Revenue	Statutory Dedications	Federal	Total
Regents Total	\$299,889,543	\$14,752,107	\$16,030,299	\$164,097,086	\$34,232,149	\$529,001,184
LCTC SYS Total	\$155,291,612	\$0	\$169,815,083	\$16,030,143	\$0	\$341,136,838
LSU SYS Total	\$492,838,441	\$8,485,184	\$786,152,963	\$24,140,874	\$13,018,275	\$1,324,635,737
SU SYS Total	\$68,472,475	\$4,476,791	\$115,831,100	\$12,454,156	\$13,654,209	\$214,888,731
UL SYS Total	\$300,035,965	\$259,923	\$672,482,759	\$25,515,858	\$0	\$998,294,505
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,316,528,036</b>	<b>\$27,974,005</b>	<b>\$1,760,312,204</b>	<b>\$242,238,117</b>	<b>\$60,904,633</b>	<b>\$3,407,956,995</b>

**On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Mire, the Committee approved the funding recommendations for Higher Education for FY 2024-2025 and to allow staff to make adjustments among institutions within the systems as permitted by law.**

### Other Business

Chair David asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee and Mr. LaBruyere mentioned a few items of interest. The first item was an update on the funding formula review. He noted that there have been seven meetings so far and that the work group includes system CFOs, CAOs, and system-selected institutional representation. The work is anticipated to continue over the summer with a goal to finish in early August, seek the system presidents feedback, and bring before the Board in September.

The second item was the planning for FY26 given that the \$0.45 sales tax sunsets and is expected to create a shortfall of approximately \$600M. Typically higher education and

healthcare have served as the balancing wheels for the budget and FY26 is expected to be the same. If no action is taken before January, the Governor's Executive Budget will be presented without the revenue associated with the \$0.45 sales tax.

## LEGISLATIVE

### Legislative Update

Ms. Brianna Golden, Policy Advisory for Strategic Planning and Student Success, and Ms. Uma Subramanian, Executive Counsel, provided an overview of the 2024 Legislative Priorities, Bills Requiring Regents Involvement or Implementation, Financial Aid/Eligibility Bills, Other Bills of Interest.

### 2024 Legislative Highlights

- **Deferred Maintenance – HB 940, Rep. Turner (*Pending Gov. Sig.*):** Authorizes the issuance of \$2B in bonds to finance deferred maintenance projects included in the college and university deferred maintenance and capital improvement program.
- **Tuition and Fee Authority – HB 862, Rep. Hughes (*Pending Gov. Sig.*):** provides public postsecondary management boards limited authority to establish tuition and mandatory fees.
- **Teachers' Retirement – HB 31 (Act 109), Rep. Freiberg:** Allows an optional retirement plan participant to transfer to the defined benefit plan in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRS).
- **Workforce Solutions – SB 293 (Act 330), 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/HB 551 (Acts 335, 154), Sen. Mizell/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 in dual enrollment course offerings in school districts across the state and expands task force membership.

- **Professional Service Contracts – HB 410 (Act 427), Rep. Brass:** Increases the threshold for postsecondary institutions and consortia submitting projects to one of the three professional services selection boards (architect, engineering, and landscape) from \$500,000 to \$1M to mirror the authority granted to institutions and consortiums to manage projects with budgets of \$1M or less.
- **M.J. Foster Appropriations Cap – SB 272 (Act 102), Sen. Edmonds:** Increases maximum appropriations cap to \$40M for the M.J. Foster Promise Program.
- **M.J. Foster Eligibility – HB 728 (Act 633), Rep. Davis:** Extends M.J. Foster eligibility to 17-year-olds by the 2027–2028 award year.
- **Power-Based Violence – SB 353 (Act 482), Sen. Barrow:** Revises current power-based violence laws to shift reporting dates for campus training.

### **Bills Requiring Regents Involvement or Implementation**

- **Financial Aid Reporting – SR 138, Sen. Mizell:** Urges Regents to conduct a comprehensive study of the state's higher education financial aid programs to evaluate their effectiveness, identify barriers to eligibility, align program criteria with state educational requirements, and develop strategies to improve their coordination and utilization.
- **Two-Year Colleges – HR 313, Rep. Young:** Requests that Regents study two-year colleges in Union, Claiborne, and Bienville parishes and submit a written report to the House Committee on Education by January 31, 2025.
- **ORP Taskforce – HR 169, Rep. Bacala:** Regents to staff a task force to study the ORP within TRSL in relation to the unclassified staff and faculty recruitment and retention crisis faced by Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions.
- **SUBR Medical School – HR 51, Rep. Jordan:** Subject to Regents study and recommendations, requests that the Southern University Board of Supervisors work with the Regents to take steps necessary to establish a medical school on the campus of Southern University at Baton Rouge.
- **SUBR School of Pharmacy – HR 52, Rep. Jordan:** Subject to Regents study and recommendations, requests that the Southern University Board of Supervisors work with the Regents to take steps necessary to establish a school of pharmacy on the campus of Southern University A&M.
- **DEI Reporting – HB 904 (Act 641), Rep. Chenevert:** Requires reporting by public schools and postsecondary education institutions on programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

- **ESG Reporting – HCR 78, Rep. Owen:** Provides that actions of Regents and public postsecondary management boards related to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria are subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.
- **Behavioral Health – SCR 23, Sen. Barrow:** Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to work with Regents and other entities to study behavioral health demand and access.

### **Bills Impacting Higher Education**

- **Gubernatorial Appointments – SB 462 (Act 491), Sen. Hodges:** The governor may elect to appoint the chairman of each board and commission whose appointment is not otherwise provided for in the constitution.
- **Student Athletes (NIL) – (Act 358) SB 465, Sen. Talbot:** Provides relative to intercollegiate athletes (NIL) at a postsecondary education institution.
- **Vaccination Status – (Act 460) HB 908, Rep. Amedee:** Prohibits discrimination against students based on vaccination status.

Regent Aubrey inquired as to the process Regents uses to prepare a comprehensive report to meet a legislator's objectives and/or intent. He also asked whether Regents has received additional funding to develop legislative studies and reports. Mr. LaBruyere stated that Regents does not receive additional funding to develop and complete reports and/or studies, but rather staff conducts an internal review to determine if it is necessary to contract with a third party to complete any requested legislative study/report.

Regent Aubrey also asked whether a public postsecondary system could provide financial assistance to fund the studies. Commissioner Reed shared that in the past there had been some cost-sharing between Regents and the systems; however, she stated that the office would follow up on that.

Regent Pryor asked whether SB 462 would impact the accreditation of Louisiana's colleges and universities, if similar legislation had been enacted other states, and what impacts similar legislation has had. Dr. Reed indicated that concerns were raised regarding Southern Association

of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) policy, and it would be up to them to measure the impact. Dr. Tristan Denley added comments as well.

#### OVERVIEW OF HIGH-COST TUITION PROGRAMS (RELATED TO HB 862)

Dr. Denley provided a brief overview of HB 862, which extends limited authority to the public postsecondary management boards to establish differential tuition for high-cost programs and mandatory fees. He shared that HB 862 is currently awaiting the Governor's signature.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFORM POLICY ON POWER-BASED VIOLENCE (RELATED TO SB 343)

Ms. Brianna Golden presented amendments to the Uniform Policy on Power-Based Violence, which specify that each public postsecondary management board must send a separate annual training report to the Regents by January 30. Additionally, the submission date of the Board of Regents' annual legislative report is shifted to February 28.

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Mire, the Committee approved the changes to the Uniform Policy on Power-Based Violence.**

### **FACILITIES AND PROPERTY**

#### Consent Agenda

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

##### **A. Small Capital Projects**

1. **LSU-A: Baseball/Softball Lighting, Alexandria, LA** – Louisiana State University - Alexandria, Auxiliary Revenues \$183,700

2. **LSU-A: Circle Driveway Arrival Plaza (Budget Increase), Alexandria, LA** – Louisiana State University - Alexandria, Auxiliary Revenues \$441,000
3. **LSU A&M: East/West Laville and Broussard Halls Interior Painting, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$180,130
4. **LSU A&M: Innovation Park Building 3000 First Floor Renovations, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$575,000
5. **LSU A&M: School of Veterinary Medicine Cafeteria Renovations, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$365,500
6. **LSU A&M: Student Union UPS Locker Renovations, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$400,000
7. **LSU A&M: Tiger Stadium South Stadium Sanitary Sewer Upgrade, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$200,000
8. **LSU A&M: University High New Multi-Use Practice Field, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Louisiana Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Grant \$225,000
9. **LSU-S: Pilots Pointe Apartments Gas Line Installation for Tankless Water Heaters, Shreveport, LA** – Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Auxiliary Revenues \$300,000
10. **SLCC: Student Center Renovations, Lafayette, LA** – South Louisiana Community College, Auxiliary and Building Use Fee Revenues \$830,000

**On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, including the small capital projects reports.**

**Act 959 Project (Budget Increase)– University of Louisiana – Lafayette (ULL) New Iberia Research Center (NIRC) Building 29 Renovation**

The University of Louisiana System submitted a request to increase the project budget for ULL's NIRC Building 29 renovation. Act 959 projects may exceed the amount approved by the Board of Regents (Regents) by up to 20% without having to request approval of any subsequent

increase. However, ULL is seeking approval in excess of the current allowable threshold. This project was originally approved under the provisions of Act 959 during the January 9, 2023, meeting of the Regents.

The project scope involves renovating approximately 12,000 SF of shell space on the third floor of NIRC's Building 29 to create a fully functioning research laboratory for nonhuman primate research. The project will allow NIRC to expand their ongoing work with major pharmaceutical companies, generate additional revenues, and continue to support national and international medical developments for humans. The project was originally approved with a budget of \$4.6M funded through a grant from the National Institutes of Health and self-generated revenues derived from operations of the NIRC. Federal National Institutes of Health design requirements have increased the cost of the project. The revised cost is estimated not to exceed \$6M. However, ULL is requesting approval to fund the project up to, but not exceeding, the \$10M threshold allowed by Act 959 so the project may proceed without further approvals. The current request, and any other increases, will be funded with self-generated revenues derived from NIRC operations.

**On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board approved the request submitted by the University of Louisiana System, on behalf of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, to increase the budget for the New Iberia Research Center Building 29 renovation project previously approved under the provisions of Act 959 of 2003.**

### **House Bill 2 Update**

Mr. Herring provided the Board with an update on the final posture of the capital outlay bill (House Bill 2) sent to the Governor for signature. A total of 102 projects received an appropriation from all funding sources for Fiscal Year 2025 and 48 of those projects were

appropriated new state dollars. A breakdown of new state dollars provided to each system was also included in the update.

**This agenda item was for informational purposes only.**

### **Other Business**

Mr. Herring updated the Board on the passage of House Bill 940 (HB 940) and the creation of the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program. He outlined the types of projects that may be pursued through the program (including the prohibition on new facilities and additions to existing facilities), the project approval process, and reporting requirements. He also updated the Board on recent meetings held with all stakeholders prior to the Regents meeting. Lastly, Mr. Herring highlighted the allocation of funds provided in the bill to each system and noted these monies were based on each system's self-reported deferred maintenance backlog figures. He noted the Legislature provided \$75M in cash funding for Fiscal Year 2025 to begin addressing major repairs across the state.

Regent Aubrey asked if the program only addresses currently identified deferred maintenance needs or if new projects would be allowed. Mr. Herring stated new projects may be added over the life of the program and described the plan for presenting the initial list of projects to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) during its August 2024 meeting. Regent Aubrey then asked if each system has a project list ready now. Mr. Herring informed the Board that system lists are due by June 28, 2024. Finally, Regent Aubrey inquired if HB 940 funding was in addition to the major repair funding the Regents has received the last few years. Mr. Herring stated the HB 940 funding will supplant and exceed the appropriations received in the last three years.

Regent Weill commended the passage of HB940 and asked if the bond issuance would fund the entirety of the appropriated funds contained in HB 940. Mr. Herring confirmed the bonds would provide funding for the amount appropriated in the bill although the amount provided through each bond issuance was uncertain.

Commissioner Reed commended all parties who worked toward passage of the bill and described the monumental effect the program is expected to have on Louisiana's colleges and universities.

Regent Solomon commended the passage of HB 940 and asked if the percentage distributed to each system would change over the life of the program due to the addition of new projects. Mr. LaBruyere responded that each time funding is allocated to the program, the distribution method will be re-evaluated to ensure institutional needs are being met. Regent Solomon then asked what level of new deferred maintenance should be expected over the ten-year period. Mr. Herring explained that the bill provides the flexibility for institutions to pursue complete facility renovations, which have not been allowed in previous deferred maintenance funding allocations. By pursuing full renovations, institutions would be able to rectify all deferred maintenance needs within a facility at one time to prevent future equipment and system failures within the renovated facility during the life of the program.

Supervisor Mount inquired who would decide which projects would proceed and who would manage the projects. Commissioner Reed informed her that the funds would go directly to each system, which would determine its priorities. The Commissioner also stated each project would be managed through a third-party project management firm hired by the system or a corporation established by the system.

Regent Aubrey asked whether the Regents or the management boards would be the entity reporting semi-annually to the JLCB. Mr. Herring responded that Facility Planning and Control would be responsible for reporting to JLCB.

Regent May asked what the ideal time would be for reporting back to the Board on progress. Mr. Herring informed the Board of the required reporting deadlines, and Commissioner Reed stated that staff will provide an update during the August 2024 Regents meeting.

Last, Mr. Herring provided an update on the Grambling State University library project and confirmed the target opening date of prior to the beginning of the fall 2024 semester is still in place.

## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### **Consent Agenda**

Dr. Denley presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine items including staff approvals.

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Committee received and recommended approval of the items on the Consent Agenda.**

**a. Routine Staff Approvals**

- 1. LSU A&M: Request to offer the BA in Political Science 100% online**
- 2. Southern University A&M: Request to change the name of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences and several of its departments and programs to better align with current field terminology and better reflect the focus areas of the College and its programs:**
  - College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences to College of Agricultural, Human, and Environmental Sciences**
  - Department of Agriculture Sciences to Department of Agricultural Sciences and Technology**
  - Department of Family and Consumer Sciences to Department of Human Sciences**
  - Department of Urban Forestry and Natural Resources to Department of Urban Forestry, Environment, and Natural Resources**

## **Academic Programs**

Dr. Denley presented for approval the Associate of Applied Science in Technical Studies at SOWELA Technical Community College, the Bachelor of Science in Construction Management at Southern University and A&M College, and the Doctorate of Occupational Therapy at the University of Louisiana Monroe.

Regent Sterling asked if the OTD is the first step to create doctoral degrees in additional allied health programs. Dr. Denley responded that there have been several conversations, and this would be the first step.

**On motion of Supervisor Tarver, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Committee recommended approval of the academic programs as presented.**

## **Revisions to AA Policy 2.15 - Definitions of Undergraduate Degrees and Undergraduate/Graduate Certificates**

Dr. Denley presented the proposed revisions to Academic Affairs Policy 2.15 – Definitions of Undergraduate Degrees and Undergraduate/Graduate Certificates. He advised that this would be the first step in aligning Regents' policy structure to include and reflect market-relevant credentials.

Supervisor Tarver asked if this new policy prohibits four-year institutions from creating certificates that are outside of the new policy definitions. Dr. Denley responded that four-year institutions would be able to create those certificates, that the new definitions are for the Board of Regents' internal classifications, and that certificates will have a variety of names across different institutions. Dr. Tarver followed up by asking if the certificates would require Board approval; Dr. Denley responded that they would not as the approval policy would not change.

Dr. Denley then presented Dr. Chandler LeBoeuf to speak on behalf of LCTCS. Dr. LeBoeuf expressed the system's support of the new policy. LCTCS Representative Mount also

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expressed thanks for the policy and read a statement from Dr. Monty Sullivan, LCTCS President regarding funding.

Regent Pryor recognized staff from Bossier Parish Community College and Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College, who were present at the meeting.

Regent Aubrey asked about the impact on the unique credentials created by four-year institutions as part of a degree program. Dr. Denley responded that they would not be impacted as the policy encourages creation of these credentials as part of a degree program.

**On motion of Supervisor Tarver, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Committee recommended approval of the revisions to AA Policy 2.15 as presented.**

## PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

### **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Courtney Britton presented the Consent Agenda, which included three renewal applications, two cessations of conditional licenses from licensure of academic degree-granting institutions, two initial applications, six change of ownership applications, and 22 renewal applications from the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission.

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Sterling, the Planning, Research and Performance Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Regents approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda.**

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

##### **1. Renewal Applications**

###### **a. National University**

###### **b. Reach University**

**c. Relay Graduate School of Education**

**2. Cessation of Conditional Licenses**

**a. Business, Humanities, Science and Ethics University, USA**

**b. Daience University**

**B. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission**

**1. Change of Ownership Applications**

**a. Unitech Training Academy – Alexandria, LA**

**b. Unitech Training Academy – Baton Rouge, LA**

**c. Unitech Training Academy – Houma, LA**

**d. Unitech Training Academy – Lafayette, LA**

**e. Unitech Training Academy – New Orleans, LA**

**f. Unitech Training Academy – West Monroe, LA**

**2. Initial Applications**

**a. MedEra Technical Institute – Hammond, LA**

**b. Inspire Code Consulting – Slidell, LA**

**3. Renewal Applications**

**a. AAA Crane & Rigging, Addis, LA – License #2371**

**b. ABCDL Truck Driving Academy, Hammond, LA – License #2373**

**c. Academy of Acadiana, New Iberia, LA – License #2086**

**d. CDL Mentors, Lake Charles, LA – License #2299**

**e. Coastal College, Lafayette, LA – License #1002**

**f. Coastal College, Monroe, LA – License #957**

**g. Coastal Truck Driving School, Lake Charles, LA – License #2372**

- h. Delta College of Arts & Technology, Lafayette, LA – License #2075**
- i. Elise Phlebotomy Training Center, Harvey, LA – License #2317**
- j. Goodwill Technical College, New Orleans, LA – License #2210**
- k. Lenora School of Phlebotomy, Slidell, LA – License #911**
- l. Louisiana Culinary Institute, Baton Rouge, LA – License #2045**
- m. Phlebotomy Career Training Academy, Lafayette, LA – License #2350**
- n. River Parishes Institute, Gonzales, LA – License #2351**
- o. Saint Christopher College, Carencro, LA – License #2269**
- p. Southwest Dental Assisting Academy, Lafayette, LA – License #2318**
- q. Sovereign College, Lafayette, LA – License #2316**
- r. St. Agatha Career Schools, New Orleans, LA – License #2352**
- s. Tender Loving Care Allied Health Training, Gretna, LA – License #2370**
- t. Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center, Houston, TX – License #2212**
- u. Unitech Training Academy, Houma, LA – License #2087**
- v. Zollege Healthcare Career School - Baton Rouge, LA – License #2191**

### **LA FIRST Overview**

Chair Solomon introduced a presentation from LA FIRST about progress on data sharing.

Dr. Stephen Barnes, LA FIRST's Executive Director, shared that LA FIRST is a new state data center established by Act 394 of the 2023 Louisiana Legislature. The center is housed within the Regents and was created to link existing administrative data for public policy research. The legislation establishes three annual policy reports: Launch Louisiana (analysis of school

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transitions), Louisiana's Employment Outcomes (linkage between education and workforce) and Regents Meeting: June 12, 2024

Causes and Consequences of Criminal and Delinquent Acts (linkage between education, employment, and involvement in the justice system). Ms. Rachel Vernon, LA First Director, reviewed the progress made to date in the areas of infrastructure, hiring, research, and information. In addition, she explained a data flow diagram outlining the data-sharing process and the creation of the mandated legislative reports. Regent Sterling asked if school attendance data would be included in the LA FIRST reports. Dr. Barnes responded that the data coming from the Department of Education will give a picture of enrollment and attendance for all public school students. Dr. Barnes mentioned Louisiana's stringent data-privacy laws pertaining to student data. One of the purposes of LA FIRST is to not have to undo what is gained from these laws. Local school districts must opt in to the process. Dr. Barnes asked Board members to help with this in their regions of the state.

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

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

- She recognized Chair Solomon for his birthday.
- She introduced Vanessa Luevano, a Nicholls State University student pursuing a degree in political science and one of thirteen new Governor's Fellows. Ms. Luevano attended the Study Louisiana reception in New Orleans with Commissioner Reed. The U.S. Ambassador from Qatar attended, along with people from around the globe.
- She thanked Governor Landry for hosting the Success Council Scholarship reception, where over 100 scholarships were awarded to African American male students in high school or in college who are continuing their education in a Louisiana institution of higher learning.
- She mentioned that Louisiana's Teacher of the Year, Kylie Altier, will be this month's guest on the podcast "Louisiana's Got Talent."
- She thanked staff, Louisiana's legislators, and the governor for all the work accomplished in the 2024 Regular Legislative Session.

## **Other Business**

Chair Solomon echoed Commissioner Reed's message of thanks for the Legislative Session. He commended the Commissioner and Regents staff for their dedication in ushering bills through the process. He reminded members that the next Board meeting will be August 28, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Regent Aubrey inquired as to Regents' role in ensuring emergency preparedness for campuses as hurricane season is approaching. Commissioner Reed commented that all campuses are continuously preparing for hurricane season. In addition, she noted that Regents coordinates requests for information, including any closures, updates about weather conditions, and evacuation plans. Commissioner Reed responded in the affirmative to Chair Solomon's question about Regents' meeting with the new leadership of GOHSEP.

## **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 Mire, seconded by Regent Cordell, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Appendix A  
Board Meeting Guest List  
Wednesday, June 12, 2024

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Dr. Jayda Spillers	NLTCC
Ashley Ellis	LA Delta Community College
Dr. Rick Bateman	BPCC
Osmar Padilla	LWC
Rachel Veron	LA FIRST
Dr. Stephen Barnes	Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center
Dr. Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Margaret Finch	LSU A&M
Danielle Vauclin	Fletcher
Sujuan Boutte	LOSFA/BoR
Darrel P. Kruger	UNO
Kristin Bourque	P&N/EisnerAmper
Laura Soileau	P&N/EisnerAmper
Kamile Geist	Fletcher
Eric Lau	LCTCS
Jodi Duet	LSU A&M