



Regents Recap

APRIL 23, 2009

Student Body Presidents Present Gun Resolution to Regents

Board of Regents

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Higher Education*

BATON ROUGE, La. – Student body presidents from across the state are asking Governor Bobby Jindal to join them in opposing legislation aimed at legalizing concealed weapons on college & university campuses. Today, the students shared a resolution to that effect, and made a strong case for campus safety during the regular meeting of the Board of Regents by sharing a video excerpt from the ABC News program “20/20” entitled, “If I Only Had a Gun.”

“While others can express opinions about how safe guns in the hands of students would make us, we must live with the consequences of such opinions,” said Council of Student Body Presidents Chairman Cedric Hampton. “To say the best response to the unfortunate and rare instances of school violence is to place our safety in the hands of college students, rather than trained officers, is equivalent to saying that a Fortune 500 company should be run by a student who has taken first year accounting,” said Hampton.

“My fellow students attend college in order to be educated and they expect to be able to do that in a safe environment,” said Zealon Solomon, Southeastern Louisiana University Student Body President. “The mere presence of guns increases the risk of accidental shootings and provides access to a gun when tempers may flare.”

Earlier this month, the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) signed a resolution opposing HB 27 and urging the Governor and the Legislature to instead, provide adequate resources to protect students and faculty from harm.

The resolution was signed by Chairman Hampton on April 5, 2009 as part of a regular COSBP meeting. Student representatives also discussed other upcoming legislative issues including budget cuts for higher education and possible tuition and fee increases for students.

Student government representatives indicated in the resolution that they believe enactment of any law allowing guns on campuses would “have a chilling effect on the recruitment and retention of highly qualified students and faculty and place Louisiana institutions at a disadvantage.”

In response, the Board of Regents approved a motion to support the student leaders’ actions in opposing HB 27.

Regents Recommends Termination of 87 Low-Completer Programs

BATON ROUGE, La. –The Louisiana Board of Regents has identified 87 technical, community college and university programs which should be eliminated due to low-completion rates. Additionally, the board recommended a comprehensive review of 3 program areas for potential unnecessary duplication in the future.

“We have pledged to do our part to operate in the most efficient and accountable manner possible for our students and for taxpayers in Louisiana,” said Commissioner Clausen. “This is an important step in assessing our entire higher education enterprise so we can continue to demonstrate that colleges and universities are a wise investment in our state’s future,” Clausen said.

The Board of Regents began an expedited review of the “low-completer” programs in January and routinely reviews all degree programs at Louisiana’s postsecondary institutions. The process measures productivity using five years of student graduation data provided by the campuses. The last low-completer review was done by Regents five years ago. This year’s review includes data from 2003-2008. The established standards to be met by campuses are:

- **Undergraduate Programs**-an average of 8 completers per year or a minimum of 40 graduates within 5 years
- **Masters/Specialist Programs**-an average of 5 completers per year or a minimum of 25 graduates within 5 years
- **Doctoral Programs**-an average of 2 completers per year or a minimum of 10 graduates within 5 years

“During these difficult economic times, the state must invest in programs that have a proven track record of student success,” said Board of Regents Chairman Artis Terrell. “This important work has been done in collaboration with all our systems to ensure that it is as thorough and accurate as possible,” Terrell said.

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Existing Program Updates/Terminations

The Board of Regents terminated the following academic programs:

University of Louisiana at Lafayette-B.S. Program in Electrical Engineering

Delgado Community College-Certificate of Technical Studies in Homeland Security & Emergency Mgmt.

The Board of Regents reauthorized the following previously approved research unit:

University of Louisiana at Lafayette-Ernest J. Gaines Center

The Board of Regents approved the following academic reorganization:

Southeastern Louisiana University-Departments within the College of Business

Program Terminations Cont....

Each campus was provided its list of low-completer programs in January and given an opportunity to respond to the identification and propose remediating action. The final recommendations presented to Regents were discussed with each affected campus chief academic officer before today's action.

Regents staff reviewed 36 programs within the LSU system; recommending the termination/consolidation of 9 of them. Forty-five programs in the UL system were reviewed with 14 recommended for termination/consolidation. Eighteen programs within the Southern University system were reviewed with 5 being recommended for termination/consolidation. Seventy-one programs were reviewed in the LCTC system with 59 recommended for termination/consolidation. Another 474 programs at institutions in the LCTC system are still being reviewed using job placement as an additional measure of productivity. Actions on the remaining LCTCS programs are expected in May.

A total of 168 programs will be impacted by today's recommendations.

- **Maintain Program Unconditionally - 13 Programs**
- **Conditionally Maintain for Three Years, then Re-Evaluate - 63 Programs**
- **Conditionally Maintain, Pending External Review - 6 Programs**
- **Terminate - 77 Programs**
- **Terminate, Consolidate with Other Programs - 2 Programs**
- **Terminate, Consolidate with Other Programs, Proposal Review Required - 7 Programs**
- **Terminate, New Program Provided - 1**

The Academic Affairs Committee also recommended further comprehensive review for potential duplication of the following:

- **Ed.D. programs in North Louisiana**
- **Ph.D. programs in Special Education**
- **Professional Candidacy Programs in Architecture**

To see the full list of low-completer programs for each campus go to: <http://www.regents.state.la.us/Board/Agenda/2009/04/AApdfs/Agenda%20Item%20III%20-%20Low-Completer.pdf>

Existing Program Updates Cont....

The Board of Regents approved progress reports for the following conditionally approved programs:

- University of Louisiana at Monroe-B.S. in Health Studies**
- South Louisiana Community College-A.S. In Industrial Technology**
- Louisiana State University A&M-B.S. in Sports Administration**
- Northwestern State University-B.A. in Heritage Resources**
- Louisiana State University Agricultural Center-LA Center For Rural Initiatives**
- Southern University at New Orleans-B.A. in Child Development & Family Studies**

Regents Affirm Their Leadership Role

The Board of Regents adopted the following statement in response to Louisiana's current budgetary environment:

"The Board of Regents is constitutionally given budgetary responsibility for postsecondary education. We are specifically charged to make recommendations to the governor and legislature regarding budgetary matters, capital outlay, as well as consolidations and mergers of departments and institutions. The Board of Regents recognizes and understands its constitutional authority. The Board also recognizes that the challenges are greater than they have ever been in the past.

In this time of the extraordinary financial crisis across the country, our state and specifically, in Louisiana's Higher Education community, we intend to aggressively and imaginatively exercise the full authority of the board in examining our enterprise and innovatively make recommendations to restructure it, if necessary, to meet the current financial reality and the near half a billion shortfall projected for 2012.

We will accomplish this mission while working to protect education and workforce goals we have set for higher education. We will dedicate ourselves to produce more graduates and protect access. Our students remain this Board's top priority."

Upcoming Board of Regents Meetings:

**May 21 (Joint
Regents/BESE)**

May 27-28

June 24-25

July

NO MEETING

Board of Regents Highlights

The Board of Regents approved the following items during its April 23, 2009 meeting:

- **Proposed Academic Year 2009-10 Master Course Articulation Matrix**
- **Approval of Routine Academic Requests**
 - LSU A&M (Center for Advanced Materials)**
 - Nicholls (Corrections to approved teacher education programs list)**
 - ULM (Two Baccalaureate programs through distance ed)**
 - Grambling (Corrections to status of accredited programs)**
 - McNeese (B.S. program in Family & Consumer Sciences through distance ed)**
 - Northwestern (Two M.Ed. And one M.A.T. through distance learning)**
- **2008-09 Recommendations from Comprehensive Review of Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program**
- **Funding Recommendations for Proposals (BoR Support Fund Competitive Cycle)**
- **Prospective Process for BoRSF 2009-10 Comprehensive Review of Research & Dev.**