



# Regents Recap

JUNE 23, 2011

## GRAD ACT PROGRESS ACHIEVED

### Board of Regents

**Jim Purcell**

*Commissioner of  
Higher Education*

**Robert W. Levy**

*Chair*

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*Vice Chair*

**Charlotte A. Bollinger**

*Secretary*

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**Joseph P. Farr**

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**Donna G. Klein**

**W. Clinton Rasberry**

**Victor T. Stelly**

**Harold M. Stokes**

**Albert D. Sam**

**Joseph C. Wiley**

**John Mineo IV**

*Student*

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Board of Regents today approved annual designations that indicate all of Louisiana’s college and university campuses achieved the necessary progress to retain tuition authority and eligibility for autonomies under the GRAD Act for the next academic year. This important action enables campuses to raise tuition by 5% this Fall.

“The success of our colleges and universities this year comes as no surprise due to the collaborative and focused work on the GRAD Act which has occurred throughout the year,” said Board of Regents Chairman Bob Levy. “Institutions used actual data when they set this year’s targets and were able to accurately anticipate their progress. However, as they move towards meeting the aspirational, annual targets that were negotiated with Regents in their agreements institutions will be challenged to make continuous improvement.”

Under the GRAD Act, which was approved by the legislature in 2010, Regents entered into six-year agreements which set institution specific targets, including annual performance measures that result in educational improvements by the end of the timeline. Regents monitors the annual performance of each institution and submits a report to the Legislature and the Governor no later than July 15th. Regents may revoke a GRAD Act agreement with a college or university at any time for failure to abide by the terms.

Institutions submitted system-certified annual reports to Regents in May which were reviewed by staff for completeness as well as data verification before being read and scored on up to 56 individual measurements. The GRAD Act includes four performance objectives— student success, articulation and transfer, workforce and economic development and institutional efficiency and accountability. Because each institution has its own targets for progress it is measured against its own improvement plan during the annual review process, however each campus MUST achieve successful attainment of the student success objective in order to retain its tuition authority and autonomy eligibility.

At the end of the scoring process, each institution is given one of four evaluation designations based on the score for each performance objective. This year every institution received a designation of GREEN.

“Looking ahead, the Board of Regents Master Plan will set aggressive, statewide goals that will go well beyond the targeted measures established in the GRAD Act,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell. “Our focus on increasing educational attainment and investing strategically in research will compliment all of the measures encompassed in each six-year GRAD Act agreement, but will reach well into the future in order to create a long-term roadmap for Louisiana’s colleges and universities through the year 2025.”

## REGENTS HIGHLIGHTS

### UPCOMING REGENTS MEETINGS:

No July Meeting

August 24-25

The Board of Regents approved the following **New Academic Programs**:

- **Southern University at Shreveport**-Certificate of Applied Science in Medical Coding
- **Bossier Parish Community College**-A.A.S. in Industrial Technology
- **South Central LA Technical College**-A.A.S. in Journeyman Industrial

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

- **Louisiana State University-Hearne Institute for Theoretical Physics**

The Board of Regents approved the following **Initial Licenses**:

- **Georgetown University**
- **University of Southern Mississippi**

The Board of Regents approved the following **License Renewals**:

- **University of Alabama-Birmingham**

The Board of Regents approved the following **Small Capital Projects**:

- **LSU U-High Locker Room Building** (private donations)
- **LSU Laboratory School Synthetic Turf Play Field** (private donations)
- **Southern University and A&M College Amphitheater Design & Construction** (federal funds)
- **Pennington Biomedical Research Center Renovation to Comparative Biology** (grant funds)
- **LSU Union Art Gallery Renovation** (auxiliary funds)
- **LSU Union Stage Loft Panel Replacement** (auxiliary funds)
- **LSU Sports Recreation Complex Site Improvements** (auxiliary funds)
- **Southeastern Louisiana University Western Avenue Parking Lot Improvements** (motor vehicle registration fees)
- **University of Louisiana at Monroe Athletic Facility Enhancements** (other funds)
- **Southern University and A&M College Hayden Hall Renovations** (other funds)
- **University of Louisiana at Monroe Brown Hall Renovations** (state funds)

The Board of Regents withdrew an amendment to the FY 2011-12 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation:

- **Grambling State University Library Emergency Deficiencies Correction Project**

The Board of Regents approved the following **Act 959** project:

- **Southern University New Orleans Small Business Incubator**

The Board of Regents approved the following lease:

- **LSU Board of Supervisors and Tiger Athletic Foundation for Alex Box Baseball Complex at Louisiana State University and A&M College**
- **LSU Board of Supervisors and the Ricoh Americas Corporation for postal and copy services at Louisiana State University and A&M College**

The Board of Regents approved a request from **McNeese State University** to divide the **Juliet Hardtner Women in Science and Women in Arts and Humanities Endowed Chairs**.

The Board of Regents approved supplementary funding to permit matching for the **Charles J. Hatfield Endowed Professorship at the Southern Law Center**.

## TRANSFER DEGREE UPDATE

Students across the state are taking advantage of the Louisiana Transfer Degree (LT) in order to achieve their dream of a college degree. Last fall, the Board of Regents approved implementation of the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science Louisiana Transfer degrees which provide students a clear pathway towards a bachelor's degree if they choose to first attend a community college.

The Transfer Degree Guarantee allows students who successfully complete a prescribed curriculum to automatically transfer all 60 hours of coursework to a public university and immediately gain junior status—without losing any credit.

Student enrollment in the Louisiana Transfer Degree more than doubled since its launch in the Fall of 2010. By the spring semester, 544 students on 7 campuses have declared themselves as Louisiana Transfer Degree candidates.

One of the key tools created by Regents to inform students, parents and advisors about the LT opportunity has been an interactive website, [www.latransferdegree.org](http://www.latransferdegree.org). The newly launched website includes helpful links to campus specific information as well as a dynamic transfer course guide (the Articulation Matrix). The course guide helps in planning and allows students who aren't participating in the LT to determine which courses will be accepted for credit if they transfer to another public college or university. This feature allows the website to become the definitive source for student transfer information in Louisiana.



Additionally, public service announcements promoting the Transfer Degree Guarantee have been sent to television stations statewide and should see air-time soon.

## OIL SPILL RESEARCH SUPPORT

**The Board of Regents adopted the following resolution in support of Louisiana consortia proposals submitted to the BP sponsored Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative:**

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Regents appreciates British Petroleum's commitment to establish a \$500 million Gulf Research Initiative and the initial rapid response to the state for research funding; and

**WHEREAS**, British Petroleum is initiating a process to allocate an additional pool of funds in excess of \$400 million; and

**WHEREAS**, as this process moves forward, the Board of Regents recognizes that the bulk of the Gulf Coast oil spill affected coastal and federal waters adjacent to the coast of Louisiana.

**THEREFORE**, for that reason, the Board of Regents recommends that the allocation of resources or research dollars should focus on the areas most affected by the oil spill.

## GRAD ACT continued.....

Below is a definition for each possible evaluation designation:

**GREEN** – Institution has passed the Student Success Objective and two or three other GRAD Act performance objectives. This allows the institution to retain tuition authority for the next academic year and makes the institution eligible for autonomies.

**YELLOW** - Institution has passed the Student Success Objective and only one other GRAD ACT performance objective. This allows the institution to retain tuition authority for the next academic year and makes the institution eligible for autonomies.

**ORANGE** - Institution has passed only the Student Success Objective. This allows the institution to retain tuition authority for the next academic year, but not eligible for autonomies.

**RED** – Institution has failed the Student Success Objective or has failed all performance objectives. The institution loses the ability to raise tuition in the next academic year or seek autonomies. This designation will also require the institution to submit through their Management Board a remediation plan to the Board of Regents outlining the specific action to be taken to get the institution “back on track” to achieve its Student Success Performance Objective.

Institution specific GRAD Act agreements and supporting documents can be found at [www.regents.state.la.us](http://www.regents.state.la.us) by clicking on the GRAD Act logo.



**The Board of Regents swore in its new student member, John Mineo from the University of New Orleans. Mr. Mineo will serve a one-year term.**

**Regents honored several employees who are retiring or leaving the staff after serving the citizens of Louisiana with great diligence and dignity. Pictured are Dr. Sharon Southall, Mrs. Dawn Wilson and Mrs. Loretta Braud.**

