

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

October 9, 2014

The Board of Regents met in session at 9:08 a.m., Thursday, October 9, 2014, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr. called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Carolyn Blanchard called the roll and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr., Chair
William Fenstermaker, Vice Chair
Albert Sam II, Secretary
Mark Abraham
Maggie Brakeville
Joel Dupré
Pamela Egan
Joseph Farr
Robert Levy
Edward Markle
Joseph Wiley

Absent from the meeting were:

Charlotte Bollinger
Raymond Brandt
Chris Gorman
Richard Lipsey
Roy Martin III

Chair Rasberry announced that Mr. Ray DiPasquale, President, Community College of Rhode Island, had withdrawn his name from consideration for the Commissioner of Higher Education position. The remaining two finalists, Mr. Robin Capehart and Dr. Joseph Rallo, would be interviewed this morning.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Rasberry noted that no written requests were received for public comments and asked whether the audience had any comments at the time. There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

On motion of Regent Farr, seconded by Regent Dupré, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 25, 2014.

INTERVIEW OF ROBIN CAPEHART, PRESIDENT, WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY, WEST VIRGINIA

Chair Rasberry introduced Mr. Robin Capehart, President of West Liberty University in West Virginia. He received a Master of Law in Taxation from Georgetown University, Doctor of Jurisprudence from West Virginia University, and B.A. from West Virginia University.

Mr. Capehart expressed his gratitude for being included as a finalist for the position of Commissioner of Higher Education. He also thanked the AGB Search Firm, Dr. Tom Layzell, Senior Advisor to the Board, and Regents' staff for their assistance the past few days. After Mr. Capehart's public statement to the Board, Chair Rasberry opened up the floor for questions from the audience. There were none. A question and answer session followed with the members of the Board.

Following the question and answer session, Chair Rasberry informed the Board that it would receive an update from the AGB Search Firm on results of their due diligence and background check. Since the conversation would involve the professional competence and character of Mr. Capehart, it required an Executive Session pursuant to R.S. 42:16. Chair Rasberry reiterated that no action, voting or polling would be conducted during the Executive Session. Written notification of the Executive Session had been given as required under R.S. 42:17 (A) (1).

Regent Levy made a motion, seconded by Regent Fenstermaker, that the Board enter into Executive Session as required under R.S. 42:16 to discuss the professional competence and character of Mr. Robin Capehart, a finalist for the position of Commissioner of Higher Education.

Next a roll call vote was taken to receive a 2/3 vote of the members present.

(Yes)	(Yes)	(No)
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr., Chair	Joseph Farr	None
William Fenstermaker, Vice Chair	Robert Levy	
Albert Sam II, Secretary	Edward Markle	
Mark Abraham	Joseph Wiley	
Maggie Brakeville		
Joel Dupré		
Pamela Egan		

Having obtained the necessary 2/3 vote of members present, at 9:48 a.m. the Board went into Executive Session. At 11:10 a.m. the Board reconvened. Chair Rasberry noted no actions, polling, or votes were taken during the Executive Session.

INTERVIEW OF JOSEPH RALLO, SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Chair Rasberry next introduced Dr. Joseph Rallo, Special Advisor for Global Engagement at Texas Tech University. He received a Ph.D. and M.A. from Syracuse University, a J.D. from Western New England University, and B.A. in Russian History from Lafayette College.

Dr. Rallo addressed the Board, and then Chair Rasberry opened up the floor for questions from the audience. There were none. A question and answer session followed with the members of the Board.

Following the question and answer session, Chair Rasberry informed the Board that it would next receive an update from the AGB Search Firm on results of their due diligence and background check. Since the conversation would involve the professional competence and character of Dr. Rallo, it required an Executive Session pursuant to R.S. 42:16. Chair Rasberry reiterated that no action, voting or polling would be conducted during this Executive Session. Written notification of the Executive Session had been given as required under R.S. 42:17 (A) (1).

Regent Sam made a motion, seconded by Regent Farr, that the Board enter into Executive Session as required under R.S. 42:16 to discuss the professional competence and character of Dr. Joseph Rallo, a finalist for the position of Commissioner of Higher Education.

Next a roll call vote was taken to receive a 2/3 vote of the members present.

(Yes)	(Yes)	(No)
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr., Chair	Joseph Farr	None
William Fenstermaker, Vice Chair	Robert Levy	
Albert Sam II, Secretary	Edward Markle	
Mark Abraham	Joseph Wiley	
Maggie Brakeville		
Joel Dupré		
Pamela Egan		

Having obtained the necessary 2/3 vote of members present, at 11:37 a.m. the Board went into Executive Session. At 1:39 p.m. the Board reconvened. Chair Rasberry noted no actions, polling, or votes were taken during the Executive Session.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Rasberry said that the Board had an opportunity to learn more about the finalists through the public presentations and interviews with the Board. He thanked the various stakeholders who had met earlier with each of the finalists and given their input. He continued by saying that the level of wide interest in this search was a reflection of the profound impact that the office of the Commissioner has on the state and the higher education enterprise. He thanked both finalists for their interest, engagement and discussions over the last three days. He noted that an appointment of a Commissioner requires 2/3 vote of the total membership of the Board under state law. He explained that equates to 11 votes necessary to appoint the Commissioner.

Regent Farr made a motion, seconded by Regent Levy, that the Board appoint Dr. Joseph Rallo as the Commissioner of Higher Education for the Board of Regents and to authorize the Board of Regents' Chair to negotiate the terms of the appointment with Dr. Rallo and bring a contract for the Board's approval at a future Regents' meeting.

Next a roll call vote was taken to receive a 2/3 vote of the total membership of the Board, as required by law.

(Yes)	(Yes)	(No)
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr., Chair	Joseph Farr	None
William Fenstermaker, Vice Chair	Robert Levy	
Albert Sam II, Secretary	Edward Markle	
Mark Abraham	Joseph Wiley	
Maggie Brakeville		
Joel Dupré		
Pamela Egan		

Chair Rasberry congratulated Dr. Rallo as Commissioner of Higher Education. Dr. Rallo said he was humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve as Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.