



Regents Recap

Regents Remains Focused on Efficiencies

Announces Results of Academic Program Review

Baton Rouge, LA –In an effort to enhance program quality, ensure that our universities are good stewards of resources, and to make certain that programs are aligned to state and regional needs, staff of the Louisiana Board of Regents conducted its 2014-2015 Academic Program Review, and the Board approved its recommendations today.

According to Regents, there must be evidence of local student and prospective employer demand as well as an expectation that the new program would become self-sustaining after a reasonable implementation period. The statewide program review repeats that analysis of existing programs to assess whether they should be maintained in the curriculum inventory, i.e., whether program continuation is justified based on costs, productivity, and relevance to student or campus progression. The statewide review is conducted every other year to provide time for actions triggered by the current review to have an impact on program productivity.

As part of the process, Regents staff identified programs for which a response is required, triggered primarily by the number of awards conferred over the last three years.

Institutions are encouraged to take the opportunity to organize or restructure based on a self-evaluation of their entire academic program inventory. “The review process provides an opportunity for a thorough examination of an institution’s program offerings in light of its own fiscal realities,” said Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo.

This year, 177 programs were included in the review. For each program, the campus prepared a proposition and justification to either continue, consolidate, or terminate the program. Staff considered campus requests, in light of the statewide inventory and both duplication and access issues from both a statewide and regional perspective, depending on the program and its relationship to other majors. Consideration was also given to current and projected trends in enrollment and productivity, and to the institution’s explanation of and interventions to improve the current status. Relative to the 177 Academic Programs, the Board approved the following:

- Continuation of 112 programs (with enrollment updates at staff request);
- Termination of 56 programs;
- Consolidation of nine programs, with the cancellation and revision of programs in the Curriculum Inventory, as warranted.

“The statewide Academic Program Review should be repeated in 2016-17, after the 2015-16 complete reports are finalized,” said Dr. Karen Denby, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs.

Regents Members

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Edward D. Markle

Gray Stream

Collis Temple III

Joseph C. Wiley

Maggie Brakeville

Student

Joseph C. Rallo

*Commissioner of Higher
Education*

Board of Regents Awards 258 Support Fund Grants to Campus Personnel

Today, the Board of Regents awarded 258 Support Fund Grants to faculty/staff at thirty-nine campuses across the state. This includes:

- Four Endowed Chair for Eminent Scholar matches to attract and retain faculty at the highest levels of research and teaching;
- Seventy-eight Enhancement Grants to establish more competitive environments for research and/or teaching at flagship, research, regional, special-purpose, and two-year campuses;
- The establishment of seventy-three Endowed Professorships at campuses across all levels to recruit and retain faculty of quality;
- Matching of twenty-three Endowed Undergraduate Scholarships at campuses with bachelor's and associate's degree programs to attract and retain first-generation college students;
- Thirty-two Research Competitiveness grants to emerging faculty for the purpose of strengthening research infrastructure and leveraging federal dollars;
- Nine Industrial grants to faculty working with industrial partners on economic development initiatives;
- Seventeen awards which encourage faculty in the arts and humanities to complete significant scholarly and creative works;
- Nineteen awards to support thirty-three master's and doctoral fellows across STEM disciplines;
- In collaboration with SREB, three awards for eight doctoral fellowships which promote faculty diversity.

Eleven of the thirteen BoRSF subprograms are competitive, resulting in 76% of the dollars being awarded on a merit basis. Also during FY 2014-15 matching funds were provided for continuation of five major Federal Matching programs which have competed successfully at the national level; these multi-year programs, receiving \$12,469,000 in federal dollars, provide rates of return which range from \$1 to \$9.90 for each matched Support Fund dollar.

"This is a very exciting day for the Board of Regents," said Regents member and Sponsored Programs Committee Chair, Joseph Wiley. "Awarding funds to the hard-working faculty and staff in support of research and teaching is critically important."

Regent Bids Farewell to Student Member

The Board of Regents recognized outgoing student member Maggie Brakeville during today's meeting. Brakeville is currently a graduating senior at Louisiana Tech.

"It has been a pleasure to serve with Regent Brakeville," said Regent Lipsey. "Maggie's dedication to the students of this state was evident during her tenure here on the Board of Regents. She was an active participant during all deliberations and was never afraid to ask questions when necessary. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors."



Regent Lipsey presents a plaque to outgoing student member Maggie Brakeville.

Regents' Highlights

- ✓ The Board of Regents Academic and Student Affairs items:
 - Approval of the letter of intent to develop a proposal for the Birth to Kindergarten teacher education program that will include a statewide curriculum and stackable credentials.
 - Conditional approval of a Master of Digital Media Arts and Engineering at Louisiana State University. A progress report on program implementation shall be due by September 1, 2016.
 - Approval of the designation of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence at the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans as a Center of Research Excellence under *BoR/AA Policy 2.05A*, through May 2020.
 - Approval of the recommendations relative to the 177 academic programs included in the attachment to this review, including:
 - Continuation of 112 programs, with enrollment and completer updates at staff request;
 - Termination of 56 programs; and
 - Consolidation of nine programs, with the cancellations and revisions in the Curriculum Inventory, as warranted.

The statewide Academic Program Review should be repeated in 2016-17, after the 2015-16 completer reports are finalized.

 - Received an update on the Co-Requisite Delivery Pilot which included guidelines for campus participation in 2015-2016.
 - Approval of the following Consent Agenda Items:
 - The Precision Agricultural and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Research and Applications Center – ULM (Full approval)
 - Routine Staff Reports
 - a. Staff Approvals
 - b. Progress Reports for Conditionally Approved/Units
 - c. Past Due Reports
 - d. Letters of Intent/Proposals in Queue
- ✓ The Board of Regents Sponsored Programs items:
 - Approval of the FY 2014-2015 Board of Regents Support Fund Awardees.
 - Approval of the Edward G. Schlieder Foundation Endowed Chair into four (4) endowed professorships, each with a corpus value of \$250,000, as follows:
 - Edward G. Schlieder Foundation Professorship of Environmental Studies and Sustainability #1
 - Edward G. Schlieder Foundation Professorship of Environmental Studies and Sustainability #2
 - Edward G. Schlieder Foundation Professorship of Environmental Studies and Sustainability #3
 - Edward G. Schlieder Foundation Professorship of Environmental Studies and Sustainability #4
 - Approval of Dr. Patrick Mensah, Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Southern University and A&M College, as the Southern University System representative on the Master Plan Research Advisory Committee (MPRAC).
- ✓ The Board of Regents received and approved the 2015 Legislative Session Updates. This included an update on the Board of Regents' bills, along with bills which impact higher education and the fiscal status of the State.

Louisiana

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Regents' Highlights Cont...

- ✓ The Board of Regents granted approval of the following Planning Research and Performance items:

-Consent Agenda

-R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)

Initial License

- Post University
- Savannah College of Art and Design

License Renewal

- Michigan State University
- Northcentral University
- Texas Christian University
- University of Wyoming

- Approval of the Application for Institutional participation in SARA for the following institutions:

- Louisiana State University - Alexandria
- University of Louisiana - Lafayette
- University of Louisiana - Monroe

This approval also authorized staff to submit approved applications to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.

-Approval of the request from Louisiana Delta Community College to submit data corrections to its Statewide Student Profile System and Completers file to more accurately reflect its performance in the Year 5 GRAD Act Annual Report. Regents' auditors will review and verify all data corrections.



About Regents

The Board of Regents, a state agency created by the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, coordinates all public higher education in Louisiana. The Board of Regents believes that a robust public postsecondary education system is critical in order to enhance Louisiana's social and economic environment. Through statewide academic planning and review, budgeting and performance funding, research, and accountability, Regents strives to ensure that all students have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

Regents Recap is produced by the Louisiana Board of Regents Office of Public Affairs

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