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**BOARD OF REGENTS**

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**PLANNING, RESEARCH and PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**March 21, 2018 • 10:10 a.m.**

**Louisiana Purchase Room, W.C.C. Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - A. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
    1. License Renewals
      - a. Art Institute of Pittsburgh
      - b. National University
      - c. Relay Graduate School of Education
      - d. San Joaquin Valley College
      - e. Virginia College
    - B. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Institutional Renewals
      1. Louisiana State University Alexandria
      2. Nations University
    - C. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
      1. Initial Licenses
        - a. Pilut Healthcare Training Institute
        - b. Precision Development Center
      2. AOS Application
        - a. Academy of Interactive Entertainment
      3. License Renewals
- IV. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
  - A. Initial Applications
    1. Southern University and A&M College
    2. Southwest University
- V. Other Business
  - A. Louisiana Online
- VI. Adjournment

**Committee Members:** Collis Temple III, Chair; Claudia Adley, Vice Chair; Blake David, Randy Ewing, Thomas Henning, Sonia Perez, Wilbert Pryor, Charles McDonald, Jacqueline Wyatt

### **Agenda Item III.A.1.a.**

#### **Art Institute of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

##### BACKGROUND

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh (AIP) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private for-profit institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is one of The Art Institutes, a system of over fifty schools throughout North America. Founded in 1921, the school began as an independent school of art and illustration and is currently owned by Education Management Corporation (EDMC). AIP is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

##### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

AIP makes available to Louisiana residents three diploma, thirteen certificate, four associate and fourteen baccalaureate degrees online in art-related areas (graphic design, web design, fashion, media arts, interior design, portrait and studio photography, 2D and 3D animation, etc.). Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since a number of the programs require internship experiences, licensure is necessary.

##### FACULTY AND STUDENTS

AIP employs 647 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Ninety-two are employed full-time, 112 are trained at the doctoral level and 465 are trained at the master's level. The institution reported no students enrolled in its programs in Louisiana during fall 2017.

##### FACILITIES

Since AIP operates its programs online with administrative and academic support in Pittsburgh, there are no physical facilities in Louisiana. Students complete internship experiences at various locations within Louisiana.

##### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the institution's accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve license renewal for Art Institute of Pittsburgh, located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## **Agenda Item III.A.1.b.**

### **National University La Jolla, California**

#### BACKGROUND

National University (National) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private institution in La Jolla, California founded in 2001 as an alliance of institutions committed to providing educational opportunities to diverse populations. National is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

#### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

National makes available to Louisiana residents two online associate degree programs, fourteen online baccalaureate programs, and ten online master's programs across a variety of disciplines in the arts, sciences and professions. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since some of the programs require internship/practicum experiences, licensure is necessary.

#### FACULTY AND STUDENTS

National employs 2,329 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Three hundred twenty-five are employed full-time and 889 are trained at the doctoral level. National reported three Louisiana students enrolled in associate programs, seventeen in bachelor's programs and twelve in master's programs in fall 2017.

#### FACILITIES

Since National operates its program online with administrative and academic support in La Jolla, there are no physical facilities in Louisiana. Students complete internship/practicum experiences at various locations within Louisiana.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the institution's and academic programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve license renewal for National University, located in La Jolla, California.

## **Agenda Item III.A.1.c.**

### **Relay Graduate School of Education New York, New York**

#### BACKGROUND

Relay Graduate School of Education (Relay) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private university in the state of New York and is seeking license renewal. Chartered by the New York State Board of Regents in 2011 as the first independent graduate school of education to be credentialed in more than 80 years, Relay is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

#### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Relay offers a Certification program and a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT). The programs are designed to train highly-effective teachers. Admission to the programs is selective and students in the programs must demonstrate proficiency and achievement in the classroom in order to graduate. The programs are accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Courses are offered in both the classroom setting and online.

#### FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Currently, Relay employs twelve faculty to teach in Louisiana's program, five on a fulltime basis. One of the faculty is trained at the doctorate level while the other eleven hold masters degrees. The institution reported an enrollment of 91 students in its masters programs and 29 students in its certificate program in Louisiana.

#### FACILITIES

Relay leases space on Poydras Street in New Orleans for both administrative and instructional purposes.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the institution's and academic program's accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve license renewal for Relay Graduate School of Education, domiciled in New York, New York .

## **Agenda Item III.A.1.d.**

### **San Joaquin Valley College Visalia, California**

#### **BACKGROUND**

San Joaquin Valley College (SJVC) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private junior college in Visalia, California. Founded in 1977, SJVC has thirteen campuses located throughout California (plus an online division) and offers accelerated certificate and associate of science degree programs. SJVC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

#### **ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

SJVC makes available to Louisiana residents five online certificate and associate degree programs in health and business-related fields, and a bachelor's degree completion program in respiratory therapy. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since some of the health-related programs require internship/practicum experiences, licensure is necessary.

#### **FACULTY AND STUDENTS**

SJVC employs 51 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Of the 51 faculty, ten are employed full-time and 44 are trained at the graduate level. The institution reported an enrollment of four students in a certificate program in Louisiana.

#### **FACILITIES**

Since SJVC operates its program online with administrative and academic support in Visalia, there are no physical facilities in Louisiana. Students complete internship/practicum experiences at various locations within Louisiana.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Given the credentials of its faculty, the institution's and academic programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve license renewal for San Joaquin Valley College, located in Visalia, California.

## **Agenda Item III.A.1.e.**

### **Virginia College Birmingham, Alabama**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Virginia College is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. Virginia College is organized as a main campus in Birmingham, Alabama with a number of branch campuses in other states, including Louisiana. The institution was first licensed with the Board of Regents in 2010 and operates at locations in Baton Rouge and Bossier City. Virginia College is also a licensed proprietary school in the State of Louisiana. The institution is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). Since ACICS lost its recognition from USDOE, Virginia College is seeking accreditation with the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET).

#### **ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

Between the Baton Rouge and Bossier City locations, Virginia College offers diploma and associate degrees primarily in the areas of business, allied health, and office administration. These are the core programs offered at other branches of the college. Many of the programs are either being discontinued or transitioning to ACCET standards.

#### **FACULTY AND STUDENTS**

Virginia College employs 29 faculty for its Baton Rouge and 24 for its Bossier City campus. Twenty-three of the 53 faculty are employed on a full-time basis and 26 hold graduate degrees from accredited institutions. The institution reported an enrollment of 696 students in certificate programs and 186 students in associate degree programs in Louisiana.

#### **FACILITIES**

Virginia College leases space at Cortana Place in Baton Rouge. The leased facility includes 90,982 square feet and has a current value of \$7.5M. The Bossier City campus is housed in leased space at Pierre Bossier Mall. The leased facility includes 59,156 square feet and has a current value of \$7.2M.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Given the success of Virginia College in other southern states, its diploma and associate programs, the college's long-standing history, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve license renewal for Virginia College, with its home campus located in Birmingham, Alabama and campuses in Baton Rouge and Bossier City, Louisiana. The approval includes a stipulation that the institution is successful in gaining accreditation with the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET).

## **Agenda Item III.B.**

### **Executive Summary**

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a national initiative which seeks to establish comparable national standards for the interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. SARA membership makes it easier for students to take online courses offered by institutions based in another state by reducing the cost and administrative burden on institutions seeking authorization in various states. SARA is a voluntary agreement among regional compacts (SREB, NEBHE, MHEC, and WICHE) and member states. Each member state approves their in-state institutions and renews their membership annually. Approved SARA member institutions may offer distance education programs in other SARA member states without additional authorization.

Act 13 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the Louisiana Board of Regents to seek SARA membership on behalf of the State of Louisiana. In October 2014, Louisiana's application for SARA membership was approved by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), effective December 1, 2014. Since then, 23 Louisiana institutions have joined SARA.

Two institutions (Louisiana State University at Alexandria and Nations University) have submitted SARA renewal applications. Regents' staff have reviewed the renewal applications and determined that they meet all requirements for continuing their membership in SARA.

Senior staff recommends that the Planning, Research & Performance Committee approve the Renewal Applications for Institutional Participation in SARA for Louisiana State University at Alexandria and Nations University, and authorize staff to submit the approved applications to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.

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**AGENDA ITEM III.C.**  
**Minutes**  
**Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission**  
**March 13, 2018**

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 10:03 a.m., in Room 1-190 of the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge. Chair Jones called the meeting to order. Following an introduction and word of welcome from Chair Jones to new Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission member Mary Lou Potter, an appointee of the Board of Regents, and the administering of the Oath of Office by Chair Jones, the roll was called.

**Commission Members Present**

Melanie Amrhein  
Sherrie Despino  
James Dorris  
James Fontenot, Vice Chair  
Theresa Hay  
Keith Jones, Chair  
Mary Lou Potter

**Staff Members Present**

Nancy Beall  
Chandra Cheatham  
Kristi Kron  
Carol Marabella  
Larry Tremblay

**Commission Members Absent**

Raymond Lalonde

**Guests Present**

(See Appendix A.)

The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from its meeting of January 9, 2018.

**On motion of Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Ms. Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously adopted the minutes of the January 9, 2018 Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting.**

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was two initial license applications, the first from Pilut Healthcare Training Institute, LLC, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and represented by the school's owner, Ms. Shawann Y. James. Ms. Kron reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that the institution would be offering one program of study, Phlebotomy Technician, which is a 208.0 clock hour program with an anticipated completion time of fourteen weeks. Pilut Healthcare Training Institute had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the background of owner and reason for opening school, job opportunities for, and marketability of, graduates, competition within the geographical area, recruitment plan, maximum number of students per class, number of students needed to remain financially solvent, and the availability of payment plans for students,

**On motion of Ms. Amrhein, seconded by Ms. Hay, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for Pilut Healthcare Training Institute, LLC, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.**

The second initial license application considered by the Commission was from Precision Development Center, LLC, located in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, and represented by the school's owner, Mr. Carl S. Ovide. Ms. Marabella reviewed the materials for the Commission, informing

it that this institution would be offering one program of study, HVAC, which is a 240.0 clock hour program with an anticipated completion time of six weeks. Precision Development Center had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the program's instructional model and the owner's investment in inventory, maximum number of students per class, type of certification awarded upon successful completion of program, recruitment and advertising strategies, the need for HVAC technicians, job opportunities available to graduates, and starting salary for technicians,

**On motion of Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Mr. Dorris, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for Precision Development Center, LLC, located in Donaldsonville, Louisiana.**

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was three Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS) Degree applications from Academy of Interactive Entertainment, located in Lafayette, Louisiana. Mr. Robin L. Couvillon, Head of School, was in attendance to represent the school.

Ms. Kron reminded the Commission members that the Proprietary Schools Law requires that AOS degrees be offered only by schools that hold recognized accreditation and that the Board of Regents must approve all AOS degree program offerings. The Academy of Interactive Entertainment is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education.

The AOS Degree programs in Game Art & Animation (80.0 Semester Credit Hours), Game Programming (80.0 Semester Credit Hours), and Screen & Media--3D Animation & VFX for Film (78.0 Semester Credit Hours) are designed for full-time students to be able to complete

the program requirements in two years. The Academy of Interactive Entertainment's proposed AOS Degree programs had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved by the Board of Regents.

Following further discussion regarding the utilization of an industry-based curriculum, required instructor credentials, reason for locating school in Acadiana, recruiting methods and screening processes for enrollment, number of students enrolled per year, current and proposed program offerings, and cost of programs,

**On motion of Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Ms. Amrhein, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve the Associate in Occupational Studies Degree in Game Art & Animation, the Associate in Occupational Studies Degree in Game Programming, and the Associate in Occupational Studies Degree in Screen & Media--3D Animation & VFX for Film for the Academy of Interactive Entertainment, located in Lafayette, Louisiana.**

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was operating license renewals. Ms. Marabella informed the Commission members that there were eighteen (18) schools seeking renewal. These schools scheduled for renewal were in complete compliance, having met all the legal and administrative requirements to be re-licensed.

Following further discussion,

**On motion of Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Ms. Hay, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents renew the licenses of the following proprietary schools (initial license date in parentheses).**

**Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting (01/26/06)**  
**Becker Professional Education Online (formerly Becker Professional Education--Ruston) (01/09/17)**  
**Beso Beauty, LLC (01/09/17)**  
**Blue Cliff College--Lafayette (01/27/00)**

**Coastal College--Hammond (02/23/89)**  
**Dryades YMCA School of Commerce (02/27/97)**  
**Feliciana Medical Training Academy (02/23/15)**  
**Gonzales Medical Assistant School (01/09/17)**  
**Griff's Marine Training, Inc. (01/27/10)**  
**ITI Technical College (01/27/00)**  
**Louisiana Dental Assistant School, LLC (01/27/05)**  
**Louisiana Healthcare Institute (02/22/16)**  
**Moore Career College, Inc. (01/27/10)**  
**Peach Tree School of Dental Assisting (01/09/17)**  
**Rosemond School of Phlebotomy (02/22/16)**  
**Rosepine Louisiana Medical Training, LLC (02/22/16)**  
**Southwest Dental Academy, LLC (01/25/12)**  
**Tulsa Welding School--Jacksonville Campus (01/27/10)**

Ms. Marabella informed the Commission that there were three institutions that chose not to renew their licenses this renewal cycle: Access Career Development Institute (01/09/17), Advance Innovative Education (01/09/17), and Eastern College of Health Vocations--Shreveport (05/27/04). Staff will follow through to secure the student records from each school for safekeeping.

The next item on the agenda was an update on program approvals. Chair Jones reminded the Commission that staff approved these updates administratively and course approvals were being shared for informational purposes only.

Under Report from Staff, Ms. Marabella gave a project update on the digitalization of student records from closed proprietary schools.

The next meeting of the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 1-190 of the Claiborne Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

APPENDIX A  
GUESTS

Robin L. Couvillon	Academy of Interactive Entertainment
Brett James	Pilut Healthcare Training Institute
Shawann James	Pilut Healthcare Training Institute
Carl Ovide	Precision Development Center
Sandra Weems	Precision Development Center

## **Agenda Item IV.A.1.**

### **Executive Summary**

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a national initiative which seeks to establish comparable national standards for the interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. SARA makes it easier for students to take online courses offered by institutions based in another state by reducing the cost and administrative burden on institutions seeking authorization in various states. SARA is a voluntary agreement among regional compacts (SREB, NEBHE, MHEC, and WICHE) and member states. Each member state approves their in-state institutions on an annual basis for SARA participation. Once approved, SARA member institutions may offer distance education programs in other SARA member states without additional authorization.

Act 13 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the Louisiana Board of Regents to seek SARA membership on behalf of the State of Louisiana. In October 2014, Louisiana's application for SARA membership was approved by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), effective December 1, 2014.

To date, the Board of Regents has approved applications for institutional participation in SARA from twenty-three institutions. In February 2018, Southern University A&M submitted an application for Regents' consideration. Regents' staff have reviewed and determined it meets all requirements for initial membership in SARA.

Senior staff recommends that the Planning, Research & Performance Committee approve the Application for Institutional Participation in SARA for Southern University A&M, and authorize staff to submit the approved application to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.

## **Agenda Item IV.A.2.**

### **Executive Summary**

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a national initiative which seeks to establish comparable national standards for the interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. SARA makes it easier for students to take online courses offered by institutions based in another state by reducing the cost and administrative burden on institutions seeking authorization in various states. SARA is a voluntary agreement among regional compacts (SREB, NEBHE, MHEC, and WICHE) and member states. Each member state approves their in-state institutions on an annual basis for SARA participation. Once approved, SARA member institutions may offer distance education programs in other SARA member states without additional authorization.

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To date, the Board of Regents has approved applications for institutional participation in SARA from twenty-three institutions. In November 2017, Southwest submitted an application for Regents' consideration. In order for LA institutions to participate in SARA, the LA Board of Regents must verify that institutions have sufficient financial health to support distance education programs. To verify this, BoR staff typically refers to a list of financial responsibility composite scores published by the U.S. Department of Education. However, that list does not include information for an institution, like Southwest University, that does not participate in Title IV programs. In those situations, the institution must calculate its financial stability score (based on a template published by the federal govt.) and submit the score along with the SARA application. As part of the application assessment process, the Regents' finance staff reviews and verifies the calculation. Regents' staff have reviewed and determined Southwest University meets all requirements for initial membership in SARA.

Senior staff recommends that the Planning, Research & Performance Committee approve the Application for Institutional Participation in SARA for Southwest University, and authorize staff to submit the approved application to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.