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**AGENDA**  
**STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, March 21, 2018 • 10:00 a.m.**

**Claiborne Building**  
**Louisiana Purchase Room**  
**1201 North Third Street, First Floor**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - A. Publication of Final Rule – Add Korean as a Foreign Language equivalent
  - B. Approval of Exceptions
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment

Committee Members: T. Jay Seale III, Chair, Jacqueline Wyatt, Vice Chair, Claudia Adley, Marty Chabert, Thomas Henning, Richard Lipsey, Charles McDonald, Wilbert Pryor and Collis Temple III.

**Consent Agenda**  
**Agenda Item III.A.**

Authorize publication of final rule to amend Section 703 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to add Korean as an equivalent to foreign language in the TOPS Core Curriculum beginning with 2018 graduates.

**BACKGROUND:**

The TOPS statute authorizes the administering agency to “establish course equivalencies for any course included in the definition of core curriculum” provided that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has given prior approval. The statute also requires the administering agency to consult with and seek the written comments and recommendations of the Board of Regents on establishing a TOPS Core Curriculum course equivalency.

On August 16, 2017, BESE approved the addition of Korean as an equivalent to foreign language to meet graduation requirements, and staff recommended that it be added as an acceptable equivalent for TOPS purposes. The Board of Regents approved publication of the rule at its meeting of October 26, 2017, and the Notice of Intent was published in the Louisiana Register on January 20, 2018.

**Consent Agenda**  
**Agenda Item III.B.**

Requests for exception to the TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.

**BACKGROUND:**

Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules require TOPS recipients to continue to enroll in the fall and spring semesters of each academic year, to remain enrolled throughout the semester, and to earn the annual credit hours required by the end of the academic year. Section 2103.E authorizes the governing body to grant an exception to these requirements when the “student/recipient has exceptional circumstances that are beyond his immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution.”

Six requests for exception were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of March 1, 2018. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.