

Robert W. Levy
Chair

Marty J. Chabert
Vice Chair

Collis B. Temple III
Secretary

Joseph C. Rallo, Ph.D.
Senior Advisor



Claudia H. Adley
Blake R. David
Randy L. Ewing
Thomas G. Henning
Richard A. Lipsey
Edward D. Markle
Charles R. McDonald
Darren G. Mire
Sonia A. Pérez
Wilbert D. Pryor
T. Jay Seale III
Jacqueline V. Wyatt
Adarian D. Williams, Student

BOARD OF REGENTS
P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.la.gov

PLANNING, RESEARCH and PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 23, 2018 • 11:00 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. Initial License
 - a. United States University Inc.
 2. License Renewals
 - a. Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
 - b. Southwest University
 - c. Upper Iowa University
 - B. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Institutional Renewals
 1. Grambling State University
 2. Louisiana State University Eunice
 3. Louisiana State University Shreveport
 4. Loyola University
 5. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
 - C. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
 1. Initial Licenses
 - a. A Breath Away, LLC
 - b. Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy (Prairieville)
 - c. Integrated Education Solutions, LLC
 - d. Precision Weld Testing & Training, LLC
 2. Change of Ownership Application
 - a. McCann School of Business and Technology
 3. License Renewals
- IV. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
 - A. Initial License
 1. Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
- V. Other Business
 - A. Southern Regional Education Board
- VI. Adjournment

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

Agenda Item III.A.1.a.

United States University San Diego, California

BACKGROUND

United States University (USU) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private for-profit university owned by the Aspen Group, located in San Diego, California and is seeking its initial license in Louisiana. USU was founded in 1997 as InterAmerican College, a non-profit institution geared to help immigrants transfer degrees. The institution received its current name in 2010 to reflect its status as a university. USU is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

United States University proposes to make available to Louisiana residents online baccalaureate and masters programs in nursing and business, and an MA program in education. 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

USU employs 93 faculty in support of its proposed online programs available to Louisiana residents. Six are employed full-time and 65 are trained at the doctoral level. USU reported 58 Louisiana students enrolled in bachelor's programs and 223 in master's programs in spring 2018.

FACILITIES

Since USU operates its program online with administrative and academic support in San Diego, 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 accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for United States University, located in San Diego, California.

Agenda Item III.A.2.a.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Daytona Beach, Florida

BACKGROUND

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Embry Riddle) first registered with the Board of Regents in 1987. The institution is headquartered in Daytona Beach, Florida and provides educational programs at the associate, bachelors, and master's levels. The institution is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (CoC/SACS).

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Embry-Riddle employs 79 faculty to support its operations at Barksdale AFB and Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in New Orleans (NASJRB), ten on a full-time basis. Twenty-seven of the faculty are trained at the doctoral level while the other forty-one hold master's degrees, all from institutions with recognized accreditation. The institution reports an enrollment of 216 students. Of these students, 16 are enrolled at the specialist/professional level, 44 are enrolled at the masters level, 147 at the bachelors level, nine at the associate level and two at the certificate level.

FACILITIES

Embry-Riddle currently utilizes space at Barksdale AFB and NASJRB for administrative and instructional purposes. Embry-Riddle's computer multimedia and telecommunication facilities are made available to faculty and students for instructional and research purposes.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Embry-Riddle currently offers certificate, associate, bachelors and master's degrees primarily in aeronautical-related fields (professional aeronautics, aviation maintenance, technical management, aeronautical science and management, unmanned systems, systems management, engineering, etc.).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given its regional accreditation, the credentials of its faculty and the scope of its current operations at Barksdale AFB and the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in New Orleans, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve license renewal for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, located in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Agenda Item III.A.2.b.

Southwest University Kenner, Louisiana

BACKGROUND

Southwest University first registered with the Board of Regents in 1983. The institution is a privately-supported university headquartered in Kenner, Louisiana. Southwest was initially licensed by the Board of Regents in 2000 and is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Southwest University offers associate degrees in business, criminal justice and general studies; bachelor's degrees in business-related areas and criminal justice; master's degrees in criminal justice and business-related areas; and related certificate programs. Admission to the programs is selective and students receive instruction exclusively through distance learning.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

The institution reports one full-time and 25 part-time faculty for its offerings. Twenty one of the faculty hold the doctorate and five hold the masters degree. The institution reported an unduplicated headcount of 136 students in spring 2018.

FACILITIES

Southwest University leases approximately 5,000 square feet of space in an office building in Kenner. The space includes a reception area, business records office, five private offices, a conference room, a file and copy center, student service area, course resource area, a record storage room and a supply area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the admissions standards of the program, the limited number of academic programs, and the institution's DEAC accreditation, senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the application for license renewal for Southwest University, located in Kenner, Louisiana.

Agenda Item III.A.2.c.

Upper Iowa University Fayette, Iowa

BACKGROUND

Upper Iowa University (UIU) first registered with the Board of Regents in 1976. The institution is headquartered in Fayette, Iowa and provides educational programs at the certificate, associate and bachelor's levels. The institution is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and School (HLC).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

UIU currently offers thirteen bachelors degree programs in business and related programs, criminal justice, health and human services, psychology, social science, and public administration at Education Centers in Louisiana. The university also offers associate degrees and certificates in criminal justice, general business, psychology and liberal arts. In addition, UIU offers a variety of online programs at the certificate, associate, bachelors and masters levels in an online environment only.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

The university employs 66 faculty members for its Louisiana programs; all are employed on a part-time basis. Six faculty members hold doctoral degrees and 60 are trained at the masters/specialist level. Upper Iowa reports an enrollment of 447 students at Education Centers, 330 at the baccalaureate level, and the remaining 117 at the associate degree level. An additional 89 students are enrolled in online only programs.

FACILITIES

The institution utilizes facilities at the Learning Center for Rapides Parish, Baton Rouge, Ft. Polk, Jackson Barracks in New Orleans and DeRidder for administrative and instructional purposes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given its accreditation, the credentials of its faculty, and the scope of its current operations in Louisiana, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve Upper Iowa University's application for license renewal.

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, 25 Louisiana institutions have joined SARA.

Five institutions (Grambling State University, Louisiana State University Eunice, Louisiana State University Shreveport, Loyola University, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) 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 Grambling State University, Louisiana State University Eunice, Louisiana State University Shreveport, Loyola University, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and authorize staff to submit the approved applications to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.

Robert W. Levy
Chair

Marty J. Chabert
Vice Chair

Collis B. Temple III
Secretary

Joseph C. Rallo, Ph.D.
Senior Advisor



Claudia H. Adley
Blake R. David
Randy L. Ewing
Thomas G. Henning
Richard A. Lipsey
Edward D. Markle
Charles R. McDonald
Darren G. Mire
Sonia A. Pérez
Wilbert D. Pryor
T. Jay Seale III
Jacqueline V. Wyatt
Adarian D. Williams, Student

BOARD OF REGENTS
P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.la.gov

Agenda Item III.C.

Minutes Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission May 8, 2018

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 10:05 a.m., in Room 1-190 of the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge. Chair Jones called the meeting to order and the roll was called.

Commission Members Present

Sherrie Despino
James Dorris
Theresa Hay
Keith Jones, Chair
Mary Lou Potter

Staff Members Present

Nancy Beall
Chandra Cheatham
Kristi Kron
Carol Marabella
Larry Tremblay

Commission Members Absent

Melanie Amrhein
James Fontenot, Vice Chair
Raymond Lalonde

Guests Present

(See Appendix A.)

The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from its meeting of March 13, 2018.

On motion of Ms. Despino, seconded by Ms. Hay, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously adopted the minutes of the March 13, 2018 Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was four initial license applications, the first from Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy, LLC, for a proposed location in Prairieville, Louisiana, and represented by the school's Director of Relations, Ms. Patricia Hozis. Ms. Marabella reviewed the materials for the Commission noting that the school owner, Dr. Jarrad Bencaz, currently has nine proprietary schools licensed by the Board of Regents. This new institution, like its sister schools, would be offering one program of study, Dental Assisting, which is a ten-week, 80.0 clock hour program with classes held on Saturday. The application for Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy, LLC, had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the tuition cost, earning potential for dental assistants, current job placement rates, advertising and marketing strategies, the company's business concept, and the job duties of an Expanded Duty Dental Assistant,

On motion of Ms. Hay, seconded by Ms. Potter, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy, LLC, located in Prairieville, Louisiana.

The second initial license application considered by the Commission was from Integrated Education Solutions, LLC, located in Metairie, Louisiana, and represented by the school's owner,

Ms. Cassandra Toumba, RN. Ms. Kron reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that the institution would be offering one program of study, Certified Nursing Assistant, which is a three-week, 80.0 clock hour program (inclusive of both classroom and clinical experience). The program has received the required approval from the Department of Health, Health Standards Section. Integrated Education Solutions, LLC, had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the owner's background and reason for opening the school, a comparison of the proposed school's tuition cost to area competitors, and the potential for a CNA to advance educationally in the nursing profession,

On motion of Ms. Potter, seconded by Ms. Hay, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for Integrated Education Solutions, LLC, located in Metairie, Louisiana.

The third initial license application considered by the Commission was from A Breath Away, LLC, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and represented by the school's owner, Ms. Lindsai N. Harris. Ms. Marabella reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that the institution would be offering one program of study, Phlebotomy Technician, which is a 210.0 clock hour program (inclusive of both classroom and clinical experience) with an anticipated completion time of eight weeks. A Breath Away, LLC, had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the required certification of phlebotomy technicians, the owner's background and reason for opening school, how the name of the school

was chosen, potential job placement rate and pay scale of phlebotomists, student/teacher ratio, marketing strategies, and requirements for enrollment into program,

On motion of Ms. Despino, seconded by Ms. Hay, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for A Breath Away, LLC, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The fourth and final initial license application considered by the Commission was from Precision Weld Testing & Training, LLC, located in Geismar, Louisiana, and represented by Mr. Barry Carpenter, Owner. Ms. Kron reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that this institution would be offering four programs of study--Shielded Metal Arc Welding (Beginning), Shielded Metal Arc Welding (Advanced), Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (Beginning), and Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (Advanced), all of which are a ten-week, 90.0 clock hour program. Precision Weld Testing & Training, LLC, had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the current industry demand for welders, potential salary for welders, the school's policy relative to non-completers, enrollment criteria, and equipment requirements for employment,

On motion of Ms. Potter, seconded by Ms. Hay, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for Precision Weld Testing & Training, LLC, located in Geismar, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission involved a change or ownership license application from McCann School of Business and Technology, located in Monroe, Louisiana, and represented by the institution's Campus Director, Ms. Kelli C. Harvey. Ms.

Marabella reminded the Commission that the Proprietary Schools Law requires that a change of ownership be treated no differently than an initial license application. The change of ownership at McCann School of Business and Technology has been seamless for the students in that the curricula and instructors remain the same.

The school is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges. Current program offerings are AOS Degree in Business Administration--Hybrid (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); AOS Degree in Business Administration--Distance Education (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); AOS Degree in Criminal Justice--Hybrid (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); AOS Degree in Criminal Justice--Distance Education (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); AOS Degree in IT Support Specialist--Hybrid (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); AOS Degree in IT Support Specialist--Distance Education (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); AOS Degree in Medical Assisting--Hybrid (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); Medical Billing and Coding--Hybrid (72.0 quarter credit hours/18.0 months); Medical Billing and Coding--Distance Education (72.0 quarter credit hours/18.0 months); AOS Degree in Paralegal--Hybrid (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); AOS Degree in Paralegal--Distance Education (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months); and AOS Degree in Surgical Technology--Flex (96.0 quarter credit hours/21.0 months). McCann School of Business and Technology had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for a change of ownership license.

Following further discussion regarding the current enrollment at the institution, the seamless transition for students and faculty resulting from the school's change of ownership,

marketing strategies for the various programs, plans for future growth, reason for change of ownership, availability of financial assistance to students, and the various program-delivery methods,

On motion of Ms. Hay, seconded by Ms. Potter, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve the change of ownership license application for McCann School of Business and Technology, located in Monroe, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was operating license renewals. Ms. Marabella informed the Commission members that there were twenty-seven (27) 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 Ms. Despino, 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).

Academy of Acadiana, Inc. (03/22/06)
Aesthetic Laser Institute, LLC (03/23/16)
At-Home Professions (04/22/99)
Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy (03/26/14)
Blue Cliff College--Houma (03/24/05)
Blue Cliff College--Metairie (03/23/00)
Blue Cliff College--Metairie, Satellite Campus (03/23/11)
Coastal College--Lafayette (04/23/98)
Coastal College--Monroe (03/28/96)
Delta College of Arts & Technology--Lafayette Branch (03/24/05)
Delta School of Business and Technology (05/06/80)
Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, Inc. (03/25/15)
Healthcare & More of NELA, LLC (formerly Healthcare & More) (03/21/12)
Lenora School of Phlebotomy (04/28/94)
Louisiana Culinary Institute (03/27/03)

Louisiana Medical Certifications, LLC (03/23/16)
Mid City College (03/25/15)
Pet Grooming Academy of Louisiana (03/21/12)
Raymond Career College (03/26/14)
Saint Christopher College (03/20/17)
Southeast Academy of Dental Assisting (03/20/17)
Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center (03/25/15)
Unitech Training Academy (04/24/97)
Unitech Training Academy--Houma (03/22/06)
Universal Technical Institute--Florida Branch (04/23/98)
Universal Technical Institute of Texas, Inc. (04/03/85)
Workforce Career & Technical College (03/23/16)

Ms. Marabella informed the Commission that there were six institutions that chose not to renew their licenses this renewal cycle: Andrea's Career Institute, LLC (03/26/14); Blue Cliff College--Shreveport (03/23/00); iteachLouisiana (03/20/17); Louisiana Resource Center for Educators (LRCE) (03/20/17); New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Shreveport (03/23/16); and The New Teacher Project (TNTP) (03/20/17). 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 an update on the digitalization project for the student records from closed proprietary schools.

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

APPENDIX A
GUESTS

Barry Carpenter	Precision Weld Testing & Training, LLC
Carroll Carpenter	Precision Weld Testing & Training, LLC
Lindsai Harris	A Breath Away, LLC
Kelli Harvey	McCann School of Business & Technology
Patricia Hozis	Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy (Prairieville)
Cassandra Toumba	Integrated Education Solutions, LLC

Agenda Item IV.A.

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Blacksburg, Virginia

BACKGROUND

Northeast Louisiana is located in one of the poorest sections of America. The Delta region is home to high unemployment, poor health by any measure, and inadequate access to quality health care. Approximately one-third of the primary care physicians in Northeast Louisiana are in excess of sixty years of age and will be retiring in the near future, exacerbating the current shortage.

As early as 2014, health providers in Northeast Louisiana approached the University of Louisiana – Monroe (ULM) to investigate locating a medical school in the area. Financial support was provided through the ULM Foundation to examine such feasibility. The firm of Tripp Umbach, a research organization which has conducted medical school feasibility studies in over 30 markets, was charged with recommending the best approach for developing a four-year medical education program in Monroe.

Understanding that the State of Louisiana was struggling to provide the funds necessary to support its existing public medical schools, and considering the time and resources necessary to establish an additional location of a public medical school, Tripp Umbach concluded that the next best solution was to recruit an established osteopathic medical school to partner with ULM. Osteopathic medicine was chosen since the majority of graduates from osteopathic medical schools pursue residencies and eventually practice in primary/family medicine, the areas of greatest need in the Delta region.

Tripp Umbach identified New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) as a good fit to meet the needs of the Delta region. In June, 2017, the Board of Regents approved an initial operating license for NYITCOM with stipulations. However, based on a request and the recommendation of the incoming President of NYIT, the Board of Trustees of NYIT voted to discontinue plans to locate a branch of its COM in Louisiana and to concentrate in the short term on strengthening existing campuses. Following the decision of NYIT, ULM set out to identify another osteopathic medicine school to locate in Monroe. After months of work, conversations and site visits, ULM identified Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine as its preferred partner.

EDWARD VIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The private non-profit university is located in Blacksburg, Virginia on the site of the Corporate Research Center of Virginia Tech University. The VCOM campus was established in

2001 to produce primary care physicians to serve the rural and medically underserved areas of Virginia, North Carolina, and the surrounding Appalachian Region and to promote collaborative biomedical research with Virginia Tech University. VCOM is accredited by American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

In 2010, VCOM established a branch in Spartanburg, South Carolina, building a 70,000 square foot academic building on 19 acres. Today VCOM in Spartanburg has more graduates in South Carolina's family medicine residencies than all of South Carolina's medical schools.

In 2015, VCOM matriculated its first entering class at its newest branch on the campus of Auburn University in Alabama. VCOM's 16 acre campus at Auburn is located on the university's Research and Technology Foundation's Research Park. (VCOM was included in the initial list of osteopathic medical schools identified by Tripp Umbach in 2015. However, VCOM was not in a position to assist ULM due to its opening of the branch at Auburn in 2015.)

VCOM leadership visited the campus of ULM and ULM campus leadership conducted site visits at the three campuses of VCOM. VCOM also visited rural hospitals in the region, community leaders, state officials and the Louisiana State Rural Hospital Association to validate the need and to gain support for the ULM joint initiative. As a result, VCOM determined that it was beneficial to the region to open a branch campus in cooperation with ULM. The institutions have entered into a preliminary collaborative agreement pending approvals by the Board of Regents and its accreditor to establish a branch campus and offer the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) in Monroe. If approved by the Board of Regents, VCOM plans to admit its first class of DO students in fall 2021.

CURRICULUM AND COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The DO curriculum is similar to the traditional MD program in that students enroll in classroom work in the sciences and related topics during the first two years followed by two years of clinical work in various medical disciplines. Following graduation from medical school, students enter graduate medical education (residencies) that last between three and seven years depending on the specialty.

Clinical affiliations and residency slots have been established much in advance of the entering class in 2021. The local community alone is prepared to provide the clinical experiences for up to 100 third-year students annually. Additionally, VCOM has met with McNeese officials who have requested that VCOM utilize the hospitals in the Lake Charles area for clinical rotations.

Under a collaborative agreement with ULM scheduled to be finalized upon approval of an operating license by the Board of Regents, VCOM students will have access to the ULM campus, including the library, student union and access to athletics and recreational facilities. Additionally, VCOM will purchase various services from ULM, including internet and campus safety and security. The VCOM campus will be located on ULM property under a lease

agreement. As planned, VCOM will build a 100,000 square foot facility, including classrooms, labs, offices, a simulation center, and research space.

FACULTY

VCOM anticipates employing the chairs of the Departments of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Physiology, Microbiology and Immunology, Pathology, and Pharmacology in 2020. Faculty to serve those departments will be employed in 2020/2021 in advance of enrolling the first entering class of 150-162 students in fall 2021.

STAFF OBSERVATIONS

There is a serious shortage of healthcare professionals in the Mississippi Delta region of the United States. The area ranks last in numerous measures of health. Compounding the health care issues is the aging of the current physician population. A majority of the graduates from Louisiana's medical schools choose to specialize and/or practice in population centers, having limited impact on addressing the need for primary/family medicine physicians in Northeast Louisiana.

Louisiana's recent and current budget situation makes the addition of a public medical school in Northeast Louisiana impractical, further straining the inadequate budgets of the State's current medical schools. National consultants contracted by the ULM Foundation concluded that the most appropriate solution to the healthcare shortages in the Delta region was for ULM to collaborate with an existing medical school to train the healthcare workforce needed in the region. Due to its basic commitment to primary care, especially for underserved populations, an osteopathic medical school was most desirable.

The Delta is America's poorest region. The addition of a medical school in Northeast Louisiana will bring not only better healthcare outcomes for its population, but significant economic impact to the region. Since VCOM is a private non-profit institution, the improved healthcare and economic impacts to the region will come at no costs to the State of Louisiana or its citizens. Additionally, it will generate a significant economic impact to the region, support hundreds of new jobs, and generate millions in state and local tax revenue. The impact will increase further once graduates complete their residencies and begin practice.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of the college's faculty, its campus and program accreditation, the limited scope of proposed offerings, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial three-year operating license for a branch campus of Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) in Monroe, Louisiana, with the following stipulations:

1. By July 2018, VCOM will submit a Substantive Change Request for the Monroe branch

campus of VCOM to Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

2. By September 2018, VCOM will begin construction of its campus.
3. By November 2019, COCA will conduct pre-operations site visit to VCOM in Monroe.
4. By January 2020, VCOM will present accreditation application to COCA.
5. By June 2020, VCOM will begin recruitment of incoming class
6. By July 2021, VCOM will begin classes

If VCOM fails to meet any of the prescribed deadlines, the Board of Regents may revoke its operating license.