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AGENDA
STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 22, 2018 • 10:45 a.m.
Claiborne Building
Thomas Jefferson Room
1201 North Third Street, First Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of TOPS Exceptions
 - B. Approval of TOPS Exception to Deadline for Receipt of Returning From Out of State College Application
- IV. Uniform Hazing Policy
- V. Free Speech Policy
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

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

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

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."

Nine requests for exception were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meetings of July 12, 2018 and August 9, 2018. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

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

Request for exception to the TOPS regulatory provision that requires a student to file the Application to Return from an Out of State College no later than 120 days after the July 1 following the student's return to an eligible Louisiana college or university

BACKGROUND:

The TOPS statute requires that a student apply to return to an eligible Louisiana college or university to receive their TOPS award and that the Board provide a deadline for filing the application. The Board's rules require a student to file the Application to Return from an Out of State College or University (ROOS application) no later than the July 1 following the academic year during which the student returns to an eligible Louisiana college or university. The student can file up to 120 days following this deadline, but the student's award will be reduced by one or two semesters, depending on how late the application is received.

The Board's rules do not provide for an exception to the ROOS application deadline, but the Board has allowed a student to file the initial application for a TOPS award late under limited circumstances when the student was able to demonstrate that it was not possible to file timely due to circumstances outside the student's control. Both the ROOS application deadline and the TOPS application deadline are July 1, and both have a 120 day penalty period during which the student can file after the deadline, but the award will be reduced by one or two semesters, depending on whether the application is received less or more than 60 days late.

One request for exception was reviewed by LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of July 12, 2018, and after discussion, the LOSFA Advisory Board determined that the student had presented facts and documentation that justify the granting of an exception, and it approved the student's request.