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***Postsecondary Education Agriculture Technology Study Commission Agenda***

October 28, 2019

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Iowa Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Claiborne Building

1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Agenda Items:**

1. 9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.: **Call to Order, Roll Call & Approval of July 22, 2019 Minutes**
2. 9:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.: **Higher Education Inventory**
  - Dr. René Cintrón, *Chief Academic Affairs Officer, LCTCS*
3. 9:30 a.m.- 9:40 a.m.: **Components of Commission Report**
  - Mellynn Baker, *Institutional Research Associate, Louisiana Board of Regents*
4. 9:40 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.: **Agricultural Producer & Equipment Dealer Survey Update**
  - Chancellor Dennis Epps, *Louisiana Delta Community College & Commission Chair*
5. **Updates:**
  - 10:05 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.: **USDA Grants**
    - Elizabeth Doster, *Rural Development United States Department of Agriculture*
  - 10:30 a.m.- 10:55 a.m.: **Manufacturer Training**
    - Shane Soileau, *Progressive Tractor & Implement Co.*
6. 10:55 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.: **Next Steps & Adjournment**

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY STUDY  
COMMISSION  
Minutes**

Monday, October 28, 2019

Iowa Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Claiborne Building  
1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Dennis Epps called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m., Monday, October 28, 2019, in the Iowa Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Dr. Jim Henderson	University of Louisiana System
Dr. Bill Richardson	Louisiana State University AgCenter
Dr. C. Reuben Walker	Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Mr. W. Dennis Epps	Louisiana Delta Community College
Dr. Lori Richard	Nicholls State University
Ms. Regina Verdin (designee)	Fletcher Technical Community College
Mr. Richard Fontenot	Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Mr. Philip Richard	Southern Equipment Dealers
Mr. George LaCour	Louisiana Cotton & Grain Association
Mr. Mark Frey	Louisiana Rice Growers Association
Mr. Shane Soileau	Southern Equipment Dealers
Dr. Carrie Castille	Rural Development United States Department of Agriculture
Elizabeth Doster	Rural Development United States Department of Agriculture
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents

<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Mr. Jim Simon	American Sugarcane League
Mr. Buck Vandersteen	Louisiana Forestry Association

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APPROVAL OF JULY 22, 2019 MINUTES

**Chancellor Epps called for a motion for the approval of the July 22, 2019 minutes. On the motion of Mr. Shane Soileau, seconded by Dr. Carrie Castille, the Commission approved the motion.**

HIGHER EDUCATION INVENTORY

Chancellor Epps invited Dr. Rene Cintron, Chief Academic Affairs Officer, LCTCS, to share information concerning the current agricultural technology programs offered by the LCTCS system.

Chancellor Epps noted that Louisiana Delta Community College is looking to expand its Diesel Equipment Program. Dr. Reed asked Dr. Cintron if these programs are in high demand and have high/steady enrollment. Dr. Cintron stated that he would refer the enrollment as being moderate to steady. Dr. Reed requested more information regarding data on the drone programs offered at Nunez and Fletcher Community College as it relates to agriculture. Chancellor Epps expanded on the discussion saying that demand in northeast Louisiana is high and there is a reported need for skilled technicians. Senator Allain asked if there are any programs being offered at the college and Universities pertaining to GPS studies. Through discussion, it was asked that the systems provide additional curriculum information along with enrollment data regarding Agriculture Technology related programs. In addition, it was noted to acknowledge high school IBC courses when developing future agriculture technology training programs. Discussion continued regarding the Commission topics such as precision agriculture as well as the need for data management and training related to both.

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COMPONENTS OF COMMISSION REPORT

Chancellor Epps introduced Mrs. Mellynn Baker, BoR, to provide an overview Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 81. The presentation noted the Commission is legislatively charged to address several items which may include: any needed curriculum changes, program budgetary meetings, the creation of an implementation timeline, incorporation of any needed cross-system collaboration and any additional items deemed necessary per the Commission. Mrs. Baker suggested that the Commission set the goal to draft a report by February in order to submit the final report by the legislative due date of March 1, 2020. Dr. Reed asked Senator Allain on the expectations of the Commission particularly concerning what success would look like for this Commission. Senator Allain answered that he would like to see the Commission create a roadmap of training availability. He also encouraged building stronger partnerships between the equipment manufacturers, producers, and higher education. Senator Allain stated he would rather see a quality product than the Commission adhere to the legislative timeline.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER & EQUIPMENT DEALER SURVEY UPDATE

Chancellor Epps updated the Commission on the status of the survey that will be distributed to equipment dealers and agriculture producers throughout the state. This survey is to collect data on the training needs and to inform the Commission on how to best approach the development of a technologically skilled workforce as related to agriculture. Chancellor Epps mentioned there is a need for additional items to be added to the drafted survey. He stated there is a need for all equipment manufacturers to be identified in the survey as well as a timeline of survey distribution. Dr. Castille asked if there will an option for an online training component included

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in the survey. The conversation continued concerning the additional edits to the survey as well as the distribution of the survey to organizations such as the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation.

COMMISSION UPDATES

Ms. Elizabeth Doster, Rural Development United States Department of Agriculture, provided information concerning upcoming USDA grant applications. Ms. Doster provided an overview of the Rural Business Development Grant as well as the Technical Assistance Training Grant.

Mr. Shane Soileau, Progressive Tractor & Implement Co., detailed the role of equipment dealers to the work of the Commission. He described trainings offered by equipment dealers as well as the discussion concerning training. Mr. Soileau noted the conversation is still in progress concerning training offered by manufacturers and the dialogue of training specifics is still underway. Discussion continued concerning the manufactures involved as well as details of such training, i.e. web-based training or in person.

Discussion of manufacturer training led to dialogue concerning apprenticeships and the work other states are doing connected to the efforts of this Commission.

Chancellor Epps noted the next steps of the Commission looking at the efforts of K-12 as well as completing an inventory of Higher Education.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

Chancellor Epps asked for a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Dr. Kim Hunter Reed. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.