

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

May 28, 2020

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 10:03 a.m., Thursday, May 28, 2020, via video conference. Chair Marty Chabert called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Board Secretary Christine Norton called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

Marty Chabert, Chair
Collis Temple III, Vice Chair
Blake David, Secretary
Claudia Adley
Randy Ewing
William Jewell, Student
Robert Levy
Phillip May, Jr.
Charles McDonald
Darren Mire
Sonia Pérez
Wilbert Pryor
T. Jay Seale III
Gary Solomon, Jr.
Gerald Theunissen
Felix Weill

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Paul Price, LCTCS System
Mary Werner, LSU System
Lola Dunahoe, UL System

CERTIFICATION FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Chair Chabert referenced the Board of Regents' certification of inability to operate due to the lack of an in-person quorum. The certification is available on the Board of Regents website and was included with the meeting materials. He indicated that all votes during the meeting would be done by roll call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Chabert asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2020

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent David, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of April 22, 2020.

COVID-19 OVERVIEW

Dr. Alex Billioux, Assistant Secretary of Health for the Louisiana Office of Public Health, shared prevention and mitigation strategies for safely reopening college campuses, outlining what the future of higher education may look like in the age of COVID-19. Regent McDonald asked if there were any ways for campuses to offset the cost of COVID-19 testing. Dr. Billioux responded that the state has received federal funding through the CARES Act to support testing. Regent Seale asked two questions: 1) Will the state use technology for tracing as offered by companies such as Apple and Google; and 2) Will large gatherings of people who are not “high risk” change the trajectory of the declining numbers of COVID-19-positive patients in the state? Dr. Billioux responded: 1) While intending to maintain transparency and privacy, the state is hoping to use those applications to supplement the tracing methods already in place; and 2) The messages regarding “high risk” populations may actually be affecting “low risk” populations by making them feel that they do not need to follow social distancing guidelines. It is hard to predict the effect these behaviors will have on the state. Hopefully, COVID-19 is seasonal and the heat and humidity will reduce the spread. Regent Pryor stated that the economy cannot withstand another shutdown and asked what steps would be taken to prevent this for the future. He also asked for Dr. Billioux’s view on wearing masks in public and in classrooms. Dr. Billioux replied that the state must move from phase to phase at a slow and steady rate, participate in contact tracing, and encourage everyone to wear a mask in public in order to reduce the likelihood of further spreading. Dr. Reed thanked Dr. Billioux for his time and leadership. Dr. Reed stated that education, training and public safety were top priorities.

Dr. Reed then invited the System Presidents to speak. Those present included: Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System; Mr. Thomas Galligan, Louisiana State University and A&M College System; and Dr. Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

President Sullivan shared that his campuses will be seeking a \$40M investment to focus on rapid workforce development efforts designed to credential as many as 20,000 individuals over the short term. The Reboot Louisiana Program links the state's community and technical colleges to high-demand regional economic development needs to support a post-COVID-19 workforce. President Galligan and President Henderson shared the options being considered in their phased return-to-campus plans, which will be finalized in the coming weeks. Each stressed that flexible in-person, hybrid and remote learning opportunities will play a big role in keeping campuses healthy and students on track throughout the semester. Regent Weill stated that orientation and training will be paramount when students return to campus and asked what measures would be taken to alert students. President Galligan stated that LSU's websites include FAQs and the campuses reach out to students via email and social media. Dr. Reed stated that the Board of Regents is working on online education and training to keep the higher education community safe. Regent Pryor asked how many confirmed COVID-19 cases there were among LSU students on campus. President Galligan responded that he will send the exact number to Regent Pryor but noted that the cases were low (with the exception of the Health Sciences Centers, where COVID-19 patients are treated). There were two faculty members from LCTCS who passed away as a result of COVID-19. Chair Chabert commended the system heads for their ability to accomplish so much in such a short period of time in order to continue education in a safe manner.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINANCE

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 UPDATE

Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, gave an update of the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget for informational purposes. Dr. Reed expressed appreciation for the support of higher education and the efforts to minimize our cuts. She also noted given the uncertainty with the economy we must be prepared in the event we face future reductions and declines in enrollment.

CARES ACT SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND FEDERAL UPDATES

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Administration, gave an update on the federal funding allocated to students and institutions as a result of the CARES Act Support for Higher Education for informational purposes.

LEGISLATIVE

Ms. Erin Cowser, Assistant Commissioner for Legislative and External Affairs, gave updates on the current legislative items affecting higher education for informational purposes. She highlighted both our legislative agenda as well as the study resolutions impacting higher education.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Susannah Craig, Senior Associate Commissioner of Academic Affairs, Innovation, & Student Success presented the items for Academic and Student Affairs.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Academic Unit Reconfiguration – LSU Alexandria
- b. Routine Staff Reports
- c. Progress Reports

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSAL

BS Cloud Computing – Grambling State University

On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to conditionally approve the proposed Bachelor of Science in Cloud Computing (CIP 14.0701) at Grambling State University, with a progress report due July 1, 2022.

Grambling State University President Rick Gallot thanked the Board of Regents staff for their hard work. He said he was excited to move forward with the Cloud Computing program as an expansion of Grambling's Cybersecurity program.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives, presented the items for Research and Sponsored Initiatives.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Transfer of BoRSF Match and Associated Earnings to Unmatched Professorships: Tulane University
- b. Appointment of Endowed Chairholders without National Search: LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans

On motion of Regent McDonald, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

BLANKET EXCEPTION: ENDOWED CHAIRS/ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS CAP ON RETENTION OF EXPENDABLE FUNDS, FY 2019-20

On motion of Regent Ewing, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve a waiver for all endowments currently matched through the BoRSF Endowed Professorships and Endowed Chairs programs to allow campuses to carry over expendable dollars in excess of the 25% cap established in policy from FY 2019-20 to FY 2020-21.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Robison informed the Board of the NSF Funding for Louisiana Materials Design Alliance (LAMDA) Award in the amount of \$20 million for 5 years, to be matched with \$4 million from the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF). This award comes after more than 30 years of unbroken funding from NSF. This is a big accomplishment for Louisiana EPSCoR and participating campuses throughout the state. Ms. Robison then updated the Board on the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Post-COVID Research activities. Three studies will focus on equity and student employment, affordability and managing layoffs and furloughs. Ms. Robison will keep the Board updated on the results of the studies.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner for Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs, Innovation, & Student Success, presented the Planning, Research and Performance items.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
 - i. Initial License
 - (a) Oxford Teachers Academy
 - (b) Rasmussen College
 - ii. License Renewals
 - (a) National University
 - (b) Relay Graduate School of Education
 - (c) Nova Southeastern University
 - (d) Central Texas College
 - (e) San Joaquin Valley College
- b. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
 - i. Initial License
 - (a) CDL Mentors of Baton Rouge Truck Driving School (Baton Rouge)
 - (b) MedCerts, LLC (Livonia, MI)
 - ii. Renewal Applications
 - (a) Academy of Acadiana, Inc. (03/22/06)
 - (b) At-Home Professions (04/22/99)
 - (c) Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy (03/26/14)
 - (d) Blue Cliff College--Houma (03/24/05)
 - (e) Blue Cliff College--Metairie (03/23/00)
 - (f) Blue Cliff College--Metairie, Satellite Campus (03/23/11)
 - (g) CDL Mentors, LLC (03/27/19)
 - (h) Coastal College--Lafayette (04/23/98)
 - (i) Coastal College--Monroe (03/28/96)
 - (j) Delta College of Arts & Technology--Lafayette Branch (03/24/05)
 - (k) Goodwill Technical College (03/25/15)
 - (l) Lenora School of Phlebotomy (04/28/94)
 - (m) Louisiana Culinary Institute (03/27/03)
 - (n) Pilut Healthcare Training Institute (03/21/18)
 - (o) Saint Christopher College (03/20/17)
 - (p) Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center (03/25/15)
 - (q) Unitech Training Academy (04/24/97)
 - (r) Unitech Training Academy--Houma (03/22/06)
 - (s) Universal Technical Institute--Florida Branch (04/23/98)
 - (t) Universal Technical Institute of Texas, Inc. (06/28/84)

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

PERSONNEL

APPROVAL OF DIVISION OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER POSITION AND APPOINTMENT

Dr. Reed recommended that the position of Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs, Innovation, & Student Success be divided into two Deputy Commissioner positions, with Dr. Randall Brumfield serving as Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Student Success and Dr. Susannah Craig serving as Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation. This organizational change would be effective immediately with staff reporting structures to be aligned based on this Board action. The Board of Regents policy requires Board approval of positions hired at the level of Deputy Commissioner.

On motion of Regent Ewing, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the division of Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs, Innovation, & Student Success into two Deputy Commissioner positions, with Dr. Randall Brumfield serving as Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Student Success and Dr. Susannah Craig serving as Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Vice Chair Temple thanked Chair Chabert and Commissioner Reed for the amazing job that they have done during the COVID-19 crisis.

Chair Chabert noted the following:

- Chair Chabert congratulated Regent Jewell on his graduation from LSU.
- Regent Jewell thanked the Board of Regents for the experience. He is excited to be moving to Nashville to join the Master's Program at Vanderbilt University.
- Chair Chabert thanked the system representatives for their participation in the meeting and commended the cooperation and communication between the system heads.
- Chair Chabert thanked the BoR staff for their continued hard work during the COVID-19 crisis.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Mary Werner expressed her appreciation to the Board of Regents on behalf of the LSU System. Ms. Werner thanked Dr. Reed for her continued accessibility and support to the systems.

Chair Chabert brought to the Board's attention the possibility of adding HBCU to list of classifications in the master plan. He asked staff to bring information forward next month on a potential HBCU designation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.