

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

June 17, 2020

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 9:01 a.m., Wednesday, June 17, 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
Robert Dampf, LSU System
Leon Tarver, SU 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 was one public comment from Camille Conaway of LABI. She stated that, with regard to the legislative update, the Governor has signed HB 826 by Representative Pressly from the regular session. This bill provides limited liability for COVID-19 spread to all public and private entities in the state, including educational institutions. Entities will not

be liable for spread of the virus provided they are following relevant official guidance and guidelines. Only in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct will an entity be liable. Chair Chabert thanked Ms. Conaway for that information.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2020

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 28, 2020.

COVID-19 OVERVIEW

Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed gave an overview relative to the continuing and new challenges faced by higher education over the last 30 days, including the ongoing pandemic, racial unrest, a tropical storm, and the ongoing special session. Dr. Reed stated that the focus must remain on listening to the students while educating, advancing policy, and providing a space for all to be heard. The students are eager to return to in-person classes and the higher education community must ensure that students can persist safely.

Dr. Reed stated that collaborations between the Board of Regents, Louisiana Department of Health and public and private institutions has led to shared guidance for a phased approach to safe reopening of campuses in the fall. The Board of Regents hosted a webinar with Dr. Alexander Billioux so campus leaders could walk through the guidance with state health experts and ask questions to gain clarity. In addition, Dr. Welch and Dr. Craig hosted a webinar for proprietary school partners. This fall, campus leaders will focus on educating while social distancing, following the latest health care guidance to keep communities safe.

Dr. Reed stated that one of the state's greatest challenges is to get people back to work. She said that now is the time to double down on the Master Plan goal of talent development and elimination of persistent and damaging equity gaps. On Friday, June 19, 2020, in partnership with the Workforce Commission, Dr. Reed will present the Education and Workforce Development Taskforce recommendations to the Resilient Louisiana Commission, of which Regent Pérez is a member.

Regent Ewing requested preliminary numbers on students returning to classes, asked if students could participate in online and in-person classes, and requested the difference for institutions between online and in-person attendance. This information will be provided by staff.

Dr. Reed stated that institutions must focus on being inclusive, diverse and engaged campus communities that provide a rich and effective learning environment for all students. Dr. Reed noted that she participated with her daughter in a peaceful protest organized by Regent Temple's sister. She stated that the number one goal is listening to and supporting our students. Chair Chabert stated that he is proud of the students as well.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINANCE

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 UPDATE

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Administration, gave an update for informational purposes of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget.

CARES ACT SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND FEDERAL UPDATES

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

Regent Weill asked about the distribution of funds for the students. Mr. LaBruyere stated that all funds were distributed last month and some institutions maintained a reserve for the summer and fall semesters. Dr. Reed stated that she was grateful for the CARES Act Support and thanked Mr. LaBruyere and Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, for their work on the budget.

LEGISLATIVE

Ms. Erin Cowser, Assistant Commissioner for Legislative and External Affairs, gave updates for informational purposes on the current legislative items affecting higher education. She highlighted items from both the special session and the regular session.

Regent Ewing asked if any of the three bills regarding gun control would allow people to carry guns on college campuses. Ms. Cowser noted that, per her understanding, they would not. Chair Chabert thanked Dr. Reed, Ms. Cowser, Mr. Ginn, and Mr. LaBruyere for their work during the sessions.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation, presented the Academic Programs agenda items for Academic and Student Affairs, giving brief explanations of each program proposal. Regent Ewing asked if after completing the AS Teaching, Grades 1-5 (LDCC) a student would be certified to teach. Dr. Craig stated that students would not; a bachelor's degree would still be required. Regent Solomon asked if there was a difference between the two AAS Practical Nursing (CLTCC and SOWELA) programs. Dr. Craig stated that the programs were essentially the same, but would serve different regions of the state. Regent May asked if Undergraduate Certificates were used in other states. Dr. Craig said that the program was developed by the State of Louisiana based on industry requests. Dr. Reed stated that the programs are being offered in other states and are seen as a way to align to workforce needs. Regent Ewing asked if it was normal procedure for doctoral degree programs to include teaching by graduate assistants. Dr. Craig stated that this is common practice and the graduate assistants work in conjunction with a Ph.D. professor. Regent Solomon asked if the MS Industrial Chemistry (ULL) program was marketed with a focus on chemical manufacturing. Dr. Craig stated that this focus was strengthened due to geographical needs and was developed with industry support. Dr. Reed stated that since the industries support the students with work-based opportunities, such as internships, and provide adjunct professors, this increases student awareness of the employment opportunities. Dr. Reed thanked Dr. Craig and the Academic and Student Affairs staff for their hard work in clearing a significant number of pending program proposals.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- a. Program Proposals
 - i. Associate's
 - (a) AAS Practical Nursing – CLTCC
 - (b) AAS Practical Nursing – SOWELA

- (c) AAS Surgical Technology – BPCC
 - (d) AS Teaching, Grades 1-5 – LDCC
- ii. Undergraduate Certificates
 - (a) UC Audiology – LA Tech
 - (b) UC Criminal Psychology – LA Tech
 - (c) UC Geographic Information Science – LA Tech
 - (d) UC Information Assurance and Cybersecurity – LA Tech
 - (e) UC Lean Six Sigma – LA Tech
 - (f) UC Business Fundamentals – LSU-S
 - (g) UC Business Law – LSU-S
 - (h) UC Small Business Management – LSU-S
 - (i) UC Digital Health Management – Southeastern
 - (j) UC Population Health Management – Southeastern
- iii. Graduate Certificates
 - (a) GC Industrial-Organizational Psychology – LA Tech
 - (b) GC Educational Technology Facilitator – Nicholls
 - (c) GC Educational Technology Leader – Nicholls
 - (d) GC Healthcare Advocacy – ULM
 - (e) GC Senior Healthcare Management – ULM
- iv. Bachelor of Science Mass Communication – LSU-S
- v. Master's
 - (a) MS Financial Economics – LSU A&M
 - (b) MS Industrial Chemistry – ULL
- vi. Ph.D. Statistics – LSU A&M

On motion of Regent Solomon, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the items as presented.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

Mr. Chris Herring, Assistant Commissioner for Facilities and Planning, presented the items for Facilities and Property.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Small Capital Projects
 - i. LSU A&M: Chemical Engineering Restroom Renovations
 - ii. LSU A&M: FETI New Building for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Compressor
 - iii. LSU A&M: Firing Range Facility
 - iv. LSU A&M: Food Science Building Tile Roof Repair
 - v. LSU A&M: Football Ops Building Video Tower
 - vi. LSU A&M: Jesse Coates Hall Biology Teaching Labs
 - vii. LSU A&M: Student Union Areas 2 and 3 Roof Replacement

- viii. LSU HSCNO: Dental School Orthodontics Conference Room & Office Renovation
- ix. LSU HSCNO: MEB 1st Floor Lobby Flooring Replacement
- x. LSU-S: Asphalt Parking Lot Repair and Overlay
- xi. LSU-S: Business Education Building – Business Intelligence Lab
- xii. LSU-S: Business Education Building Student Advising Center Suite & Boardroom Renovation
- xiii. LSU-S: Health & PE Building Locker Room Remodel
- xiv. LSU-S: Health & PE Building Racquet Ball Court Conversion
- xv. NSU: Turpin Stadium Elevator Upgrade
- xvi. UNO: Engineering Building Roof Replacement

3RD PARTY PROJECTS

- a. SLU Strawberry Stadium Turf Replacement

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda and 3rd Party Project items as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Herring provided an update for informational purposes on House Bill 2. Dr. Reed stated that the staff would ensure the Board receives a list of approved projects by campus and system.

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. Appointment of Endowed Chairholder without National Search: Pennington Biomedical Research Center

ENDOWMENT PROGRAM POLICY REVISIONS

- a. Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships: Eligibility of Disciplines and Match Rates
- b. All Programs: Retention of Assets and Annual Spending Allocations

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

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, LOSFA Executive Director, presented the Consent Agenda item.

- a. Approval of TOPS Exceptions

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

BOARD OF REGENTS (BOR) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION INSTITUTION OPIOID EDUCATION, TRAINING AND REPORTING POLICY

Dr. Allison Smith, Program Administrator for the Louisiana Center Addressing Substance Use in Collegiate Communities (LaCASU), presented the Opioid Education, Training and Reporting Policy. Regent Solomon asked if the policy had an amnesty provision included. Dr. Smith said that there are statewide laws, applicable to all campuses, which give immunity to first responders, good Samaritans, and those who take drugs and call for help. Dr. Smith further explained that the policy would provide online training for all campuses, to increase awareness for students.

On motion of Regent Solomon, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Board of Regents (BOR) Postsecondary Education Institution Opioid Education, Training and Reporting Policy as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Boutté provided LOSFA and TOPS updates.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Dr. Craig presented the Consent Agenda items for Planning, Research and Performance.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
 - i. Initial License
 - (a) Infinity College
 - ii. License Renewals
 - (a) United States University

- b. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
 - i. Renewal Applications
 - (a) New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
 - (b) Louisiana College
 - (c) Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University
- c. Update Academic Affairs Policy 2.22

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

LEGAL EDUCATION STUDY RESPONSE

Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Legal Education Study Response, which includes a three-phase plan to establish a branch campus of Southern University Law Center in Shreveport. He noted that the staff recommendation was to allow for the establishment of a semester in Shreveport pilot for near-completers, placing future graduates in the Shreveport community and allowing them to seek employment opportunities as well.

Chair Domoine Rutledge of the Southern University Board of Supervisors and Southern System President Ray Belton thanked the Board of Regents staff for their hard work on the development of the plan and said they look forward to the collaboration between Regents and Southern University, adding that there is a great deal of excitement and optimism regarding phase one of the plan and that favorable consideration from the Board of Regents would allow Southern to test the market. Chancellor John Pierre of the Southern University Law Center thanked the Board of Regents and staff for working with the Southern University System and Law Center. He acknowledged Senator Gregory Tarver and Representative Cedric Glover for their help in creating an opportunity to bring legal education to northwest Louisiana in a unique and transformative way by providing a new model for success. Regent McDonald stated that he was in support of the plan, but wanted to know its financial impact on other universities across the state. Dr. Reed explained that the success of this program rests on local financial support sustained over the long term, and this request would not be prioritized above support for basic undergraduate education. Dr. Reed further pointed out that review of this pilot plan would begin

one year from the start of the semester in Shreveport pilot, not one year from this meeting. Regent Pryor thanked President Belton, Chancellor Pierre, and the people of Shreveport for their shared enthusiasm in helping to create a legal education opportunity for the people of north Louisiana. Regents Weill and Ewing thanked President Belton and Chancellor Pierre for their hard work but questioned whether the time was right to approve or start new programs. President Belton assured them that this plan, which only approves phase one, allows time to assess the feasibility of and local financial support for the long-term program. He stated that if no revenue was generated from local support, the plan would not go forward. Chair Chabert stated that he was in support of the plan and thought it was worthy of approval. Dr. Reed also noted that multiple approvals will be required to proceed past phase one, including SACSCOC and the American Bar Association. Regent Seale said that the phased approach is worthy of support. Chancellor Pierre stated that the pilot does not require many additional resources because the funds are included in the Caddo Parish Commission's 2020-2021 budget.

Given the NCHEMS recommendation that Regents explore the range of alternatives to incentivize new graduates to locate in Shreveport, on motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to:

- (1) Encourage SULC to pursue the "Semester in Shreveport" pilot, affording students an opportunity to seek employment opportunities in the community while completing their legal education.**
- (2) Allow SULC a year to develop a business/financing plan for Regents consideration following review and consideration by its management board, thus, allowing the law school to assess the impact of the Shreveport pilot as well as community interest in long-term financial support especially given the potential impact of COVID on the economy.**
- (3) Attach system responses to the final report for transmittal to the Legislature for its consideration.**

NCHEMS RESPONSE TO CHANGES TO BE CONSIDERED IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 FOR LCTCS

Dr. Craig presented the NCHEMS response to changes to be considered in response to COVID-19 for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). President Monty Sullivan of LCTCS said that, as Louisiana shifts away from state-based funding to tuition-based funding, and with the loss of State General Fund money due to COVID-19, the state must

continue to support rural campuses and the two-year college mission. He further stated that general education courses generate more funds than technical courses, and the state must balance the delivery of both, especially in central and northwest Louisiana. Regent May stated that he appreciated President Sullivan's comments, and that, as president of Entergy, he understood that Louisiana's community and technical colleges play a great role in potential job creation, and that there could be the unintended consequence of losing these jobs if LCTCS reduced campus offerings. Regent Adley thanked President Sullivan for his commitment to provide education on the local level and to rural parishes. Regent Ewing encouraged the Board to get a better overview of the financing of higher education as a whole so that Louisiana does not price itself out of the reach of its students. Dr. Reed said that the staff would work on a post-COVID finance discussion for the September Board meeting.

On motion of Regent Adley, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to receive the LCTCS study report and request a 90-day report from Regents and LCTCS prioritizing the recommendations and including the following additional information: a general description of issues which have affected the enrollment and financial data, including but not limited to, the reorganization of the system, realignment of the campuses and affected schools; policy changes affecting free dual enrollment at LCTCS colleges; and the percentage of successful graduated by school expressed in total by race and gender.

HBCU DESIGNATION

Dr. Brumfield presented the HBCU Designation agenda item. President Belton indicated that he appreciated the rationale for the HBCU Designation. He stated that he often speaks to the merits of the Master Plan, and that it provides guidance and a pathway to improve the state. He said that Louisiana only prospers if it is able to achieve the goals, and that failure would be detrimental. The HBCU designation will assist higher education in realizing these goals. He thanked Dr. Reed and the staff for taking advantage of the uniqueness of HBCU institutions and for including the HBCU designation in the Master Plan.

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to add the HBCU designation and its federal

definition to the classification of institutions in the State of Louisiana and update the Master Plan to include the HBCU designation for Grambling State University, Southern University and A&M College, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University at Shreveport, and the Southern University Law Center.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chair Chabert noted the following:

- He thanked Regent Jewell for his great work with the Board of Regents and for his commitment to and representation of the students of the state, and presented him with a plaque.
- Regent Jewell thanked the Board of Regents for the experience. He said that leaders are made in the time of controversy and uncertainty. He is excited to be moving to Nashville to enroll in the Master's Program at Vanderbilt University and will keep in touch with the Board of Regents.
- Chair Chabert thanked Carol Marabella for her 30+ years of service to the State and the Board of Regents and acknowledged her retirement as Proprietary School Program Administrator.
- Ms. Marabella said that she has been fortunate to work for the Board of Regents and thanked the Regents staff including her coworkers, especially Nancy Beall, Chandra Cheatham and Kristi Kron.
- Chair Chabert thanked the BoR staff for their continued hard work during the COVID-19 crisis.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Chabert mentioned that the next meeting was scheduled for August 12, 2020 and would include the Joint BoR/BESE meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.