

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

January 6, 2021

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 9:46 a.m., Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 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
Randy Ewing
Stephanie Finley
Robert Levy
Phillip May, Jr.
Charles McDonald
Darren Mire
Sonia Pérez
Wilbert Pryor
T. Jay Seale III
Gary Solomon, Jr.
Chandler Vidrine, Student
Felix Weill
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Paul Price, LCTC System
Mary Werner, LSU System
Leon Tarver, SU 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.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Newly Appointed Board Members

Governor John Bel Edwards appointed the following new members to the Board of Regents: Ms. Stephanie A. Finley of Lafayette, and Ms. Judy A. Williams-Brown of Homer. Mr. Victor Jones, Executive Counsel, administered the oath of office to each appointee.

Chair Chabert officially welcomed the new members to the Board and thanked them for their willingness to work for the betterment of the State.

Board Officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary)

The newly appointed officers for 2021 were sworn in by Mr. Jones. He administered the oath of office to Regent Blake David as Chair and Regent T. Jay Seale III as Vice Chair. Regent Sonia Pérez will be sworn in as Secretary at a later date.

Members to Serve on the Executive Committee

Chair Chabert requested that members of the 2021 Executive Committee be sworn in by Mr. Jones as follows: Regents Marty Chabert, Darren Mire, Wilbert Pryor and Gary Solomon.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chair Chabert handed over the gavel to the new Chairman, Blake David. He was congratulated and made the following comments:

- He said that the state must find a way to get more higher education completions. He noted that there are direct correlations between a person's level of education and their health, lifespan, happiness, wealth, home ownership, and likelihood of being incarcerated. He said that we must set our kids up for success. If we can help one person get a degree, there could be a generational effect that leads to better lives for their children and possibly their grandchildren.
- He said that higher education completions directly relate to economic development. Education is the only way, the golden ticket, to make our state and our citizens better.
- He thanked Dr. Reed and acknowledged her as the best leader in higher education. He also praised the staff as an amazing, cohesive team. He said that the Board is comprised of superstars and titans, and that being named the leader of this group is the proudest moment in his life and that he looks forward to working with everyone.
- He acknowledged student member Chandler Vidrine and asked him to share his report. Regent Vidrine provided updates on some of the SGA activities around the state including:
 - Students are preparing to return to campus, some as soon as next week; and

- The Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) will meet on January 30, 2021 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
- He welcomed Regents Levy, Ewing, McDonald and Chabert to share their sentiments regarding former Regent Victor T. Stelly, who recently passed away due to COVID-19.
 - Regent Levy said that Mr. Stelly was the exact type of person that you would want as a Regent. He said that Mr. Stelly was a man of dignity and humor who led by example and inspired others to do the right thing.
 - Regent Ewing said that he was honored to offer this tribute to Mr. Stelly. He highlighted Mr. Stelly’s background as a former quarterback, educator, legislator, TOPS proponent, and, most famously, author of the tax plan that would become known as the “Stelly Plan”. He said that we share the loss of not only Mr. Stelly, but also of his wife Terry, who also passed away from complications of COVID-19, with his family and extend our sympathy and love.
 - Regent McDonald echoed the sentiments of Regents Levy and Ewing. He said that he was Mr. Stelly’s roommate for years and that we need more men like Vic Stelly helping to lead our state. He said that he was honored to serve with Mr. Stelly and admired his work.
 - Regent Chabert said that Mr. Stelly served in the Legislature with both him and his father. He said that he attended Mr. Stelly’s funeral, which was a celebration of his life, and he extended condolences on behalf of the Board of Regents.
- He noted that he was proud of the work of higher education through the challenges of 2020. He said that he was optimistic of the progress being made on the McNeese and SOWELA campuses - 80% of the residence halls at McNeese are ready for occupancy, and classes will start at all three SOWELA locations (Lake Charles, Jennings, and Oakdale) on January 19th.

RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2021

On motion of Regent Chabert, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to ratify the Committee assignments for 2021.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2020

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 16, 2020.

MASTER PLAN – STUDENT SUCCESS COUNCIL

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, explained that the Student Success Council will be a convening of public and private, two- and four-year experts who will have the job of making sure that we are advancing Master Plan work on our campuses at scale. She then introduced Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer, Principal, HCM Strategists, a consultant with over thirty years of experience in higher education who is also a nationally recognized expert in equity work. Dr. Teamer congratulated the new Board members, officers, and members of the Executive Committee. She said that Chair David

introduced the topic of the Student Success Council: Education is the key, the golden ticket. She also acknowledged the work of Vic Stelly.

Dr. Teamer said that when we talk about Louisiana Prospers, we must talk about poverty and getting from poverty to prosperity. She thanked Dr. Reed not only for her focus on creating the Master Plan, but also for operationalizing it. She said that Louisiana is the first state to take the student success framework from the institutional level to the state level, bringing together the great minds in the state, including the students. She said that the Master Plan calls for 60% of Louisiana's working-age population to hold a postsecondary credential by 2030. She noted that Louisiana is one of 45 states to set an attainment goal, and she appreciates that we have been tracking from the first year of Louisiana Prospers the successes of this plan. We must continue to measure to know that we are making progress in these areas. We must double the number of completions by 2030. The accomplishment of Master Plan objectives will be accelerated through leveraging a wide range of student and practitioner expertise to establish best practices for student support, identify barriers to student success, close equity gaps, and recommend policy solutions. Dr. Teamer then turned over the presentation to Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success.

Dr. Brumfield shared some key research findings and challenges that could potentially be addressed by the Student Success Council. He explained that, in addition to the best and brightest from systems and institutions, the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, Louisiana Economic Development, and other organizations engaged in Master Plan efforts will inform and advise the Council. The work will be research-driven and rooted in best practices. The first meeting is scheduled for January 27. The Council will provide the Board and its partners with the expertise critical to identify and scale what works in order to achieve the Master Plan goals and further ensure that Louisiana prospers.

Chair David asked if, due to the pandemic, there is a national trend of declining numbers of high school students entering into higher education and particularly enrolling in community and technical colleges. Dr. Teamer said that this is a trend across the country and explained that the success of

switching to a virtual or hybrid model of teaching depended on how prepared an institution was. If technology was not already in place prior to the pandemic, the institution had to get resources, train instructors, and support students. She said that she has not had an opportunity to research this topic or to speak to Monty Sullivan to see where LCTCS was before the pandemic. Regent Ewing said that affordability is a major problem in moving students toward attainment. He said that we must get as many students involved in dual enrollment as possible. He then asked if vocational skills courses were offered through dual enrollment. Dr. Reed said yes, that Louisiana provides career and technical education through dual enrollment and that the Jump Start program is also available; however, she noted that most dual enrollment students opt to take academic courses. Regent Ewing said that if we could make a push for vocational skills in dual enrollment, we would make great strides in reaching the Master Plan goal. Regent Solomon asked if virtual courses for dual enrollment were offered during the pandemic to continue the program. Dr. Reed said according to the Department of Education there was only a slight decline in dual enrollment numbers and that students were finding ways to continue their coursework. Regent Vidrine commended the Council and suggested that updates be provided to the Regents quarterly, instead of biannually. The Chairman agreed with this request. Regent Mire asked how many universities have childcare facilities on campus. Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, said that she would provide that number. She said the issue with childcare on campus is that many on-campus facilities serve faculty and their communities, but are cost-prohibitive for students. She said there is a meeting tomorrow to brainstorm this topic with the Louisiana Department of Education and Policy Institute for Children through our work with the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission. Dr. Reed said that a benefit of the Student Success Council is that it will aid in pinpointing barriers to completion, allowing us to have insight into academic and nonacademic barriers to success. Chair David asked if we know what we need to do in order to meet the goals of the Master Plan and if we have the resources to do it. Dr. Reed said that we need a comprehensive approach. We must braid our resources. Regent Pryor asked if dual enrollment statistics include students who take Advanced Placement courses. Dr. Reed said yes. He also asked if there was any polling of 18-19-year-olds to find

out why they haven't taken advantage of dual enrollment and what their impediments are. Dr. Reed said the Education Trust has convened focus groups of parents and students at various locations and income levels to address these questions and she will share the results when she receives them. Dr. Teamer offered some examples of dual enrollment in other states. She said that Texas offers an early college program, which ensures that students are graduating with a high school diploma and certificate or associate's degree. She said that in Ohio every student from 7th-12th grade must have a student success plan, which must include career development. She said that we need to create clear pathways from K-12 to postsecondary education. Regent Pryor asked if a presentation to outline dual enrollment opportunities could be made mandatory for all high school students in freshman or sophomore years. Dr. Reed said that we will have those conversations with the Department of Education and share results. She also noted that the dual enrollment portal is being developed as a one stop shop to share information. Dr. Teamer said that she is looking forward to continuing the work with the Board of Regents, and is excited to be working in her home state. Chair David thanked Dr. Teamer and said that he is very excited to see the work of the Student Success Council.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINANCE

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented the update on federal support for higher education. He explained that the recently approved Education Stabilization Fund includes the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF) and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Chair David asked, since these funds are distributed directly to institutions, what Regents can do to make sure institutions use these funds toward completions. Dr. Reed said that we do not have guidance yet from U.S. Department of Education, but that we have been in conversation with the Governor on the GEERF to be sure every dollar is leveraged toward the completion goal. Regent Solomon asked how the funds flowed. Dr. Reed said HEERF dollars flow directly to institutions and GEERF to the Division of Administration, where they are disbursed. Chair

David asked if there were restrictions on these funds. Mr. LaBruyere said that athletic construction projects were not allowed with these funds, and that they must be spent to address coronavirus, students, and lost revenues for the institutions. Dr. Reed said that the official guidance will give specifics. Chair David noted that these funds will be helpful, particularly for minority-serving institutions.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

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

CONSENT AGENDA: SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- a. **LSU A&M: Jesse Coates Hall 3rd Floor Biology Lab Renovations**
- b. **LSU A&M: PERTT Phase 2 Electrical Improvements**
- c. **LSU A&M: SVM Chiller Replacement**
- d. **LSU A&M: University Stores Renovations for PTS**
- e. **LSU HSC-S: MED/PEDS & General Internal Medicine Renovations**

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

LATE ADDITIONS TO BOR FY 2021-22 CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Levy, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the two late additions to the Board of Regents' FY 2021-22 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation, to include Nicholls State University's Lafourche Crossing Farm Bridge replacement and the University of Louisiana Lafayette's Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center within the Edith Garland Dupre Library.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Craig presented the Consent Agenda item. Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Institutional Research, presented the Response to House Concurrent Resolution 33 of the 2020 Regular Session. Chair David asked if the Department of Revenue, Workforce Commission and LOSFA were in concurrence. Ms. Baker said that staff has circulated the draft to other agencies, and we hope to have feedback from the final agency before we submit the report to the Legislature. Chair David asked if there has been any resistance. Dr. Reed explained that, at one point, Louisiana had one of the best longitudinal data systems in the country, but due to legislation related to student data privacy, the system was not retained. She said that Representative Freiberg has asked for a study on whether we can both protect student privacy and collect the data necessary for a strong longitudinal system. Chair David suggest that

we draft a plan based on the successful Arkansas model. Regent Seale asked which legislative committees have jurisdiction and Dr. Reed said the Education Committees heard the previous bills in this area. Ms. Werner said that LSU stands in full support of the changes discussed.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Routine Staff Approval

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

RESPONSE TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33 OF THE 2020 REGULAR SESSION

On motion of Regent Chabert, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to receive the response to House Concurrent Resolution 33 of the 2020 Regular Session, authorizing Regents staff to incorporate feedback as received by collaborating agencies and submit this report on behalf of the Board to the House and Senate Committees on Education.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, presented the Consent Agenda item, which would allow LSU AgCenter to appoint an Endowed Chairholder without a national search. Ms. Robison also provided the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) Plan and Budget Recommendations for FY 2021-22.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Appointment of Endowed Chairholder without National Search: LSU AgCenter

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

BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND (BoRSF) PLAN AND BUDGET, FY 2021-22

On motion of Regent McDonald, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the FY 2021-22 Board of Regents Support Fund Plan and Budget, with contingencies, as presented.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

Dr. Sujuan Boutte, Executive Director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), presented the Consent Agenda item. Regent McDonald said that we should make sure the TOPS appeals were for dire circumstances and asked for examples for reasons for appeals. Dr. Boutte reported that some examples included temporary disabilities, death of parents due to COVID, students who had COVID, students experiencing homelessness with no way to attend classes, and students whose parents had lost their jobs.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of TOPS Exceptions

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

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Dr. Craig presented the Consent Agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)**
 - i. **Renewal Application**
 - a. **Herzing University**
 - b. **University of Southern California**
 - b. **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)**
 - i. **Renewal Application**
 - (a) **Southeastern Louisiana University**

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

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed presented several items to the Board:

- She said that she is optimistic about 2021 and shares Chair David's enthusiasm for our new members, our new Board leaders, the entire Board and the continued dedication of our outstanding staff.

- She said that 2021 provides great opportunity for higher education to accelerate its priorities while continuing to identify areas where innovative solutions can increase degree completion and support economic recovery.
- She noted that the Regents was recently notified it will be receiving a \$2M competitive federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education. These dollars will be used by the Louisiana Library Network (LOUIS) Team to develop 25 general education courses for dual enrollment and online settings using Open Educational Resources (known as OER). All four of our public systems, as well as the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU), were involved in this effort, and it is an exciting win for the state.
- She said that also, from a federal perspective, there is a lot of promise in the stimulus bill, which not only provides funding, but also policy benefits which we believe will be game changers for today's students.
 - The FASFA, which is the federal financial aid form that is a gateway to Pell Grants and other support, has been simplified to make it easier for students and their families to understand and complete.
 - PELL has been increased and the restoration of the Second Chance Pell Program, which allows PELL access to finance education for incarcerated students, will be significant in supporting our attainment efforts and the state's prison reform efforts as well.
 - Federal legislation creates a new emergency broadband benefit, extending eligibility to students who are eligible for the Pell Grant.
 - A total of \$285 million was included for the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program, which can be used by institutions of higher education including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to assist students with connectivity challenges.
- She said that our medical, nursing and allied health students and faculty are now included in Phase 1B for receiving vaccines, and we are working with LDH to support our state's efforts to get the vaccine distributed as quickly and safely as possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.