

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

February 24, 2021

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 9:01 a.m., Wednesday, February 24, 2021, via video conference. Chair Blake David called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:

Blake David, Chair
T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair
Sonia Pérez, Secretary
Marty Chabert
Randy Ewing
Stephanie Finley
Robert Levy
Charles McDonald
Darren Mire
Wilbert Pryor
Gary Solomon, Jr.
Collis Temple III
Chandler Vidrine, Student
Felix Weill
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Willie Mount, LCTC System
Randy Morris, LSU System
Leon Tarver, SU System
Mark Romero, UL System

Absent from the meeting was:

Phillip May, Jr.

CERTIFICATION FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Chair David 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2021

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Ewing, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 6, 2021.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chair David made the following comments:

- He recognized Antonio Milton of Carencro as the first black student to serve as editor-in-chief of the *Tulane Law Review* and discussed meeting with this bright student.
- He acknowledged and thanked Regents May and Pérez for their work in restoring utilities across the state following Winter Storm Uri.
- He noted that Regent Pérez has officially been sworn in as Secretary of the Board. Regent Pérez said it was her pleasure to serve as an officer of the Board.
- He recognized the staff and Board for raising over \$4,000 in donations for McNeese, SOWELA, and the Hunter Head Start Center during the Season of Giving. He thanked everyone for their generosity.
- He noted that on Friday the Executive Budget would be presented from the Governor's Office and encouraged Board members to watch. He noted that this is a time of great financial need and encouraged members to advocate strongly for increased investment in education and to reach out to their legislators as the Session begins.
- He wished a happy birthday to Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration.
- 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:
 - The students are thankful to return to the "COVID normal" following the winter storm, which led to loss of power and water around the state. He noted that some campuses have begun collecting items to donate to Texas campuses, which were hit harder than our campuses.
 - The students had a COVID conversation with Commissioner Reed earlier in the week. Some of the topics included life on campus, commencement, the possibility of returning to in-person classes in Fall 2021, and moving forward post-COVID. He noted that the students greatly appreciated Dr. Reed taking the time to hear their thoughts and ideas.
 - The Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) will meet on April 10, 2021 at the Southern University Law Center.

UPDATES TO BYLAWS

On motion of Regent Weill, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the updates to the Board of Regents Bylaws.

MASTER PLAN – LOUISIANA PROSPERITY INDEX

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, reminded the Board that the Master Plan, adopted in 2019, established the goal of doubling the number of annual credentials conferred, in order to achieve 60% attainment among the working-age population in Louisiana by 2030. She said that this is not only necessary to address the state's growing economic and workforce demands, but is also critical to achieving meaningful prosperity and improving the quality of life for Louisianans. The Master Plan also challenged us to capture data that collectively measure Louisiana's prosperity through the creation of the Louisiana Prosperity Index, designed to "report broader, society-wide measures such as income, poverty, and employment." To complete this index, Regents partnered with the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) and, in six months, created a pilot Prosperity Index that will launch publicly today.

Dr. Reed introduced Dr. Helen Malone, Vice President for Research & Innovation, and Dr. Emily Cheng, Data Analyst, both from the IEL, who led the design of the Louisiana Prosperity Index. Dr. Malone thanked Dr. Reed and the Board for the partnership. She said she was excited to see that the Prosperity Index was now available on the Regents website. She noted that the Louisiana Board of Regents developed the Louisiana Prosperity Index to measure prosperity and its determinants throughout the state. The purpose of the Louisiana Prosperity Index is to establish a prosperity framework including indicators of opportunity that predict prosperity and one or more prosperity measures that allow for the assessment of the impact of various policies, including Board of Regents postsecondary education policies. She said that this tool will allow us to track and demonstrate the extent to which talent growth is driving improvements in the state's overall well-being. She explained that the Index offers a high-level view of prosperity across the state and at the Regional Labor Market Area (RLMA) level. She said the Index, developed through a collaborative effort, is in the pilot stage, and its development could be further informed by new data opportunities and early adopter/user stories. It is an asset-based longitudinal tool and should not be used for accountability purposes or short-term fiscal or policy decision-making. The Index can be used as a learning tool to compare RLMAs among one another and within an indicator.

Dr. Malone highlighted the steps taken to create the Index including: five dimensions and prosperity definition were determined from the results of the literature review, interviews and focus groups; interview and focus group participants addressed individual-, institution-, system-, and sector-level factors, as well as cross-sector factors, which largely overlapped with factors found in the literature review; participants raised factors that most commonly fell in Education and Economy dimensions; and nearly every participant expressed the need for disaggregation across demographics, particularly disaggregation by race and ethnicity, emphasizing the importance of tying increases in prosperity to narrowing equity gaps. She explained data availability, focusing on the following: how data can be retrieved from publicly available data sources that do not require data-sharing agreements or additional costs associated with data preparation and how data are available at the local geographical level to understand the progress towards prosperity in different parishes. The data can be used to understand disparities among different population groups and publicly available datasets provide detailed data documentation, including data dictionaries, and are updated on a bi-annual or an annual basis, allowing the ability to track prosperity over time. She noted that since the majority of the data used in the Louisiana Prosperity Index are from 2015 to 2018, the Index does not reflect the impact of COVID-19 or other factors (e.g., hurricanes) in 2020. Dr. Malone then introduced Dr. Cheng, who highlighted the key aspects of the Prosperity Index, including scoring and comparisons tools. Dr. Malone thanked colleagues at IEL and BoR staff. Dr. Reed thanked Dr. Malone and Dr. Cheng and said it had been a pleasure working with their team on this innovative tool.

Dr. Reed reminded the Board that this is just one tool in our Master Plan Data Toolkit. She said it complements the Master Plan Data Dashboard, and we envision adding to this toolkit as we create new applications to visualize data and inform our work. She said that through continued partnerships with the agencies involved in the Education Workforce Subcabinet and beyond, the work surrounding this new tool remains as we seek to answer these basic questions - how can we best measure prosperity in our state and what additional data can be collected to focus our attention and policy-making on the most meaningful measures. Regent Seale asked to be directed to the Prosperity Index on the Regents website.

He also asked if other state agencies such as Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) are aware of the Index. Dr. Reed said that we are having robust conversations and engagement with other state agencies about this. Regent Ewing said he appreciated the thoroughness of the presentation and that Index data reaffirm the problems facing the state. He hopes that the Index encourages those who could use it to continue to work on the problems. He asked Dr. Malone if she has a general comment about what effect COVID-19 and weather events have had on the data since 2019. She said that she would not speculate on any percentages, though there could be significant changes. He also asked if she had any idea of the effects on the data related to K-12 education from 2018 to the present. She said that the data would depend on how enrollment and employment were affected by COVID-19, but noted that it is hard to predict what the effects will be. Regent Ewing asked if, once the challenge areas are identified, if Dr. Malone would present solutions to address the problems. Dr. Malone said that the Index is a tool to provide information. Dr. Reed said that we will use the Index to elevate the greatest challenges and solutions. She said that this will include work with the Department of Education, LED and other state agency partners.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AUDIT

Regent Seale reminded the Board that the audit function is managed and supervised by the Audit Committee, which operates under the Audit Charter. He said the audit function is managed on two levels by Ms. Elizabeth Bourgeois, Assistant Commissioner for Audit and Compliance, and Postlethwaite and Netterville (P&N). He said that he believes that the audit function of the BoR is competent and well-run due to the combined work of Regents staff and the P&N team. He then turned over the presentation to Ms. Bourgeois. She said that Regents has found P&N to be cooperative, professional and responsive. She said that P&N has worked with Regents staff to enter into a new contract for \$270,000. Chair David said that the Board is fortunate to have Regent Seale, who has a wealth of expertise in auditing, as the chair of the Audit Committee. Regent Seale introduced Laura Soileau from P&N. Ms. Soileau provided a recap of Contract Year Three and some upcoming items for the new contract. Regent Seale asked Ms.

Soileau to briefly discuss the process for reviewing risk assessment for the upcoming audit years. Ms. Soileau said that facilitated interview sessions may be used to collect feedback from people with key responsibilities to drive the understanding of the risks and ultimately recommend a risk-based audit plan. Regent Seale said that the Committee of the Whole will review the risk assessment audit plan once it is available and will approve and adopt it.

INTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACT DISCUSSION

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the new P&N contract for FY21 to FY23 for the internal audit function as required by Act 314 of 2015 Regular Session.

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS PRESENTATION

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent McDonald, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to receive the reports as presented by P&N.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

Mr. Chris Herring, Assistant Commissioner for Facilities and Planning, presented the agenda item. In addition, Mr. Herring gave an update regarding damage incurred by campuses due to Winter Storm Uri. He said that many campuses had frozen pipes, water damage from burst pipes, and low or no water pressure, but that most issues have been rectified. He said that the Office of Risk Management is reaching out to campuses and hopefully insurance will cover the cost to repair any damages. He said he will keep the Board updated.

ACT 959 PROJECT: LSU A&M FRED C. FREY COMPUTING SERVICES CENTER BUILDING UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM #1 REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADES

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Vidrine, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Act 959 project submitted by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Louisiana State University and A&M College, to replace the Frey Center's uninterrupted power supply system # 1 and perform associated upgrades.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, presented the Consent Agenda items, Academic Program Proposals, and Revisions to Center and Institute Approval Process.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Addition to ALEKS to A.A. Policy 2.18**
- b. **Addition of Duolingo to the Minimum Admissions Standards Policy**
- c. **Routine Staff Approvals**

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

RESPONSE TO SENATE RESOLUTION 190 OF THE 2019 REGULAR SESSION WITH ADDENDUM FROM LSU

Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Institutional Research, presented a summary of the Response to Senate Resolution 190. Ms. Baker introduced Mr. Tom Galligan, Interim President at LSU, and Dr. Robert Laughlin, Dean of LSUHSC-New Orleans' School of Dentistry. President Galligan explained that this is a five-year phased approach to resolving dental services issues in underserved parts of the state. He noted a debt of thanks owed to Dr. Henry Gremillion, former Dean of the LSU School of Dentistry, who passed away unexpectedly while working on this, as well as Dr. Larry Hollier, Chancellor of LSUHSC-New Orleans, and Dr. G. E. Ghali, Chancellor at LSUHSC-Shreveport, noting that this was truly a collaborative effort which brought out the best in everyone. Mr. Galligan then turned over the presentation to Dr. Laughlin. Dr. Laughlin said that Louisiana falls below the national average of dentists per capita. He explained that LSU is creating partnerships across the state and will establish a general practice residency program, which will enable its residents to practice all aspects of general dentistry while working in a hospital setting. He further explained that the clinics will be hospital-owned, with hospitals providing funding for faculty and resident salaries. He said that, in exchange for these services, the clinics will provide on-call dental services 24/7 and dental services for all cancer and cardiac patients in need of clearance prior to radiation and/or surgery, as well as inpatient consultations. This will allow

members of the community of all ages to have access to care through the LSU Dental Clinic Annexes. He said that the LSU Dental Clinics will generate revenue through dental procedures and consultations, with hospitals collecting technical fees and LSU collecting professional fees. The clinics will accept Medicare/Medicaid as well as dental insurance. In addition, he said that every effort will be made to ensure appropriate reimbursement for dental providers who participate in the program. He then broke down the five-year phase-in by region. He stated that through this collaborative partnership, LSU Health will add general practice residents, dental hygienists, and faculty across the state to directly address the oral health service needs for the residents of Louisiana. Chair David thanked President Galligan and Dr. Laughlin for their presentation. Regent Pryor said that he is pleased to see this come to such a great end. He thanked Mr. Galligan, Dr. Ghali, and Mr. Wayne Brown of the LSU Board of Supervisors for being receptive and coming together to create a solution. Regent Pryor said that some students do not accept rural-track scholarships because the scholarships only pay for half of the student costs. Regent Ewing echoed Regent Pryor's sentiments of appreciation and said this would be a great service to the state. He asked if there is a fiscal note attached to the proposal. President Galligan responded that the program pays for itself. Dr. Reed said that since these are partnerships with hospitals, there is no fiscal note; however, in the future, LSU may seek funding for additional rural scholarships for the program. Mr. Randy Morris, LSU Board of Supervisors, said that he is Board Chairman for the Rural Hospital Coalition and they were recently able to get funding for scholarships for physicians and dentists who will practice in rural areas and will pay up to \$250,000 as a total loan repayment over a five-year period. He said that he thinks this will help tremendously in getting physicians and dentists to practice in rural areas of the state.

On motion of Regent Pryor, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to receive the response to Senate Resolution 190 of the 2019 Regular Session and authorize staff to forward the response and addendum from the LSU System on behalf of the Board to the House and Senate Committees on Education.

RESPONSE TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 52 OF THE 2020 REGULAR SESSION

Ms. Baker presented an overview of House Resolution (HR) 52. She introduced LCTCS President Monty Sullivan and Chief Education and Training Officer Dr. René Cintrón to present the final

report. President Sullivan thanked the Board, Dr. Reed, and the staff for the great relationship with LCTCS in working through the details of HR 52. President Sullivan said that expanding opportunities for students in rural communities was a priority, and that the Prosperity Index and HR 52 complement each other in that they both change the definition of success – we must be sure that all people of Louisiana have access to the education skills they need and the ability to work successfully in their communities. He acknowledged Dr. Cintrón for his great work on this report. Dr. Cintrón said that access and opportunity are key to making Louisiana prosper. He then provided status updates to the NCHEMS report recommendations. President Sullivan recognized Ms. Willie Mount and thanked her for her support to this effort and in helping to make the community colleges stronger. He said that future funding is troublesome, and we must use this opportunity to rethink how we do business.

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent McDonald, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to receive the report.

RESPONSE TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 45 OF THE 2020 REGULAR SESSION

Ms. Janet Newhall, Assistant Commissioner for Academic Affairs, presented the response to House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 45. She said that Regents was charged with compiling data relative to faculty at public postsecondary institutions, including faculty salaries, hiring policies and recruitment practices. Regent Levy said that he was concerned about this resolution and the suggestion that there is vetting of ideological tendencies of our faculty. He said that we need to be extremely careful that the Board of Regents does not engage in interpreting our response as policing of ideas or discrimination based on national origins. He said that we must increase faculty salaries, or we will never rise in status. Chair David agreed with Regent Levy. Regent Ewing asked if there was any way to identify funds for faculty salary increases only. Dr. Reed said that our budget request, submitted in November, requested funds to boost faculty pay to the SREB average over the next two years. Regent Solomon said that the staff did an excellent job in presenting the facts and data reported in this response.

On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to receive the report.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM PROPOSALS

- a. **AAS Engineering Technology – SUSLA**
- b. **UC Remote Systems Science & Technology – NSU**
- c. **BFA Film & TV – LSU A&M**
- d. **BS Professional Pilot – UNO**
- e. **GC Healthcare Analytics – LSU A&M**
- f. **GC Healthcare Systems Engineering – LSU A&M**
- g. **MS Nutritional Sciences – McNeese**

On motion of Regent Chabert, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the Academic Program Proposals.

REVISIONS TO CENTER AND INSTITUTE APPROVAL PROCESS

On motion of Regent Solomon, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to grant Regents Academic Affairs staff the authority to approve reauthorizations of existing centers and institutes following rigorous review, with a report on these actions to be presented to the Board once per year.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, Executive Director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), presented the agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Approval of Rulemaking to Implement COVID-19 as an Objective Circumstance for which Students May Request an Exception to the Continuous Enrollment, Full Time, and Earned Annual Hours Requirements for TOPS**
- b. **Approval of TOPS Exceptions**

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

RESPONSE TO SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3 OF THE 2020 SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

Dr. Boutté provided the response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session, which tasked the Board of Regents with studying the feasibility of making TOPS Tech and GO Grant awards available to low-income students for use during the summer immediately

following high school graduation. She explained that in studying the feasibility, LOSFA analyzed GO Grant and TOPS Tech legislation, as well as funding and logistical implications.

Dr. Boutté said that TOPS Tech funding levels for summer are contingent upon appropriation, and since we do not know if TOPS funding will be available for summer sessions until May and the legislature does not finalize the budget until June, usage of TOPS Tech immediately following high school graduation would require a dedicated appropriation. She explained that if demand becomes greater than the dedicated appropriation, summer payments would be issued on pro-rata basis. She further explained that most packaging policies use summer as trailer, as opposed to header, therefore, permitting students to use TOPS Tech immediately following high school graduation would require institutions using summer as trailer to reconsider their packaging policies. She said that student transcripts are received beginning in June following the high school academic year, therefore, a student's eligibility for TOPS Tech cannot be made until transcripts are received. As a result, making a determination as to a student's eligibility for TOPS Tech in time for students to enroll in a summer session presents a significant challenge, since schools cannot bill for a student's TOPS Tech award until eligibility is determined. She also said that a statutory amendment would be needed for TOPS Tech to limit the availability of summer awards immediately following high school graduation to low-income students.

Dr. Boutté said that funding award amounts for GO Grants are based on the institution's allocation of GO Grant funding and their packaging policy, varying by each academic year and by student, even if the student remains enrolled at the same school for the entirety of his period of eligibility. She said that GO Grant has historically been underfunded, resulting in students who are eligible for the award do not necessarily receive it, with less than half of GO Grant eligible students actually receiving the award. She said that allowing GO Grant to be paid to students in the summer immediately following high school graduation would require a dedicated funding source. If dedicated funding is not provided, institutions would have to: reduce the award amounts provided during the traditional academic year, reduce the number of students who receive GO Grant funding during the academic year, or reduce both. She explained that GO Grant is a need-based aid program, therefore funds are already awarded to low-

income students, however, GO Grant legislation does not prevent students from utilizing GO Grant funding beginning the summer immediately following high school graduation, insufficient funding is the factor that currently prohibits the use of GO Grant during summer school.

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Finley, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to receive the response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Legislature and authorize the submission of the report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on its behalf.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

Dr. Craig and Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)**
 - i. Initial Applications**
 - (a) Miami International University of Art & Design**
 - (b) Western University of Health Sciences**
 - ii. Renewal Application**
 - (a) Northcentral University (NU)**
 - iii. Extension Request**
 - (a) World Quant University (WQU)**

- b. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)**
 - i. Initial Application**
 - (a) Infinity College**
 - ii. Renewal Applications**
 - (a) Louisiana State University A&M**
 - (b) Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – Shreveport**
 - (c) McNeese State University**
 - (d) Northwestern State University**
 - (e) River Parishes Community College**
 - (f) University of Holy Cross**

- c. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission**
 - i. Initial Licenses**
 - (a) United Dental Institutes, LLC – Baton Rouge**
 - (b) United Dental Institutes, LLC – Lafayette**
 - (c) United Dental Institutes, LLC – New Orleans**
 - (d) Next Level Educational Services, LLC**
 - ii. Renewal Applications**
 - (a) Academy of Acadiana (12/02/10)**
 - (b) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy – Hammond (12/10/15)**
 - (c) Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy – Lake Charles (12/11/19)**
 - (d) Advanced Welding School, LLC (12/11/17)**

- (e) Alexandria Dental Assistant School (12/08/11)
- (f) Infinity College, Inc. (12/02/10)
- (g) Kingdom Technical College (12/11/2019)
- (h) Learning Bridge Career Institute (12/02/10)
- (i) Melba Beauty (12/11/19)
- (j) NASCAR Technical Institute (12/05/02)
- (k) National Driving Academy, Inc. (12/05/96)
- (l) New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute, Inc. (12/10/15)
- (m) Southeastern Louisiana Technical College (12/11/19)
- (n) Southern Security School, Inc. (12/07/16)
- (o) Tulsa Welding School (12/07/06)
- (p) Unitech Training Academy – Alexandria (12/04/08)
- (q) Unitech Training Academy – New Orleans (12/07/11)

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.

NOTICE OF PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION RULEMAKING

Dr. Brumfield presented this item for informational purposes only.

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve updating the Master Plan to reflect the new institution name (Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College) and its updated mission: “Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College is committed to providing quality workforce training and transfer opportunities to students seeking a competitive edge in today’s global economy. As a community college, NLTCC uses a traditional open admission process.”

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, as Regent Vidrine mentioned, she is doing a series of COVID conversations, recently holding one with student leaders. These conversations are with key stakeholders to discuss the learning around COVID since we started this battle in March 2020.
- She said that she held a Zoom with the Deans of Nursing and Allied Health. She said that many students, faculty and staff were not interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, citing various reasons. We used this opportunity to discuss this topic with the Deans in order to answer questions to address vaccine hesitancy, noting the importance of receiving information from a trusted source.
- She said that she is looking forward to addressing the Louisiana School Boards Association on March 8th about our Year One Master Plan Accomplishments, as well as initiatives such as Dual Enrollment and Fast Forward.
- She also shared that she will be participating in interviews with the National Association of System Heads (NASH) on a project that they are calling the Big ReThink, which focuses on re-

envisioning the role of public university systems and the vital part they are playing in leading the nation through this unprecedented crisis and into a post-pandemic world filled with new opportunities for a strong, sustainable and prosperous America.

- She acknowledged Dr. Nikki Godfrey, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs, and Ms. Tonnisha Ellis, Program Coordinator for Communications, who are moving on to new job opportunities.
- She welcomed new staff member Dr. Chris Yandle, who will serve as Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs beginning in early March.

OTHER BUSINESS

Regent Chabert thanked Dr. Godfrey and Ms. Ellis for their hard work at Regents.

ADJOURNMENT

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