

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

April 28, 2021

The Board of Regents met in session at 12:02 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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 R. David, Chair
T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair
Sonia A. Pérez, Secretary
Robert W. Levy
Phillip R. May, Jr.
Charles R. McDonald
Darren G. Mire
Wilbert D. Pryor
Gary N. Solomon, Jr.
Terrie P. Sterling
Collis B. Temple III
Chandler C. Vidrine (student member)
Judy A. Williams-Brown

Absent from the meeting were:

Randy L. Ewing
Stephanie A. Finley
Felix R. Weill

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2021

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Pérez, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 meeting.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair David made the following comments:

- He welcomed Regent Terrie Sterling, who was sworn in earlier that day.
- 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:
 - He noted that the last COSBP meeting of the academic year was held on April 10, 2021.

- He thanked BoR staff, specifically Harold Boutté, Erin Cowser, and Nikki Godfrey, for their assistance and leadership with COSBP.
 - He recognized LDH for its partnership with COSBP during the academic year and noted that the campuses would continue this partnership in the future.
 - He said that Texas Instruments has partnered with the ACT Prep program and he would be meeting with incoming student body presidents in an effort to adopt the ACT Prep program on all campuses.
 - He noted that the students have been enjoying the final days of their semester and are looking forward to returning in the fall to a sense of normalcy on campus.
- Chair David congratulated Regent Vidrine on his graduation.
 - He welcomed Regent Williams-Brown to her first in-person meeting.
 - He noted the passing of Dr. Virgil Orr and asked for a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Orr's dedication to higher education in the state.
 - Chair David recommended that Regent Phillip May be appointed to the Executive Committee.

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Regent May to the Executive Committee.

- Regent May was sworn in by Victor Jones, Executive Counsel for the Board of Regents.
- Chair David provided an update on Title IX issues, stating that all systems have shared their policies, system and/or campus sexual assault prevention and awareness programs, campus Title IX office locations and staffing, and campus points of contact for reporting sexual harassment and assault, with each campus reporting having two or more confidential advisors, as required. He said that Regents is continuing our internal review of this data and information and we will use the comprehensive review to strengthen the policy environment at our institutions to ensure we are educating students in safe learning environments.
- He reminded the Board members to submit their Financial Disclosures to the Board of Ethics.

MASTER PLAN – IMPROVING AFFORDABILITY

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 the Master Plan acknowledges that if we want to improve access to college and a credential of value, we must improve affordability. She noted that the Executive Budget makes a historic investment in GO Grants, Louisiana's need-based aid program, and welcomed Dr. Rachelle Sharpe, Director of Postsecondary Finance and Affordability for HCM Strategists, to present a report on how to identify

specific strategies that would allow GO Grants to serve more students with financial need.

Dr. Sharpe noted that decreased funding of postsecondary education over the years has increased the cost of tuition to students, making college less accessible to low-income students, who are disproportionately students of color. She said that the role of financial aid is critical to offset tuition increases, and that, specifically, need-based aid positively impacts enrollment, persistence, choice of major, and completion. She said that the GO Grant funding has nearly doubled since the program's creation, offering priority to adult learners and serving a diverse population, noting that higher grant awards are associated with higher persistence. She highlighted the strength of the program and opportunities for improvement including removing the current 60%-of-need target which is no longer achieving the intended outcomes, allowing campuses to increase awards based on their priorities. Dr. Sharpe further recommended a statewide task force to review the following: to examine the allocation and recalculation rules and methodology to allow more students to receive timely information and disbursements; to eliminate separate applications for GO Grant; and to review the feasibility of early commitments of minimal awards.

Dr. Reed thanked Dr. Sharpe for her presentation. She said that the \$11 million infusion of need-based aid proposed in the Executive Budget is an enormous opportunity and this study was necessary to maximize the potential of the GO Grant program for the future. She noted that we support the recommendations as we focus on expanding opportunity across the state.

On motion of Regent Pérez, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to receive the report and adopt the included recommendations.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair David inquired if any member of the Board wanted to take up any of the Committee reports separately before a motion was made to accept all reports. There were no requests.

On motion of Regent Seale, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the April 28, 2021 Committee meetings.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

2021 HOUSE BILL 2 UPDATE

Mr. Chris Herring, Assistant Commissioner for Facilities, presented the Committee with a report

of the status of House Bill 2, which reflects the Capital Outlay Budget for 2021-22.

2021 LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE UPDATE

Mr. Terrence Ginn, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented the Committee with a report of legislative instruments of interest involving the Board of Regents and higher education.

M.J. FOSTER PROMISE PROGRAM

Dr. Monty Sullivan, President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, presented an overview of the planned M.J. Foster Promise program for adult financial aid. It is Senate Bill 148, which is authored by Senate President Page Cortez and is making its way through the legislative process.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Approval of Rulemaking to Implement Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that Increase the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) from \$5,000 to \$9,000**
- B. TOPS Exceptions**

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Innovation, presented the Consent Agenda, Academic Programs, and New Centers and Institutes items.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. LA Tech Program Terminations**
- B. Routine Staff Approvals**

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Approve the three letters of intent, five program proposals, and two program reconfigurations as presented.

- A. Letters of Intent**
 - 1. BS Nursing – Southern University at New Orleans**
 - 2. BS Plant Health Management – LSU A&M**
 - 3. MA Teaching Special Education – Southern University at New Orleans**
- B. Program Proposals**
 - 1. UC Artificial Intelligence – LSU Shreveport**
 - 2. UC Cyber Security & Networking – LSU Shreveport**
 - 3. UC Professional Writing – Nicholls**
 - 4. UC Public History – Nicholls**
 - 5. BS Business Analytics – LSU A&M**
- C. Reconfiguration of BS Petroleum Services – Nicholls**
- D. Reconfiguration of AAS Cyber Technology – BPCC**

NEW CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

Approve the two new academic research units presented.

- A. Food Innovation Institute – LSU Ag Center**
- B. Patient Centered Rehabilitation Center of Academic Excellence – LSU HSC-S**

Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Institutional Research, presented a summary of the interim Dual Enrollment policy, and explained that extending this policy will allow staff to study the impact and performance of students within the period of the interim policy. She stated that extending the policy into the academic year 2022-2023 will allow for a thorough analysis of the interim policy, including its impact on increasing dual enrollment opportunities for Louisiana students.

EXTENSION OF INTERIM DUAL ENROLLMENT POLICY

Approve the extension of the Interim Policy for Dual Enrollment through the 2022-2023 academic year.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

FY 2020-21 BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve the FY 2020-21 BoRSF funding recommendations, with contingencies, as presented.

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, highlighted the process for developing external evaluations for proposals submitted to the constitutionally prescribed program components of the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) and specific award recommendations for FY 2020-21, with contingencies. She noted that the Revenue Estimating Conference’s most recent projection of revenue to the Support Fund would require a significant cut to the approved budget. She indicated that the funding recommendations for Board consideration included approval of an allocation of \$1,419,454

from previously unobligated fund (reserves) already earned in the Fund to mitigate reductions and noted that all reserve funds will be used to cut reductions in the Departmental Enhancement program.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Craig presented the Consent Agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)

1. Initial Application

a. Business, Humanities, Science, & Ethics University, USA (BHSEU-USA)

2. Renewal Applications

a. Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRGM)

b. Bellevue University (BU)

c. Brandman University (BU)

d. Chamberlain University (CU)

B. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

1. Initial Application

a. World Quant University

Dr. Randall Brumfield, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, accompanied by Mr. Greg Trahan, Chair of the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC), and Ms. Susie Schowen, Vice Chair of the CEMC, presented an update including a high-level overview of the CEMC's duties, the purpose of the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund, the Request for Applications (RFA) developed by the Council and posted for response by the public postsecondary institutions, and the timeline for the RFA process.

CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CEMC) TALENT DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATE

Approve funding from the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund for applications determined appropriate by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC), with a report to be provided to the Board in June on applications selected for funding.

STUDENT SUCCESS COUNCIL QUARTERLY REPORT

Dr. Brumfield acknowledged Regent Vidrine for his participation in the Student Success Council (SSC). He then provided an overview of the purpose of the SSC, the first SSC meeting held in January, and subcommittees developed from the first meeting, to include Access to Success, Focus on Adults, and Continuing Students/Completers. Dr. Brumfield recognized the work of Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer and her

team at HCM Strategists as well as the Board of Regents staff liaisons with the SSC and these new subcommittees. He shared the schedule for the SSC quarterly meetings throughout the remainder of the year.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY DR. KIM HUNTER REED, COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Reed focused on recent meetings and events including:

- Last week the Census Bureau announced the inclusion of Louisiana's workforce and higher education data in its Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) Explorer tool, which combines labor market and higher education data to measure the impact of graduating, displaying earnings and employment outcomes for those who have graduated college in our state.
- The Governor has announced that masks will be retained in K-12, higher education, and early childhood settings. She said that we are continuing to see great partnerships with campuses regarding vaccines clinics and we are continuing COVID conversations, including upcoming meetings with the Digital Inclusion Task Force and the Association of Faculty Senates.
- Last week we celebrated the administrative staff with a breakfast in honor of Administrative Professionals Day and she thanked them for their work.
- Today is Tulane Day at the Capitol and Tulane President Mike Fitts will visit with staff later this afternoon. She looks forward to visiting with him and hearing more about the great things happening at Tulane.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair David noted that the next scheduled Board of Regents' meeting will be the Wednesday, June 16, 2021 in the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and will include the Joint meeting with BESE.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.