

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

August 10, 2021

A special meeting of the Board of Regents began at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 10, 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
Stephanie Finley
Cameron Jackson, Student
Robert Levy
Phillip May, Jr.
Darren Mire
Wilbert Pryor
Gary Solomon, Jr.
Terrie Sterling
Collis Temple III
Felix Weill
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Willie Mount, LCTC System
Mary Werner, LSU System

System Presidents present:

Dr. Monty Sullivan, LCTC System
Dr. William Tate, LSU System
Dr. Ray Belton, SU System
Dr. Jim Henderson, UL System

Absent from the meeting were:

T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair
Sonia Pérez, Secretary
Randy Ewing
Charles McDonald

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.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

Student Board Member Cameron T. Jackson of Grambling State University was sworn in by Ms. Brianna Golden, Associate and Policy Advisor for the Board of Regents. Regent Jackson said that he was excited to join the Board and would give his full report during the August 25, 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

UNIFORM POLICY ON POWER-BASED VIOLENCE AND TITLE IX REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Chair David said there is no time to waste when it comes to protecting students because the Board believes it must set a strong policy, aligned to the new state laws and matched with system and campus education and implementation, to provide the tools needed to support our students. He then asked Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, to highlight the major components of the draft policy. Regent Weill stated that the policy was a good product and asked if there would be a single policy to address both Power-Based Violence and Title IX misconduct. Dr. Reed said that the Dual Policy recognizes that federal and state laws are not the same and that both types of laws were addressed in the Dual Policy. Ms. Nina Gupta, Partner at Nelson Mullins, further explained the Title IX process and what happens once a complaint is received. She said that anything that does not fall under Title IX would be guided by the state law. Regent Jackson said that he appreciated the accountability portion of the policy, in particular the formation of a Power-Based Violence survey and the involvement of student leaders. He specifically asked how this information will be spread from student leaders to the general student population. Dr. Reed said that Regent Jackson would play a major role in convening student leaders across the state to share this information and to encourage more people to participate in the survey. Regent Jackson asked if the survey would be anonymous, and Dr. Reed confirmed that it would. Regent Finley asked why the survey would be done every three years. Dr. Reed said that Tulane demonstrated that doing a survey every three years, as opposed to annually, gives institutions more opportunities to offer incentives and get stronger student participation. Regent Pryor said that he paid special attention to the appeals process and hopes that the institutions look at the clause regarding an appeal process for

conflicts. He then recognized Javin Bowman, LSU SGA President, in the audience, and Dr. Ray Belton, Southern University System President, as members of Zion Baptist Church in Shreveport. Dr. Reed said that she appreciated our student leaders attending the meeting and being so focused on this issue. Regent Solomon said that he would like for the Board to work to extend the protections offered by this policy to students of private and proprietary institutions. Dr. Reed said that staff would share the policy and continue tracking to be sure to advance this work.

Chair David said the next steps include mandatory training, sponsored by Regents, on August 17, 2021, for public postsecondary board members, system presidents, legal counsel and others, followed by training to be held on August 18, 2021, for campus-based teams comprised of chancellors, Title IX coordinators, law enforcement officers, academic affairs staff, and athletic department staff. Dr. Reed thanked the system presidents and the very engaged work group members for helping to create a solid policy.

On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent Weill, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Dual Uniform Policy on Power-Based Violence and Title IX and to direct staff to work with the systems on automation of the forms needed for uniform reporting.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Chair David welcomed State Health Officer Dr. Joseph Kanter, to provide an update on COVID-19. Dr. Kanter said that the state was currently in the upswing of the fourth and worst surge, with more COVID-19 cases diagnosed daily than during any other time in the pandemic. He said the situation was dire in our hospitals because there are not enough qualified staff to care for patients. He also explained that the influx of COVID patients was decreasing the ability of hospitals to provide quality care for patients with emergencies such as heart attacks and strokes. He did note that the state vaccination rate has increased over the past month, but warned that we must continue to mask, maintain distance and test regularly to mitigate the continued spread of the virus. Dr. Kanter said that until more of the population is vaccinated, our state remains vulnerable. Chair David asked how far we are from having an FDA-approved vaccination. Dr. Kanter said the Pfizer vaccine would likely be approved within the next few weeks and that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines may be approved for emergency use in children ages five

and older before the new year. Regent May asked if Dr. Kanter had any idea of when we might see the peak of the current surge. Dr. Kanter said he had no way to know this, but if it is not within the next week or two, we could have a catastrophic situation in our hospitals. Regent Sterling echoed Dr. Kanter's sense of urgency in support of masking and social distancing, noting that clinicians are exhausted and often neither COVID nor non-COVID patients are receiving the higher level of care they deserve. She said that she greatly appreciated those who support masking, vaccinations, and social distancing. Chair David and Dr. Reed thanked Dr. Kanter for his presentation.

Dr. Reed said that we are focused on the return of students to campus, with each campus having its COVID protocols in place. She said that for campuses in need of support, we are working with Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) on providing assistance with testing and vaccines, and are re-surveying our campuses to get specific testing and vaccination needs so that we can secure pop-up sites on campuses with the help of the National Guard, US Department of Health and Human Services and FEMA. In addition, she noted that we will be pushing out a social media campaign through COSBP, "Masks Stop the Surge; Vaccines Stop the Pandemic; #studentsdotheirpart" later this week.

Chair David said that the Board has invited the system presidents to join us for our August 25, 2021 meeting so that they can update members on efforts to return to campus safely and the impact of COVID-19 on higher education in our state.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair David wished Regent Sterling a happy early birthday. Dr. Reed thanked Ms. Gupta, Ms. Golden, and Dr. Allison Smith, Senior Program Administrator, for their excellent work on the Dual Uniform Policy on Power-Based Violence and Title IX.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.