

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

April 27, 2022

The Board of Regents met in session at 1:11 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Collis Temple III called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Doreen Brasseaux called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

Collis Temple III, Chair
Gary Solomon Jr., Vice Chair
Randy Ewing
Stephanie Finley
Cameron Jackson (student member)
Robert Levy
Phillip May Jr.
Darren Mire
Wilbert Pryor
T. Jay Seale III
Terrie Sterling
Judy Williams-Brown

Absent from the meeting were:

Blake David (present for committees)
Charles McDonald
Sonia Pérez, Secretary
Felix Weill

Mgt. Board Representatives present:

Mary Werner, LSU System
Dr. Leon Tarver, SU System
Stevie Smith, LCTCS System

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Temple asked if there were any public comments. There was one public comment card submitted by Dr. Wendi Palermo stating, in reference to Statewide Programs or the Board meeting, that she would speak if any questions regarding LCTCS were brought forth. No business had been brought forth and Dr. Palermo did not speak.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2022 MEETING

On motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent Ewing, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2022 meeting.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Temple made the following comments:

- He noted the recent positive developments regarding Regents policy and advocacy to help improve student outcomes and news coverage that has occurred. He mentioned as a highlight the previous month's adoption of the new co-requisite model, which has been covered in several news outlets including Forbes, Higher Ed Dive, U.S. News & World Report and Diverse Issues in Higher Education.
- He mentioned the system days at the Capitol that have highlighted the education systems and institutions in Louisiana including the LSU System, UL System, Southern System, LCTC System and LAICU.
- He gave information regarding the upcoming HBCU Day, to be held at the Capitol on May 24, 2022.
- He noted the Future Educator Honor Roll event, which will take place on May 3, 2022 at the Louisiana Old State Capitol, honoring selected students from all education programs across the state.
- He acknowledged student member Cameron Jackson's impending graduation and he, along with Commissioner Reed presented Regent Jackson with his Regents graduation stole. Chair Temple asked Regent Jackson to share his update.
 - He mentioned receiving his certificate from the Governor's COVID taskforce and expressed gratitude for moving into this post-pandemic phase where students are able to enjoy a normal college experience again.
 - He noted the COSBP meeting was held on April 1st and 2nd, noting that the Council discussed leadership while he was in Oklahoma giving a talk on leadership as well. He noted the importance of leaving a legacy and expressed gratitude and thankfulness for his fellow Regents members and the opportunity to work alongside them.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Temple 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 May, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the April 27, 2022 Committee meetings.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

INTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Laura Soileau and Mrs. Kristin Bourque from Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N) presented an update to the Audit Committee on the progress of contract year 4. Mrs. Bourque explained the Competitive Contracts & Endowments, Information Technology Follow-up, and the LUMCON Accounting Processes audits have been completed in contract year 4 and an audit of Louisiana GO Grants has begun.

Mrs. Bourque presented the results of the LUMCON Accounting Processes Audit, which focused on evaluating accounting processes and procedures at the LUMCON program. Two moderate- and one low-risk observations were identified. Mrs. Bourque summarized the conditions, causes, and management action plans related to the two moderate-risk observations.

Regent Solomon asked P&N whether the risks in this report are identified for all Board of Regents programs. Mrs. Laura Soileau and Mrs. Kristin Bourque responded that while this work and report related only to LUMCON, management's response included all Board of Regents programs. Dr. Kim Hunter Reed explained that all Board of Regents programs will address the risks in the report and that staff will develop monitoring for all programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Elizabeth Bourgeois, Assistant Commissioner for Audit Compliance, updated the Committee on contracting an independent accounting firm to conduct a full Quality Assessment Review. The Quality Assessment Review should be completed by June 30, 2022 and a report will likely be presented to the Audit Committee at its August meeting.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Erin Cowser, Assistant Commissioner for Legislative and External Affairs, presented the Committee with a report of legislative instruments of interest involving the Board of Regents and Higher Education. She reported that, with the halfway point of the Session nearing, Regents' priority bills are already halfway through the legislative process. This means that all five of these bills, including SB 261, HB 333, HB 310, SB 297, and SB 178, have passed successfully out of the committees and chambers of their origin.

Ms. Cowser also shared information on a handful of bills that are of importance to higher education but are not among Regents' legislative priorities package, including:

- HB 546, submitted by Rep. Mincey, addresses the Praxis exam for students entering education programs.
- HB 231, submitted by Rep. Brass, requires institutions to provide reverse transfer to students.
- SB 434, submitted by Chair Fields (among additional bills), focuses on return-to-work for retired K-12 teachers and postsecondary nursing faculty. Two additional bills by Rep. Edmonson and Rep. McFarland have also passed out of committee, but only SB 434 has passed out of committee and off the floor at this point.
- SB 131, submitted by Sen. Mizell, requires campuses and systems to create policies on appropriate use of devices owned by the state of Louisiana.

Regent Ewing asked if any of the retirement bills were specific to teachers of STEM. Ms. Cowser answered Regent Ewing's question that SB 434 includes language specific to certified math and science teachers. Regent Ewing asked if any of the retirement bills specifically referenced dual enrollment teachers. Ms. Cowser said she did not believe that to be the case.

Commissioner Reed agreed with Ms. Cowser that no testimony to date involved dual enrollment teachers specifically.

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS UPDATE

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, provided an overview of the executive budget recommendation and broke down the changes to HB 1 that include a \$136.5 million increase in the total proposed state funds. Mr. LaBruyere also included updates regarding HB 406 (Funds Bill) and HB 592 (Supplemental Bill).

CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning & Emergency Management, provided an update on HB 2 that includes 80 higher education projects across all four systems and totals \$287 million in FY 2023 funding (\$913 million for future years). He noted that, within this bill, \$50 million had been allocated to BoR for deferred maintenance to date and that funding was also included for LUMCON's Pelican replacement and UL Lafayette's acquisition of the Lady of Lourdes property.

Chair Temple asked Mr. Herring what estimated percentage of deferred maintenance has been addressed with this one-time money. Mr. Herring responded a nominal percentage. He discussed previous year's allocation for deferred maintenance, and noted that he believes it is not keeping up with the rate of decline.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of Staff Approvals, along with four proposals for new academic programs.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented.

A. Routine Staff Approvals

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Approve the four program proposals as presented.

- A. AAS Construction Science – River Parishes CC**
- B. MAT Elementary Education Special Education Mild/Moderate, Grades 1-5 - SUNO**
- C. MAT Secondary Education Special Education Mild/Moderate, Grades 6-12 - SUNO**
- D. MS Computer Networking and Administration – Southeastern Louisiana U**

Regent Ewing asked whether research was available on the demand for special education teachers and what was learned regarding the number of applicants expected in the program. Dr. Denley replied that he did not have exact numbers to share, but that this is the type of teacher role that is needed across the state. Regent Ewing also asked if there are instructors in place to present the program. Dr. Denley responded that as the program builds instructors will be added. Dr. Susannah Craig also commented that, in Louisiana, math, science, and special education are the areas in greatest need of teachers.

Regent Solomon asked about the process of the approval of the Master of Arts in Teaching programs, since the Board had approved the program in April 2021, but BESE then put the approval on hold. He questioned what changes were made to the program between the initial approval and now. Dr. Craig responded that education programs go through a dual review by the Board of Regents and Louisiana Department of Education. She advised that when the programs were reviewed, there were additional questions and SUNO had to meet the requirements for

certification. As BESE only approves programs in June and October, this additional step meant approval had to wait until the next approval window.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Denley provided an informational update to the Board on the implementation of changes to the academic program proposal process as well as of academic planning. He reminded the Board that the policy changes were approved in October 2021.

Dr. Denley informed the Board that this work has been a collaboration with the academic leadership of the four college systems. The new process engages the program designer with all the aspects needed to create a successful new program. He advised that in terms of need, it is important to look at elements such as the purpose of the new program, careers to which the program lead, and the outlooks for those careers. When looking at curriculum, planners should consider whether there are occupation specific skills, abilities and knowledge connected with the careers, how the curriculum will provide career ready competencies, and how the program will incorporate work-based learning. In addition, questions regarding the student pipeline should be asked: whether there are existing programs; if so, what capacity they already fill; how the institution will attract students, and the anticipated size of the program. Institutional resources, such as faculty, space and equipment, also need to be reviewed when designing a new program. Dr. Denley advised that when new programs are being developed, the Master Plan priorities should be kept in mind: accessibility, affordability, partnerships, and equity and student success.

Dr. Denley then informed the Board that the new program proposal process will provide a fuller picture from both the institution's and state's perspectives. As part of the process, each institution will annually propose a three-year academic plan, which will be reviewed by its management board then submitted for Board of Regents approval. This will be synced with the process of budget proposals, to help campuses prepare for the financial and ongoing obligations

of a program. He also advised that, in terms of a timeline, the Board will be presented the first set of institutional plans during the September Board meeting.

Regent Ewing asked whether program requests will continue to be presented in the same way as before. Dr. Denley responded that presentations would be similar but will present a much fuller picture in terms of needs and resources. Regent Ewing followed up that knowing the demand and providing a fiscal note are always helpful. He asked if Board members would be able to get that information with this new process. Dr. Denley responded that the information would be available and as staff move forward with the new materials for degree proposals, they will work with Board members to ensure the materials provide the information that is needed.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND LOUISIANA CYBERSECURITY TALENT INITIATIVE FUND

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, introduced Mr. Greg Trahan, Chair of the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC), to present information on distribution of the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund. Mr. Trahan reviewed the background of both CEMC and the Fund, then outlined the process and timeline for distributing funds available in FY 2021-22.

Board members asked several questions related to the number of cybersecurity programs across the state, the availability of these programs via online delivery modes, the demand for training and in the workforce, and anticipated faculty shortages. Mr. Trahan responded to questions, indicating that demand for this training is among the highest in the country and that faculty shortages are and will continue to be a major challenge. Mr. Trahan indicated that campuses

should be encouraged to develop cybersecurity programs and adopt hiring practices to broaden the pool of potential faculty.

Approve the funding to be provided from the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund for applications selected by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) during its May 5 meeting, with a report to be provided to the Board in June on applications selected for funding.

FY 2021-22 BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Robison 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 2021-22. She noted that while the Revenue Estimating Conference will not meet until May, reductions in funds available for awards are not anticipated. She then specified the following nine (9) recommendations for FY 2021-22 across all BoRSF subprograms, in accordance with the funding level recommended, including the reserve amount. By these recommendations, the Board was asked to authorize 199 awards, with contingencies, as follows:

V. Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars

Board action completes the endowments for proposals ranked 1-5 in the Consultants' Report (i.e., proposals 007EC, 005EC, 008EC, 001EC, and 003EC) with \$2,000,000 in FY 2021-22 funds.

V. Enhancement of the Quality of Academic, Research, and Agricultural Departments and Units

Board action approves the following:

- Departmental Enhancement: the \$3,129,917 available and recommended for expenditure shall be awarded in the rank order, at the funding levels, and with the funding stipulations recommended by consultants:

Comprehensive-Multiyear: Ranks 1-3

Targeted-One Year: Ranks 1-18

- BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative: A total of \$150,000 in FY 2022-23 funds is provided from the Support Fund for five (5) proposals, ranked 1-5, for the durations and at the levels recommended.
- Endowed Professorships: A total of \$1,980,000 from the Support Fund is approved to match new and prior-year requests at twenty (20) campuses.
- Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships: A total of \$790,000 from the Support Fund is approved to match thirty (30) applications submitted.

V. Targeted Research & Development

Board action approves disbursement of \$2,318,077 estimated to be available in FY 2021-22 to fund the first year of new RCS, ITRS, PoC/P, and ATLAS projects as follows:

1. Research Competitiveness Subprogram: \$1,322,183
2. Industrial Ties Research Subprogram: \$600,340
 - A. Industrial Ties: \$480,342
 - B. Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative: \$119,998
3. Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars: \$395,554

Approved R&D proposals shall be funded at the levels and with the stipulations recommended by consultants; Support Fund money shall be awarded to fund at recommended levels the top thirty (30) RCS proposals, six (6) ITRS proposals, three (3) PoC/P proposals, and

nine (9) ATLAS proposals. In addition, the following principles shall apply: (1) should an institution refuse or be denied an award, or should FY 2021-22 money be returned from previously funded R&D contracts, that money shall be offered to the next-ranked proposal which the consultants recommended for Priority I funding within the respective subprogram (ranks 31-35 in RCS and ranks 10-12 in ATLAS), subject to availability of funds; (2) if the remaining money in the budget for a particular component is insufficient to fully fund the next-ranked recommended proposal for that component, the remaining funds shall constitute the total award for that proposal; and (3) if there are no remaining Priority I proposals in a particular subprogram the money shall be awarded in descending rank order to Priority I proposal(s) in another R&D subprogram in accordance with restrictions applicable to allocation of funds for multi-year projects. Should the amount of money ultimately available to fund first-year activities in all R&D projects be less than the \$2,318,077 disbursed herein, adherence to the following principles shall be uniformly enforced: R&D Priority I proposals shall be funded in rank order at the levels and the durations and with the stipulations recommended by consultants until the funds designated for each component have been exhausted.

IV. Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students

Board action approves disbursement of \$1,000,000 from the Support Fund to match fourteen (14) applications, ranked 1-13, submitted in FY 2021-22 under the Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships subprogram.

V. Contingency Plan for Budgetary Shortfall

Board action approved the following contingency plan for a budgetary shortfall: should the final FY 2021-22 Support Fund budget not achieve the amount cited herein, any shortfall shall be

accommodated through a proportionate reduction in the amounts allocated for proposals in the competitive program components.

Regent Ewing asked whether staff had considered using one-time monies to fund additional projects submitted to the Support Fund, to improve success rates and increase the number of projects supported. Ms. Robison responded that these discussions had not taken place due to structural issues in supporting additional projects within Support Fund constraints and within the timeline. Regent Solomon asked whether staff had considered collecting data to measure long-term impacts and return on Support Fund investments. Ms. Robison indicated that staff had numerous metrics to study this issue through contract reporting, though no way to capture the longer-term impacts of funded projects. She indicated that some success measures could be developed and brought to the Board during an upcoming meeting.

Approve the FY 2021-22 BoRSF funding recommendations, with contingencies, as presented.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF ELIGIBILITY LIST OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS APPROVED FOR TOPS TECH DURING ACADEMIC YEARS 2022-23 AND 2023-24

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success, provided context for the annual development of the list of programs approved for TOPS Tech eligibility, including the statutory parameters and partners included in the decision-making process. He noted that the Louisiana Collaborative Partners approved the proposed TOPS Tech Eligibility List: Academic Programs that are Vocation/Workforce-Focused for Academic Years 2022-23 and 2023-24 at its April 5, 2022, meeting. The partners voted to advance the current TOPS Tech Eligibility List with the addition of the attached high-demand non-credit programs that have

met the M. J. Foster Promise program criteria. This list has also been approved by the Workforce Investment Council.

Regent Ewing asked a series of questions related to Regents' authority to add non-credit programs, the definition of short-term training programs, the advisability of the one-year approval of non-credit programs and \$1,000,000 initial allocation, other resources available to these students to pursue non-credit training, and the student qualifications needed to receive TOPS Tech support. Dr. Denley cited the appropriate legislation granting the Board approval to take the action and noted a range of clock-hour instruction times needed to qualify a program as short-term training. Dr. Denley also affirmed the qualifications needed to receive TOPS Tech support, reiterating that the qualifications do not change by the proposed action. Regent Ewing affirmed that a one year approval was best in order to measure the impact of these additional programs.

Approve the revised TOPS Tech eligible academic program list for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years and approve for one year the inclusion of the high-demand non-credit programs that have met the M. J. Foster Promise program criteria, not to exceed \$1 million. Further, the Committee recommended authorization of Regents staff to transmit the BoR-approved program lists to the WIC and LOSFA in accordance with the law.

OTHER BUSINESS: GOOD JOBS CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION

Ms. Susana Schowen, Louisiana Economic Development, provided the Board with an update on Louisiana's application for federal funding through the Good Jobs Challenge, an American Recovery Act program managed by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. She summarized the proposal submission's central approach taken and noted the timeline for announcement of awards. Committee members asked several questions about the structure and function of the proposed project, as well as the roles of partnering entities and regional participants. In response, Ms. Schowen discussed the proposal and the roles of all parties in greater detail. The item was for information only, and no action was required.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, 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. California Southern University

2. Renewal Application

a. Alliant International University

b. Johns Hopkins University

c. The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

2021 HEALTH WORKS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Mellynn Baker, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, along with Dr. Bronwyn Doyle, Chair of the Nursing Supply and Demand Council (NSDC), and Dr. Alí Bustamante, Impact Econ Research, presented the 2021 Health Works Commission Report.

Ms. Baker began by providing an overview of the Health Works Commission and an outline of its work done to date. She then outlined the structure of the 2021 Health Works Commission Annual Report and introduced Dr. Doyle to provide a summary of the 2021 Nursing Supply and Demand Council Annual Report.

After Dr. Doyle provided an overview of this report, Ms. Baker introduced Dr. Bustamante, who provided a brief overview of the healthcare workforce landscape report included in this year's report. After Dr. Bustamante's presentation, Ms. Baker outlined the next steps moving forward as identified in this report.

Regent Sterling noted that private institutions that produce nurses were not included in the research study and asked if this was due to data integrity. Dr. Bustamante responded that post-completion data are only available for public institutions due to the data agreements with the Louisiana Workforce Commission and the U.S. Census. Regent Sterling noted that the report states that Louisiana needs to produce an additional 600 registered nurses annually in order to meet the labor supply demand by 2030. Dr. Bustamante agreed, stating that it is a foreseeable shortage of about 618 registered nurses per year and highlighted the key component of addressing nurse retention. Regent Sterling called attention to the list of recommendations in the Health Works Commission report, emphasizing the need to reinvest in the nursing profession and noting that Louisiana is utilizing all the strategies identified to address the nursing shortage. She noted that the Northwestern State University's academic-practice partnership is a best practice, utilizing faculty partnerships with providers, which contributes to the program's diversity and student retention. She applauded the work done in the Shreveport-Bossier area with NSU and stated that she hopes to utilize this model in New Orleans. Regent Pryor referenced the question he raised several years ago to Dr. Karen Denby asking if NSU's nursing school size was sufficient for Shreveport's nursing needs and noted that Dr. Denby had responded that it was not. Regent Pryor asked if the need for nurses in the Shreveport area had been included in the study. Dr. Bustamante stated that all areas of need in the state, including for Shreveport nursing and allied health, were considered and the process targeted strategies needed to retain talent in that area. Regent Sterling noted that the loss of healthcare professionals along the I-20 corridor may also come from these students moving to Texas after graduation, which poses a special challenge. Regent Sterling applauded the work of the Health Works Commission and the report submitted.

Receive the 2021 Health Works Commission Report and authorize Regents staff to submit this report on behalf of the Board to the House and Senate Committees on Health and Welfare.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Commissioner Reed provided the following information:

- The Administrative Assistants of the Board of Regents were honored at the Board meeting and would attend a breakfast with Commissioner Reed to celebrate their work on April 29th.
- Emily Skaikay, Executive Assistant, was acknowledged for her work and the recent birth of her son was celebrated by Regents members and staff.
- The Louisiana Higher Education Cybersecurity Webinar was held on Monday, April 25 to discuss cyber hygiene, prevention of cyber attacks and who to contact if an attack occurs. There were 125 individuals present at the 1.5 hour training and additional training will occur with IT directors over the summer.
- Outreach has continued to occur with the opportunity to visit Louisiana Christian University as well as to join the Bossier Parish Youth Advisory Council during Bossier Day at the Capitol. Northshore Technical Community College held a sunrise breakfast, where they awarded scholarships to over 30 students and brought together scholarship donors with their recipients.

OTHER BUSINESS

Regent Sterling congratulated Commissioner Reed on her impending honor by the Baton Rouge Business Report as one of its Influential Women of the Year on May 10th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent May, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

NAME	AFFILIATION
Wendi Palermo	LCTCS
Susie Schowen	LED
Robert Rene	SU System
Jeannine Kahn	UL System
Daniel Roberts	Northshore TCC
Ryan Landry	LSU
Matt Lee	LSU
Anna Bartel	LSU
Jackie Bach	LSU
Ahnyel Burkes	LSNA/Nursing Supply and Demand
John Burris	SLU
Kazim Sekeroglu	SLU
Ali Bustamante	Impact Econ Research
Jason Wolfe	LSU