

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

April 24, 2024

The Board of Regents met at 11:07 a.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, in the Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100, Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Gary Solomon, Jr. called the meeting to order.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Member to Serve on the Executive Committee

Ms. Brianna Golden, Policy Advisor for Strategic Planning and Student Success, swore in Regent Phillip May as a member of the 2024 Executive Committee.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:

Gary Solomon, Jr., Chair
T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair
Darren Mire, Secretary
David Aubrey
Misti Cordell
Christian Creed
Blake David
Stephanie Finley
Samuel Gil, Student Member
Phillip May, Jr.
Wilbert Pryor
Terrie Sterling
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present were:

Mary Werner, LSU System*
Stephen Smith, LCTC System*
Dr. Leon Tarver, SU System*

Absent from the meeting were:

Robert Levy
Collis Temple III
Felix Weill

Appendix A:

Guest List

* Present for Committees, absent for BoR Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2024 MEETING

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Seale, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2024 meeting.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Solomon made the following comments:

- He noted that April is a busy month for high education, with LAICU, SU, UL, LCTCS and LSU celebrating days at the Capitol. During these days, the featured system or institution has an opportunity to showcase accomplishments. Chair Solomon noted that this day, April 24, is LSU day at the Capitol and that Regents have been invited to participate in the activities.
- He recognized that Regent Samuel Gil, student member, will be graduating from McNeese in May. Commissioner Reed presented a stole for Regent Gil to wear at graduation as well as a gift to commemorate his time on the Board. Regent Gil thanked the Regents and the staff for the opportunities he had while serving on the Board of Regents. He announced that he will be continuing his postsecondary education at the University of Texas at Austin, pursuing a Master's in Public Affairs. His goal is eventually to pursue a Juris Doctorate or PhD in Higher Education Policy.
- He noted that, as a follow-up to the letter that Regents received from Governor Landry concerning national anthem policies, he contacted chairs of each postsecondary system board since the Board of Regents does not set athletic policies. Each chair indicated that they would be undertaking a review of policies and that more information will be provided as it becomes available.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INITIATIVES UPDATE

Chair Solomon stated that during the March meeting Regent Seale asked for a presentation on the state of artificial intelligence in higher education. Since that meeting, Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, has been named as a Louisiana representative on the SREB-AI Taskforce. Dr. Denley and Regent Seale attended the LSU-hosted John Breaux Symposium on AI in Mass Communication on April 16.

Dr. Denley then provided the first artificial intelligence initiatives update, presenting a summary of reports from the four higher education systems on the use of generative AI on their campuses. His summary included mention of using AI to provide customer service and to carry out some tasks (e.g., creating letter drafts, summarizing articles, conducting literature reviews, and creating quiz questions). He stated that each system is exploring ethical issues around AI and added that AI and machine learning techniques are being incorporated into existing computer science courses, as an instructional tool in other areas, and in research. LSU A&M is part of the “Teaching with AI” collaborative in the SEC. In addition to attending the Breaux Symposium, Dr. Denley attended the Annual Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities, whose keynote speaker, Ben Armstrong from MIT, reviewed current uses of AI in colleges and universities. The conference raised various practical and philosophical questions about the place of AI in our society.

Chair Solomon asked Regent Seale to share thoughts about his investigation of AI and its place in higher education. Regent Seale noted that a speaker at one of the conferences he attended spoke about AI having the capacity to triple the GDP of countries using it but also to triple the number of unemployed workers. He added that such staggering consequences will require the Board to account for providing opportunities to include AI in higher education. Regent Seale further suggested that the Board form a special committee chaired by Dr. Denley, which will report at each Board meeting. Chair Solomon asked Commissioner Reed to facilitate the establishment of the committee.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Dr. William Wainwright, President of Southeastern University, recognized the work of Dr. John Crain, his predecessor, in leading Southeastern Louisiana University as it emerged from the pandemic. He credited strategic enrollment management planning for three continuous semesters of enrollment increases. Southeastern's engagement at the Meauxmentum Summit led to a quality enhancement plan for the university.

Dr. Wainwright introduced Dr. Mary Ballard, Director of the Center for Faculty Excellence at Southeastern, and Dr. Tena Golding, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Golding detailed how the Meauxmentum Summit helped shape plans for improving enrollment at Southeastern. She presented examples of how Southeastern's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (QEP) aligns with the Meauxmentum framework, particularly the Pathways thread related to transfer students.

Dr. Golding introduced Dr. Ballard, chair of the QEP, who provided a timeline of milestones in the development of this program. This was followed by a deep dive into the literature about what transfer students need to be successful, QEP established goals, desired outcomes, and strategies.

Regent Seale noted Southeastern has had tremendous success in recruiting students with Latin American backgrounds and he asked Dr. Wainwright to speak to the involvement of Dr. Aristides Baraya in this success. Dr. Wainwright mentioned that Dr. Baraya, a professor in the College of Business, and Dr. Tará Lopez, Dean of the College of Business, have established a partnership with universities in Panama and other areas of Central America. In addition to programs on campus, Dr. Baraya is leading the way with outreach to Hispanic students in the communities surrounding the university.

Chair Solomon asked Dr. Wainwright about buy-in on campus for the transfer student programs. Dr. Wainwright credited his experience leading Northshore Technical Community College in helping him get to know the Southeastern faculty even before the appointment to his current position. He praised the faculty for their commitment to reaching out to more transfer students.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Solomon 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.

On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the April 24, 2024 Committee meetings.

LEGISLATIVE

LEGISLATIVE STUDY REPORTS UPDATE

a. 2023 Health Works Commission Annual Report

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, began the presentation by providing an overview of the Health Works Commission (HWC) and summarizing the two subgroups that live within this Commission: the Nursing Supply and Demand Council and the Simulation Medical Training and Education Council of Louisiana. She also provided an overview of the data from the Nursing Supply and Demand report, which forms a part of the 2023 HWC Annual Report. The data included snapshots of the current landscape of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), and Nurse Aides (NA).

Dr. Craig outlined the action items within the 2023 HWC recommendations and the authority to complete those action items. She also provided an overview on the status of House Bill 329, which would move the Healthcare Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). She noted that BoR would maintain oversight of the Health Works Commission, the Nursing Supply and Demand Council, and the Simulation Council.

Regent Sterling stated the importance of adding transparency related to the HWC recommendation for matching denied nursing students to institutions with vacancies. She also noted the need to find a way to address nursing faculty salaries. Regent Creed made several inquiries about the stipend program. Dr. Craig responded that she would follow up with additional information. Regent Sterling asked about the rationale behind moving the H.E.R.O. Fund to LDH. Commissioner Reed provided her general understanding of the bill but indicated that she had not directly talked to the bill's author on this matter.

During the Academic and Student Affairs committee meeting, Regent Pryor asked to return to the HWC Report to ask a question about a Regional Healthcare Innovation Partnership Program that was listed in the report. He inquired as to why LSU Health Shreveport and Ochsner Lafayette General would be working together though they are not geographically near each other. Dr. Craig responded that LSU Health Shreveport is working collaboratively with Ochsner Lafayette General because the Lafayette area does not have an existing Doctor of Physical Therapy program. She stated that she would follow up with specific information related to this program. Regent Sterling noted that this addresses previous Board discussion on collaborating across institutions. Supervisor Werner stated that Ochsner Lafayette has been a tremendous partner with LSU Eunice in its allied health and nursing programs.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Ms. Brianna Golden, Policy Advisor for Strategic Planning and Student Success, provided an overview of the 2024 Legislative Priorities and other legislative items.

2024 BoR Legislative Priorities

- **Tuition and Fee Authority – HB 862, Rep. Hughes:** Provides public postsecondary management boards limited authority to establish tuition and mandatory fees.
- **Master Agreements – HB 884, Rep. Hughes:** Authorizes public postsecondary management boards to enter into master agreements for consulting services and social services on behalf of their institutions.
- **Deferred Maintenance – HB 940, Rep. Turner:** Authorizes the issuance of bonds to finance deferred maintenance projects included in the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program.
- **Workforce Solutions – SB 293, Sen. Edmonds:** Authorizes the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) to coordinate the delivery of business workforce solutions in coordination with the various workforce and educational agencies of the state.
- **Career and Technical Education – SB 352, Sen. Mizell/HB 551, Rep. Brass:** Directs the Dual Enrollment Task Force to recommend options for expanding career and technical education and virtual instruction programs to increase the participation of dual enrollment course offerings in school districts across the state and expands Task Force membership.
- **Professional Service Contracts – HB 410, Rep. Brass:** Increases the threshold for postsecondary institutions and consortiums submitting projects to one of the three professional services selection boards (architect, engineering, and landscape) from \$500,000 to \$1M to mirror the authority granted to institutions and consortiums to manage projects with a budget of up to \$1M or less.
- **Power-Based Violence – SB 353, Sen. Barrow:** Revises current power-based violence laws to shift reporting dates for campus training.

FINANCE

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS UPDATE

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, began his presentation by stating that at this time, House Bills 1 (General Appropriations Bill) and 782 (Supplemental Appropriations Bill) passed favorably out of House Appropriations Committee on April 23rd and were scheduled for House Floor discussion and passage on Thursday, April 25th. Mr. LaBruyere explained that HB1 is the legislative adoption of the Governor's Executive Budget, which appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 2024–2025 and that HB782, the supplemental appropriations bill, appropriates additional funds for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2023–2024. Mr. LaBruyere indicated that the information presented on House Bills 1 (General Appropriations Bill) and 782 (Supplemental Appropriations Bill) required no action.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chair Mire asked if there was any other business to come before the committee and Mr. LaBruyere mentioned a few items of interest. First, he noted that the University of Louisiana System provided a response letter, included in the Board packet, to a previous Board of Regents' request. Second, Mr. LaBruyere provided an update of the work that Regents staff and the system chief financial officers are doing to improve the financial health reports with quarterly reports and revenue projections based on enrollment. Finally, Mr. LaBruyere informed the committee that he and Commissioner Reed testified at the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget meeting on Friday, April 19th regarding the expected FY26 revenue shortfall and how that could impact higher education.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, reported on the Consent Agenda Report containing the small capital projects approved by staff since the previous meeting:

A. Small Capital Projects

1. **LSU-A: Circle Driveway Arrival Plaza, Alexandria, LA** – Louisiana State University - Alexandria, Auxiliary Revenues \$201,250
2. **LSU A&M: Hatcher Hall Ramp Enclosure, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$230,000
3. **LSU A&M: University Laboratory School Elementary Air Handler Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$200,000
4. **LSU HSCNO: Medical Education Building First Floor Environmental Health and Safety Suite Relocation, New Orleans, LA** – Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans, Operational Funds \$350,000
5. **LSU HSCS: Executive Suite Renovations, Shreveport, LA** – Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - Shreveport, Operational Funds \$240,000
6. **LSU-S: Baseball Outfield Regrading, Shreveport, LA** – Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Auxiliary Revenues \$180,888

B. Third-Party Projects

1. **La Tech: Aspire Plaza Improvements, Ruston, LA** – Louisiana Tech University, Private Donations \$125,000
2. **ULM: Softball Complex Improvements, Monroe, LA** – University of Louisiana at Monroe, Ouachita Parish Policy Jury Grant \$237,950

Approved the items on the Consent Agenda, including the small capital and third-party projects reports.

IV. Third-Party Project – Louisiana Tech University New Parking Facility

The ULS submitted a third-party project, on behalf of Louisiana Tech, for the purpose of constructing a new parking facility on campus. Louisiana Tech will enter into grounds and facilities leases with Innovative Student Facilities, Inc., a private 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation whose purpose is to promote, assist, and benefit the institution and who will be responsible for the project. The new parking facility will be multi-level with approximately three hundred spaces located off the West Mississippi lot. Students voted in April of 2023 to pay a fee of \$20 per full-time student per quarter to fund the cost of the parking structure. **The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$10M.**

Louisiana Tech, through Innovative Student Facilities, Inc., intends to use proceeds of a loan from the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (LCDA) to the corporation to finance the project, represented through one or more series of revenue bonds. Annual debt service will be secured and payable from lease payments paid by the ULS, on behalf of Louisiana Tech, to Innovative Student Facilities, Inc. The lease will remain in place until the debt service has been satisfied. Upon termination of the lease, the site will revert to Louisiana Tech. The debt will be secured by the fee approved by students in April 2023.

Approved the third-party project submitted by the University of Louisiana System, on behalf of Louisiana Tech University, for the purpose of constructing a new parking facility.

V. Act 959 Project Budget Increases: Southern University and A&M College

The Southern University System submitted a request to increase the project budgets for three previously approved Act 959 projects at Southern University and A&M College (SUBR). Act 959 projects may exceed the amount approved by BoR by up to 20% without having to request approval of any subsequent increase. However, all three of the SUBR projects are seeking approval to exceed the 20% threshold. These projects were originally approved under the provisions of Act 959 during the August 24, 2022, BoR meeting. Specifically, the request involves the following projects:

- Global Innovation and Welcome Center – Current approved budget \$5M; requested increase of \$3.4M for a total budget of \$8.4M
- Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheatre – Current approved budget \$2M; requested increase of \$500,000 for a total budget of \$2.5M
- Public Safety Building – Current approved budget \$2M; requested increase of \$695,000 for a total budget of \$2.695M

The Public Safety building and Global Innovation and Welcome Center projects have publicly bid, and all bids exceeded the funds available for construction. The Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheatre project is scheduled to bid on April 24, 2024. All three projects are funded with a combination of federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) and Title III monies allocated to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Projects using Title III funding must comply with the provisions of the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA). The additional costs of complying with the BABAA as well as continued supply chain issues and escalating construction costs have contributed to the unexpected increase in construction estimates.

Approved the Act 959 project budget increases submitted by the Southern University System, on behalf of Southern University and A&M College, for the Global Innovation and Welcome Center, Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheatre, and Public Safety building projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Herring provided the Board with an update on progress of the capital outlay bill (House Bill 2) since the March 2024 meeting. He informed members that the bill passed in the House and now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

Regent Pryor inquired as to the status of the Grambling State University Library project. Mr. Herring informed him that the east, west, and south sides of the facility were complete, and the goal is to have the north side of the building complete in the fall of 2024.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Tristan Denley presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine items including Staff approvals.

Approved the items on the Consent Agenda.

a. Routine Staff Approvals

- 1. Louisiana Tech: Request to change the designation of the doctoral program in business from DBA to PhD to better reflect the program's curriculum and purpose.**
- 2. McNeese: Request to change the name of the Department of Radiologic and Medical Laboratory Sciences to the Department of Health Professions to more accurately represent the degree programs offered within the department.**

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley then presented for approval the Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis and the Master of Science in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling at Louisiana State University Shreveport, the Master of Science in Interior Design at Louisiana State University and

A&M College, the Master of Social Work in Social Work at Northwestern State University, the Master of Social Work in Social Work at Southeastern Louisiana University, and the Doctor of Engineering and Technology Management in Engineering Technology Management at Louisiana Tech University.

Regent Aubrey expressed concern that duplicative programs within systems, particularly the programs in Social Work, are being added. He suggested strongly that Regents staff encourage institutions to collaborate on academic programs to ensure that they are sustainable, particularly at times of budgetary stress.

Conditionally approved the proposed Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814) at Louisiana State University Shreveport with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

Conditionally approved the proposed MS in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CIP 51.2310) at Louisiana State University Shreveport with a progress report due in October 1, 2025.

Conditionally approved the proposed Master of Science in Interior Design (CIP 04.0501) at Louisiana State University A&M, with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

Conditionally approved the proposed Master of Social Work (CIP 44.0701) at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

Conditionally approved the proposed Master of Social Work (CIP 44.0701) at Southeastern Louisiana University, with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

Conditionally approved the proposed Doctor of Engineering and Technology Management (CIP 15.1501) at Louisiana Tech University, with a progress report due October 1, 2025.

PROPOSED TOPS TECH ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR ACADEMIC YEARS 2024–25, 2025–26, AND 2026–27

Dr. Denley presented the proposed list of academic programs eligible for the TOPS Tech award in academic years 2024–25, 2025–26, and 2026–27.

Approved the revised TOPS Tech Eligibility Program list, including the Universal Transfer Pathways for TOPS Tech for 2024-2027, which includes academic years 2024–25, 2025–26, and 2026–27, and authorize Regents’ staff to transmit the BOR-approved Program List to the WIC and LOSFA in accordance with the law.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND LOUISIANA CYBERSECURITY TALENT INITIATIVE FUND

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, presented information on the background of both CEMC and the CTIF, then outlined the process and timeline for distributing funds available in FY 2023–24. She informed the Committee that seven (7) applications had been selected through the process set forth in the Request for Applications and recommended for funding by the CEMC.

Approved the recommendation that funding be provided from the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund for the seven (7) applications selected by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) at its April 9th meeting.

FY 2023–24 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 2023–24. She noted that the current Revenue Estimating Conference projection is insufficient to fund all projects recommended, but that due to earnings significantly higher than revenue estimates in previous years, sufficient funds

are available in the Support Fund to accommodate the budget as approved. She then specified the following nine (9) recommendations for FY 2023–24 across all BoRSF subprograms, to be funded with earnings distributed during the fiscal year along with up to \$3,062,644 in unspent earnings from previous years. Unspent earnings will offset reductions in Departmental Enhancement. By these recommendations, the Board was asked to authorize 195 awards, with contingencies, as follows:

I. Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars

Board action completes the endowments for proposals ranked 1–6 in the Consultants’ Report (i.e., proposals 007EC, 002EC, 008EC, 001EC, 004EC, and 005EC).

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

Board action approves the following:

- A. Departmental Enhancement: Disbursement of the \$3,309,029 estimated to be available in Departmental Enhancement for FY 2023–24 to fund the first year of twenty-four (24) new proposals, ranked 1–24, at the funding levels, and with the funding stipulations recommended by consultants.
- B. BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative: Funding for five (5) proposals, ranked 1–5, submitted in the FY 2023–24 cycle to the BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative for the durations and at the levels recommended.
- C. Endowed Professorships: A total of \$1,980,000 from the Support Fund is approved to match new and prior-year requests at nineteen (19) campuses.
- D. Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships: A total of \$1,000,000 from the Support Fund is approved to match twenty-six (26) applications at the levels recommended.

III. Targeted Research & Development

Board action approves disbursement of \$2,486,668 estimated to be available in FY 2023–24 to fund the first year of new RCS, ITRS, PoC/P, and ATLAS projects as follows:

- A. Research Competitiveness Subprogram: \$1,349,933
- B. Industrial Ties Research Subprogram: \$736,735
 - 1. Industrial Ties: \$576,750
 - 2. Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative: \$159,985
- C. Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars: \$400,000

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-two (32) RCS proposals, six (6) ITRS proposals, four (4) PoC/P proposals, and ten (10) ATLAS proposals. Should the amount of money ultimately available to fund first-year activities in all R&D projects be less than the \$2,486,668 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 \$1,080,000 from the Support Fund to match twelve (12) applications, ranked 1–11, submitted in FY 2023–24 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 2023–24 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.

Approved the FY 2023–24 BoRSF funding recommendations, with contingencies, as presented.

BORSF MATCHING FOR STATEWIDE FEDERAL INITIATIVE: LOUISIANA BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH NETWORK

Ms. Robison presented information the Louisiana Biomedical Research Network, which has requested a cash match from the BoRSF for its renewal request to the National Institutes of

Health. She reviewed the structure and purpose of the LBRN as well as previous matching provided by the Support Fund, indicating that the project team had requested the same level of match (i.e., \$1,148,000) as provided to previous renewals.

Approved commitment a cash match of \$1,148,000 from previously unspent monies in the Board of Regents Support Fund for the Louisiana State University NIH Institutional Development Award (IDeA) continuation proposal entitled “Louisiana Biomedical Research Network”. The amount of cash match shall not exceed \$1,148,000 for the five-year duration of the award. Matching funds are to be provided only if NIH IDeA funding is received.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Final Rulemaking – Reinstates COVID-19 as an objective circumstance for which a student may request an exception.

Dr. Sujuan Boutté explained that at its September 30, 2023 meeting, the Board of Regents authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to reinstate COVID-19 as an objective circumstance for which a student may request an exception during the 2023–2024 academic year provided certain conditions are met. The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends that the Board of Regents authorize publication of the final rule.

B. TOPS Exceptions – TOPS provision that requires students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that eight requests for TOPS exceptions were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its April 17, 2024 meeting . Dr. Boutté explained that students who complete their undergraduate degree in less than eight semesters have remaining eligibility left that can be used toward a graduate or professional program. These students have

one year from the anniversary date of undergraduate graduation to enroll in a graduate or professional program. One of the students requesting an exception was unable to enroll in a graduate program by this deadline because the program had not yet received candidacy status. Without the exception, the student would be responsible for the TOPS amount at the university, and will owe the amount that the university credited them for TOPS. The LOSFA Advisory Board has recommended that the Board of Regents grant LOSFA the authority to approve TOPS exceptions for all students in this situation based on campus information. In addition, the LOSFA Advisory Board reports that the remaining students have presented facts and circumstances that justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance and the LOSFA Advisory Board recommends Board of Regents approval.

C. TOPS Home Study Exceptions – TOPS provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade.

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that one request for an exception to the deadline to begin a home study program was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its April 17, 2024 meeting. The student has presented facts and documentation that the student believes justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance, and the LOSFA Advisory Board recommends Board of Regents approval.

Approved the Consent Agenda items *in globo*, including the authority to approve TOPS exceptions for students who were unable to begin postgraduate studies on time due to the lack of candidacy status of the program until after the deadline had passed.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda, which included three renewal applications from licensure of academic degree-granting institutions as well as three initial applications, one change of ownership application, and seventeen renewal applications from the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission.

Approved the items listed under the Consent Agenda.

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

1. Renewal Applications

- a. Alliant International University**
- b. Rocky Vista University**
- c. The Chicago School**

B. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission

1. Initial Applications

- a. Royal Angels Anointed Hands – Greensburg, LA**
- b. Persistent Medical Education – Breaux Bridge, LA**
- c. Premier Diagnostic Institute – Metairie, LA**

2. Change of Ownership Application

- a. Phlebotomy Training Specialists – Baton Rouge, LA**

3. Renewal Applications

- a. Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting – License #2083**
- b. Beso Beauty, Metairie, LA – License #2264**
- c. Carter’s Career Center, Monroe, LA – License #2286**
- d. Coastal College - Hammond – License #791**
- e. Hospitality Opportunity & Service Training (HOST) Program, Baton Rouge, LA – License #2312**
- f. ITI Technical College, Baton Rouge, LA – License #2007**
- g. LifeShare Phlebotomy School, Shreveport, LA – License #2313**
- h. Louisiana Dental Assistant School, Zachary, LA – License #2073**
- i. Louisiana Dental Institute, Monroe, LA – License #2287**
- j. Moore Career College, Baton Rouge, LA – License #2298**
- k. Next Level Educational Services, LaPlace, LA – License #2331**

- l. Rosebud Training Academy, Baker, LA – License #2369**
- m. The H.E.A.R.T. Academy, Baton Rouge, LA – License #2348**
- n. Tulsa Welding School – Jacksonville Campus – License #2123**
- o. United Dental Institute - Baton Rouge – License #2328**
- p. United Dental Institute - Lafayette – License #2329**
- q. United Dental Institute - New Orleans – License #2330**

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed presented several items to the Board:

- She noted the work of the Board staff at the Capitol and the collective work of higher education across the state to champion the power of education and workforce development.
- She shared highlights of the LUMCON Open House in Cocodrie, Louisiana, which she attended with Dr. Chris Yandle. This was the first open house at LUMCON since 2019. Scientists, educators, and families came together to learn more about coastal and marine work in the state.
- She announced that seven items submitted to the Public Relations Association of Louisiana’s (PRAL) Red Stick Awards competition were chosen for recognition. Regents garnered awards for Best Publication, Best Newsletter, and Best Special Events, among others. Dr. Chris Yandle was named Communicator of the Year by this same group.
- She recognized Regents’ Administrative Professionals as part of Administrative Professionals Day.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Solomon conveyed a message from Regent Aubrey to Commissioner Reed, the Board, and the staff, thanking them for the many expressions of sympathy upon the passing of his mother. Chair Solomon asked if there was any other business and no items were brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Mire, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Appendix A
Board Meeting Guest List
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

NAME	AFFILIATION
Susan Campbell	NSU
Neeru Deep	NSU
Coleen Cicale	Southeastern
Katherine Wickstrom	LSU-Shreveport
Matt Kern	Jones Walker LLP
Lauren V. Tarver	Jones Walker LLP
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Sujuan Boutté	LOSFA/BoR
Jeannine O'Rourke	UL System
Brian Roberts	LUMCON/BoR
Helen Taylor	LSU-Shreveport
William Tulak	LCTCS
Robert Rene	SU System
Laura Barby Alello	ORB
Will Wainwright	Southeastern