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Date: February 21, 2008

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Regents Selection Committee to Recommend Dr. Sally Clausen as Next Higher Ed Commissioner

The Board of Regents' Commissioner of Higher Education Selection Committee today unanimously voted to recommend to the full Board that Dr. Sally Clausen, President of the University of Louisiana System, be extended an offer to become the next Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education. Clausen would succeed current commissioner Joseph Savoie, who will become president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette later this spring. Today's vote stipulates that Clausen meet with the full Board for an interview before the Regents vote on the committee recommendation at next week's board meeting in Lake Charles.

"Last December, the committee began deliberately and carefully to evaluate the pros and cons of conducting a national search, even to the point of seeking out a highly-respected national consultant, but everything we've looked at confirms that we already have one of the best candidates we could hope to find right here in our midst," said search committee chairman Roland Toups. "Based on the direct experience many on our board have had working closely with Dr. Clausen over the years, coupled with Dr. Clausen's stellar national reputation and strong recommendations by a range of national higher ed experts that she be considered, it became clear that there was no compelling reason to look beyond Sally Clausen. I am convinced that she gives us the best chance of maintaining the momentum Louisiana postsecondary education has developed over the past decade under Commissioner Savoie."

Toups added that Dr. Clausen would bring to the task proven experience in every aspect of the job, and that she was a near perfect match for the criteria set down in the qualifications document the committee had reviewed and considered. Among those criteria are a national reputation and recognition, the ability to deal effectively with management systems and the legislature, an understanding of and commitment to the role of the Board of Regents (including the Master Plan and the role, scope and mission of all systems and institutions), and the ability to work with the governor and legislature in advancing the state's overall efforts to improve education and foster economic development.