

Robert W. Levy
Chair

Mary Ellen Roy
Vice Chair

Charlotte A. Bollinger
Secretary

James E. Purcell
Commissioner of
Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS
P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.state.la.us

Scott Ballard
Robert J. Bruno
Maurice C. Durbin
Joseph P. Farr
William H. Fenstermaker
Chris D. Gorman
Donna G. Klein
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Albert D. Sam II
Victor T. Stelly
Harold M. Stokes
Joseph C. Wiley
John D. Mineo IV, Student

Date: January 3, 2012

Contact: Meg Casper
meg.casper@la.gov

Governance Commission Approves Final Report

BATON ROUGE, La – A final report was unanimously ratified today by the Governance Commission studying higher education in Louisiana. The report outlines twenty-one (21) recommendations which were researched, discussed and approved by the members during their regular meetings. The Governance Commission, established as a result of House Concurrent Resolution 184 of the 2011 Legislative Session, has been meeting monthly since August, 2011 and was charged with submitting recommendations to the Legislature no later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the next session. (January 12, 2012)

“This work should not stay on the shelf,” said Governance Commission Chairman Greg Davis. “We want these recommendations to be considered by the Legislature so that solid improvements can be made in our postsecondary education institutions. Many of the commission members have indicated they are willing to advocate for the complete implementation of this work and I think that will be a critical next step.”

“Illuminating higher education in a manner that allows a committed group of citizens to examine our policies, hear from national experts and compare our state’s efforts against those in other areas of the country has resulted in a robust set of recommendations,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell. “The culmination of this commission’s work represents another significant step on our road towards improvement and accountability, and I thank them for their contribution.”

Organized into four broad categories (budget, formula and efficiencies; articulation and transfer; tuition and financial aid; and governance) the key recommendations of the final report include:

- Clarifying the Board of Regents’ constitutional and statutory authority making it the entity accountable for higher education performance. (In lieu of creating a single governing board)
- Identifying the Board of Regents funding formula as both a sound recommendation tool and a required distribution model for systems and institutions.
- Returning tuition authority to higher education management boards through a tuition policy to be set by Regents, eliminating the need for a 2/3 vote of the Legislature.
- Decoupling TOPS from the actual cost of tuition.
- Repackaging need-based GO Grants to meet at least 55% of student need in order to expand participation.

-more-

PAGE 2-GOVERNANCE COMMISSION FINAL REPORT

- Developing a statewide fiscal “early warning” system to indicate when an institution is deteriorating financially.
- Aligning institutions to the appropriate management system legislatively based on recommended role, scope and mission statements developed by the Board of Regents.

“Moving forward, the Board of Regents will ask the Commissioner and his staff to develop an action plan prioritizing the recommendations that require Regents’ action,” said Board of Regents Chairman and Commission Member Bob Levy. “Much has been done to enhance higher education in the past decade, but much is left to do—some by Regents and some by our Legislature. This report is worthy of consideration and action, and I thank this commission for its dedication.”

The Executive Summary of the final report of the Governance Commission can be found at: <http://www.regents.doa.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/Administration/GovernanceCommissionFinalReportExecutiveSummary.pdf>. the full report will be posted once final edits are completed.

###