



Regents Recap

APRIL 25, 2012

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HIGHER EDUCATION BILLS ADVANCE

BATON ROUGE, La – Two bills aimed at clarifying the lines of authority and duties among the coordinating and governing boards for higher education in Louisiana advanced through the House Education Committee today. Both instruments were approved by a vote of 9-6.

HB 395 and 396 by Representative Thomas Carmody resulted from recommendation made by the Governance Commission on Higher Education in their final report. Governance Commission Chairman Greg Davis and commission member Barry Erwin presented the group's findings today to members of the House Education Committee. HB 396 is a constitutional amendment that outlines the specific duties and responsibilities for the Board of Regents and the four management boards. HB 395 requires the systems to allocate state funding to campuses based on the Regents' performance based funding formula with 5% flexibility provided to the management boards.

"We believe all 21 of the recommendations the Governance Commission made are important to the future of higher education," said Governance Commission Chairman Greg Davis during his presentation to the legislative committee. "Louisiana must educate and train its citizens in order to fight unemployment and poverty. The Commission has done the work it was asked to do by the Legislature last year and we now ask that the Legislature strongly consider our findings and advance our agenda," said Davis.

The Governance Commission was created as a result of HCR 184 of the 2011 Legislative Session. The commission was charged with submitting recommendations to the legislature on topics including governance, the performance-based funding formula, articulation and transfer, and tuition. The 18 member commission met for five months beginning in August, 2011 and submitted its final report in January, 2012.

"The Board of Regents needs to be able to drive policy and make some difficult decisions as our budgets continue to decline and these recommendations give us that authority," said Board of Regents Chairman Bob Levy. "Our board will be forced to make bold choices in the coming months and currently, our policies are only advisory. The Governance Commission deliberations confirmed the need for Regents' work to be more than advisory in order to meet the challenge of improving the educational attainment of our citizens."

"Regents is going to have to make things happen—and quickly," said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell. "The legislation considered today allows form to follow function which is why the Governance Commission has thrown its support behind these bills."

HB 395 and 396 are next scheduled to be heard on the House floor. The Governance Commission presents their final report again for the Legislature in Senate Education on Thursday.

Regents Highlights

The Board of Regents reauthorized the following previously approved research units:

- University of New Orleans-Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences
- Louisiana State University-Shreveport-International Lincoln Center for American Studies
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette-Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development

The Board of Regents approved the following Letter of Intent:

- Louisiana State University-Alexandria-B.S. in Medical Laboratory Science
- Southern University-B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette-M.S. in Systems Technology
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette-M.S. in Accounting
- Louisiana State University-Shreveport-Ed.D. in Learning and Leadership

The Board of Regents approved the following New Academic Programs:

- University of Louisiana at Lafayette-B.A. in Music
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette-Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation

The Board of Regents approved the following Administrative/Curricular Revision:

- Southern University and A&M College-Joint Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration

The Board of Regents approved the following requests to offer degree programs through distance learning:

- Grambling State University-Master of Science in Developmental Education, Doctor of Education in Developmental Education, and Master of Science in Criminal Justice
- McNeese State University-Bachelor of Science in Management, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Northwestern State University-Master of Arts in Student Affairs in Higher Education, and Master of Education in Educational Leadership
- Southern University and A&M College-Executive Masters of Public Administration
- University of New Orleans-Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies and Planning, Master of Science in Urban Studies, Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Master of Arts in History, Master of Arts in Romance Languages, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Master of Arts in Political Science, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Master of Arts in Public Administration, and Master of Arts in Sociology.

The Board of Regents approved the following initial licenses and license renewals:

- Stony Brook University
- Central Texas College
- Upper Iowa University
- Walden University

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UPCOMING REGENTS' MEETINGS

May 23-24 at Southern University

June 20-Joint BESE/Regents

June 27-28

No July Meeting

Regents' Highlights cont.....

The Board of Regents approved a classification for Student Self-Assessed Athletic Fees.

The Board of Regents approved a revision to the Master Plan reflecting its adoption of the Performance-Based Funding Formula.

The Board of Regents approved funding recommendations for proposals submitted under the BoR Support Fund Competitive and Matching Grant Programs, FY 2011-12.

The Board of Regents approved the following Small Capital Projects:

- University of Louisiana at Monroe-Intramural Sports Complex Bleacher Canopies (other funds)
- Northwestern State University-Shreveport Campus Parking Lot Addition (other funds)
- Northwestern State University-James A. Noe ROTC Armory HVAC Replacement, and St. Denis Hall HVAC Replacement and Boiler Addition (state funds)
- Louisiana State University and A&M College-Veterinary Medicine Exotics and Wildlife Clinic Renovations (state funds)
- Louisiana State University and A&M College-Veterinary Medicine Anatomy Lab Renovation (state funds)
- Louisiana State University and A&M College-Veterinary Medicine Air Handler Replacement (state funds)

The Board of Regents approved a lease for the Louisiana State University System for improvements to the LSU Laboratory School band and choir areas.