

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, March 23, 2005, at 10:40 a.m. in the Louisiana Purchase Room of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Chair Virgil Robinson, Jr., called the meeting to order. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Virgil Robinson, Jr., Chair
William Blake, Vice Chair
Scott Brame
Robert Levy
W. Clinton Raspberry, Jr.
Artis Terrell
James Roy, LSU
Winfred Sibille, UL System
Edwards Barham, LCTCS

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Roland Toups
Frances Henry
Harold M. Stokes
Stanley Jacobs
Pat Strong
Richard D' Aquin
Clifford Smith
Jeraul Mackey

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Jesse Bilberry, Jr., SU System

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

E. Joseph Savoie
Donald J. Vandal
Wendy Simoneaux
Louise Moore

GUESTS PRESENT

Appendix A

FY 2005-2006 EXECUTIVE BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Donald J. Vandal, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, began the meeting by explaining the state budgeting process. He mentioned that the process started in November 2004 and that the Governor was obligated to submit an executive budget 45 days before the start of the legislative session. Mr. Vandal stated that the Governor's Executive Budget that was presented at the March 11, 2005 Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget painted a better picture for Postsecondary Education than the initial discussions of the budget, which had included a 3.5% reduction. Mr. Vandal went on to state that even though this recommended budget addresses many of our concerns, we are still facing a shortage of \$38.1 million because of personnel related unfunded mandated costs (Appendix B).

Mr. Vandal reminded the Committee that in this fiscal year, the Governor asked all agencies to furnish a plan to save 1.75% of their discretionary general fund budgets. Mr. Vandal applauded the Governor in again keeping Postsecondary Education as a priority in the state of Louisiana. Mr. Vandal then asked Mrs. Wendy Simoneaux, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Administration, to lead the Committee through other items and adjustments recommended in the FY 2005-2006 Executive Budget.

Mrs. Simoneaux then presented the changes in general fund and statutory dedicated funds recommended in the FY 2005-2006 Governor's Executive Budget for Postsecondary Education (Appendix C).

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS (BA-7's)

Mr. Vandal then presented two companion BA-7's from the LSU Board of Supervisors whose purpose is to transfer the Center of Excellence for Clinical and Forensic Toxicology from the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport to the University of New Orleans.

On motion of Regent Blake, seconded by Regent Levy, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the LSU Board of Supervisors BA-7 # 11 and BA-7 # 12 relating to the Center of Excellence for Clinical and Forensic Toxicology.

REPORT FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

Mr. Vandal stated that the final 3% tuition increase authorized by Act 1117 of the 2001 Regular Legislative Session had been approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget at its March 18, 2005 meeting. Estimated gross revenue increase is reflected in (Appendix D).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.