



# Louisiana Board of Regents Press Release



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## **Task Force makes Recommendations to Improve Higher Education: *Findings in Response to HR 206***

**BATON ROUGE, La.** –Members of the Tuition Task Force met for their second meeting to discuss tuition related issues for Louisiana’s public institutions. The Tuition Task Force was created pursuant to House Resolution 206 of 2013 by Representative Ortego (HR 206), and consists of community leaders, higher education management board officials, K-12 representatives, public high school students, along with faculty, students, and Board of Regents representatives.

Commissioner Purcell began the meeting with an explanation of the Task Force’s charge under HR 206 and a recap of information covered during the first meeting held in October. Dr. Phillip Rozeman, Chair, Blueprint Louisiana, followed with a presentation on recent findings on tuition, financial aid, higher education funding. “We are in a new age of higher education. We must look at higher education as more of an investment and less of an expense,” said Rozeman. “Sufficient and predictable resources must be allocated, and tuition authority should move closer to the universities to ensure market based pricing.”

Following these presentations, the Task Force was divided into three groups to deliberate on tuition-related issues. Higher education policy experts in the State were invited to serve as facilitators to guide the discussion and answer questions. Each group designated a spokesperson to report their findings, which included:

**A. Access and affordability**

1. Raising TOPS Standards
2. The allocation of additional funding for GO Grant

**B. Fiscal stability and viability**

1. Future tuition increases must remain with the institutions
2. Establish stable revenue streams
3. Tuition authority for management boards

**C. Tuition strategies to promote student success and institutional performance**

1. Institute per credit hour tuition
2. Institute differential tuition for high cost programs, with institutional scholarships based on need

A final report from the Tuition Task Force will be submitted to the Legislature by January 9, 2014. For more information on the Tuition Task Force visit: <http://regents.louisiana.gov/public-affairs/news-media/presentations-and-resources/>.

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