

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

January 9, 2014

The Board of Regents met in session at 10:07 a.m., Thursday, January 9, 2014, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr. called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Carolyn Blanchard called the roll and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr., Chair
William Fenstermaker, Vice Chair
Albert Sam II, Secretary
Charlotte Bollinger
Raymond Brandt
Joel Dupré
Pamela Egan
Chris Gorman
Richard Lipsey
Edward Markle
Roy Martin III
Joseph Wiley

Absent from the meeting were:

Mark Abraham
Brooksie Bonvillian
Joseph Farr
Robert Levy

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Rasberry noted that no written requests were received for public comments and asked whether the audience had any comments at the time. There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2013

On motion of Regent Lipsey, seconded by Regent Bollinger, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of December 5, 2013.

INSTALLATION FOR 2014***Board Officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary)***

It was noted that the newly appointed officers for 2014 would be sworn in by Dr. Uma Subramanian, Deputy Commissioner for Legal and External Affairs. She administered the oaths of office to Regent W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr. as Chair, Regent William H. Fenstermaker as Vice Chair, and Regent Albert D. Sam II as Secretary.

Members to Serve on the Executive Committee

Chair Rasberry next requested that members of the Executive Committee be sworn in by Dr. Subramanian as follows: Regents Charlotte Bollinger, William Fenstermaker, Roy Martin III, Clinton Rasberry, Jr., Albert Sam II, and Joseph Wiley. Regent Mark Abraham was absent and will be sworn in at a later date.

Chair Rasberry said he counted it a privilege to work with all the other Board members who are dedicated public servants. He said his Chairmanship is an honor and a duty.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Attitudes on Innovation in Higher Education: How College Leaders and Faculty See the Key Issues Facing Higher Education." He explained that this was a survey targeting faculty and staff throughout the country by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. He said the survey asked questions regarding the value of higher education; innovations that hold the most promise; and the need to focus on changing the teaching and learning model instead of technology and cost cutting.

Regent Bollinger said she was concerned that workforce development and the business community were not mentioned in the survey as a driving force for change. Chair Rasberry said that he felt that some of the workforce issues in Louisiana are addressed.

BOARD OF REGENTS' RESPONSE TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16 OF
THE 2013 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

(Offering Community College Services in Livingston Parish)

Dr. Larry Tremblay, Deputy Commissioner for Planning, Research and Academic Affairs, introduced Dr. Neil Matkin, Executive Vice President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), for opening comments. Dr. Matkin thanked Dr. Tremblay and the researchers from the National Center for Higher Education Management System (NCHEMS) and FutureWorks, LLC for gathering the data and writing two of the legislative responses being presented. He said that LCTCS would present the responses to HCR 16 of 2013 and HCR 170 of 2013 at its next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Dr. Tremblay presented the response to House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 16 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. He said that HCR 16 of 2013 requested that the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges, "*study the feasibility of offering community college services in Livingston Parish, to determine how the State can best meet the educational, economic, and workforce development needs of this region.*"

Dr. Tremblay noted that the study was conducted by NCHEMS, which met with business leaders, chambers of commerce, economic development officials, legislators, and education officials.

The conclusions drawn from the report included the following:

- Region currently only marginally underserved

- Few unmet workforce needs
- Projected population growth through 2030 suggests need to plan for greater demand in future
- No provision for operating funds to support a comprehensive community college at this time
- No justification at this time for considering the establishment of a free-standing, new community college in Livingston Parish

Deputy Commissioner Tremblay said the report recommended starting slowly and making effective use of existing resources and growing services over time. He noted the short-term and long-term recommendations as follows.

- **In the short term:**
 - Northshore Technical Community College (NTCC) be responsible for assessing and addressing needs in Livingston Parish
 - NTCC and LCTCS expand classes taught at Livingston Literacy and Technology Center
 - Increase staffing at NTCC to carry out ongoing needs assessment and to provide financial aid/academic advising
- **In the long term:**
 - The NTCC Workforce Training Center (designated in Act 360 of the 2013 Regular Session) be constructed on the site of the Livingston Parish Literacy and Technology Center in Walker
 - The LCTCS develop a financing model that encourages/rewards inter-institutional collaboration

A question and answer period followed.

Regent Wiley was concerned that the study only covered the demographics and needs of community college services in Livingston Parish and did not include surrounding parishes. He asked what college(s) high school graduates in Livingston Parish were attending. Dr. Matkin said students are attending Northshore Technical Community College (NTCC), Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) and River Parishes Community College (RPCC). He said a collaborative relationship exists between NTCC and Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) in providing academic services. Dr. Tremblay mentioned that NTCC has a campus in Greensburg, Louisiana which serves East and West Feliciana Parishes.

Regent Brandt reminded the Board that during the 2013 Regular Legislative Session, the legislature provided the money to build a facility in Livingston Parish but no operational money and inquired about the cost for operation of that facility.

Regent Fenstermaker said participation by students can generate dollars. He spoke regarding the need for collaboration throughout the state. He gave as an example the helicopter training facility at BRCC. Mr. Fenstermaker encouraged collaboration between BRCC, South Louisiana Community College and L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College. Dr. Matkin said there are ongoing conversations on how to leverage various helicopter resources outside Baton Rouge.

Regent Markle inquired if there were discussions regarding the sharing of nearby facilities and utilizing personnel to operate a new facility in Livingston Parish. Dr. Tremblay said a recommendation is to build a new workforce training center next door to the Literacy and Training Center for shared use. Chair Rasberry reminded the Board that this study is in response to a specific resolution charged from the legislature.

On motion of Regent Lipsey, seconded by Regent Wiley, the Board voted unanimously to approve and endorse the Board of Regents' response to House Concurrent Resolution 16 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature regarding community college services in Livingston Parish and authorizes the Commissioner of Higher Education to make whatever editorial and other non-substantive changes necessary prior to its transmittal to the appropriate House and Senate Committees of the Legislature.

BOARD OF REGENTS' RESPONSE TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 170 OF THE 2013 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE (*Community College Services to the Greater St. Mary Parish Area*)

Dr. Tremblay presented the response to House Concurrent Resolution 170 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature which requested that the Board of Regents and the

Board of Supervisors of Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges jointly "*study the feasibility of offering community college services in the Greater St. Mary Parish Area and to determine how the State can best meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs of this region and state.*" He said the study was conducted by FutureWorks, LCC.

Deputy Commissioner Tremblay said the report had several conclusions as listed below:

- Low educational attainment overall in the seven-parish area, especially in St. Mary Parish
- Oil and gas industry has a dominant presence in area, with programs at the four two-year colleges in the region strongly focused on preparing workers
- Completion rates at all four of the two-year colleges in the region need to be increased
- Students from St. Mary Parish are underrepresented
- It has become increasingly difficult for technical colleges in the state to continue to deliver both general education and occupational programming
- Concern among many stakeholders is that existing relationships with industry may suffer if institutions begin to emphasize or focus exclusively on academic-oriented education
- Portions of the seven-parish area are underserved by two-year college services

He also noted the short-term and long-term recommendations as follows.

- **In the short term:**
 - Increase collaboration between South Central Louisiana Technical College (SCLTC) and FTCC, with planning for an eventual merger
 - Utilize facilities at Franklin High School to offer combined services which integrate technical and general education courses, with South Louisiana Community College (SLCC) phasing out its offerings
 - Examine feasibility of FTCC offering more general education courses at SCLTC's River Parishes Campus
 - Grant additional resources for SCLTC's River Parishes Campus' PTEC program
 - Increase collaboration between SCLTC's River Parishes Campus and RPCC
- **In the long term:**
 - Two-year merger process resulting in merger of SCLTC and FTCC
 - Increase attention to degree/credential completion at all institutions in the region

A question and answer period followed.

Regent Martin asked if there is any data on the number of students who leave their program of study at technical colleges early for employment and the type of jobs they receive. Dr. Matkin said LCTCS has some data and will provide to Board members. He said there is an exit process for the students as well.

Regent Dupré, an employer in St. Mary Parish, said it is very difficult to employ people in the parish because they already have good jobs with good incomes. He said he expects technically skilled people to migrate away from southwest Louisiana. He inquired if the motivation for this legislative resolution was demand, since there may be a void. Dr. Tremblay said there would be more students if there were more community college services offered in St. Mary Parish. He also stressed the need to be more effective and efficient. Dr. Matkin said there are population growth projections in terms of business and industry in the area, especially off-shore work and PTEC and Maritime programs.

Regent Bollinger said some students want a certificate or associate's degree while others just want to take enough classes to get a job. She said the oil and gas industry has set an example of not employing individuals without a certificate/degree. She encouraged all industries to follow this example.

On motion of Regent Martin, seconded by Regent Lipsey, the Board voted unanimously to approve and endorse the Board of Regents' response to House Concurrent Resolution 170 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature regarding community college services to the greater St. Mary Parish area, and authorizes the Commissioner of Higher Education to make whatever editorial and other non-substantive changes necessary prior to its transmittal to the appropriate House and Senate Committees of the Legislature.

Dr. Uma Subramanian presented the response to House Resolution 206 of the 2013 Regular Session regarding the creation of the Tuition Task Force to study and report on tuition-related issues. She said the Task Force met in October, November and December 2013 to hear testimony, deliberate on issues specified in HR 206 and develop findings and recommendations.

Deputy Commissioner Subramanian said the Task Force identified the following as its major findings and recommendations:

Institutional Authority

- Institutions should be allowed to retain additional revenues from any tuition increases authorized under the GRAD Act

Management Board Authority

- Management boards should be authorized to charge differential tuition at their respective institutions
- Management boards should be authorized to charge per-credit-hour tuition at their respective institutions
- Management boards should be authorized to set tuition at their respective institutions

State Measures

- The state should initiate reform to the TOPS program and strengthen the GO Grant program
- The state should provide predictable, adequate and stable funding to the institutions and should pursue any and all systemic changes to the budget process to ensure a core level of higher education funding

Regent Lipsey, a member of the Tuition Task Force, said he was disappointed when Representative Ortego, who authored the resolution, criticized the Task Force for not coming up with new ideas in the response. He said Louisiana is the only state where management boards do not have economic control over their own universities. Mr. Lipsey stated there must be stability in state funding. He went on to say that Louisiana's higher education leaders are not going to raise tuition or make drastic changes unless campuses are successful in educating students. He explained that education is an investment, not an expense and that Louisiana cannot do anything new until the basic fundamentals are in place.

Regent Fenstermaker said he too read a newspaper article that was critical of the recommendations offered by the Tuition Task Force. He said that perhaps the reason there is nothing new is because the facts lead to those recommendations. Mr. Fenstermaker said stable funding is necessary to have high standards at our colleges/universities, and if this is not done, we cannot blame parents for sending their children to out-of-state institutions.

On motion of Regent Lipsey, seconded by Regent Fenstermaker, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Commissioner of Higher Education to transmit the Tuition Task Force's report in response to House Resolution 206 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature to the appropriate legislative committee(s).

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Rasberry mentioned that the next regularly scheduled Board of Regents' meetings will be held in Shreveport at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center on January 22, 2014. He also said that the RFP process is underway for a search firm in the quest for the next Commissioner of Higher Education.

Regent Bollinger reminded the Board members that the fourth annual Trusteeship Conference is scheduled for Monday, February 17, 2014, and is to be held in Baton Rouge.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.