

# Regents Recap

Highlights of the Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

June 27, 2003

## Regents Name New Chair, Officers

Roland M. Toups was today named Board of Regents chair, succeeding Ron Roberts. In addition to the appointment of Toups as chair, Frances Henry was named vice chair, and Pat Strong was named secretary. Scott O. Brame was also named to the Board's Executive Committee. Congratulations and best wishes to the Board's new officers!

## Savoie Reviews Legislative Session

Commissioner Savoie expressed appreciation and provided words of caution during his recap of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session. Louisiana's Fiscal Year 2003-04 budget, approved on Monday - the last day of the session, included some \$18 million in operational enhancement funds for Louisiana public postsecondary education and an additional \$47 million to fund mandated costs (an approximate 7% increase over the FY 2002-03 appropriation). The funds will allow the state's colleges and universities - at least for another year - to maintain the reform momentum that has been building in recent years.

"I commend the Governor and the legislature for once again making education a top budgetary priority. Our state's leaders invested in the long-term health of our state through their support of our colleges and universities. It is clear that they remain committed to education as the key to sustainable social and economic progress for Louisiana," Savoie said.

During the budget discussion at today's Regents meeting, Savoie and staff called on campuses to make prudent decisions in spending new funds in light of the anticipated budget shortfall next year. This year, Louisiana's public colleges and universi-  
**(continued on page 2)**

## Board Awards \$2 Million In New Endowment Funds

The Board awarded \$2 million in additional state matching funds to partially address the backlog of endowed chairs and professorships. Three endowed chairs and 14 endowed professorships were awarded to programs that were highly ranked for funding during the last external review process.

Additional chairs were approved for Nicholls State University, LSU - Baton Rouge and Northwestern State University.

Additional professorships were approved for Centenary College, LSU Agricultural Center, LSU - Baton Rouge, LSU Health Sciences Center, Louisiana Tech, Loyola University, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Our Lady of the Lake College, Paul M. Hebert LSU Law Center, Tulane University, Tulane Health Sciences Center, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of New Orleans, and Xavier University.

A backlog of almost \$9 million in unmatched chairs and professorships remains to be funded.

## New Student Board Member Sworn In

Adonis Ducre, the Board of Regents' new student member, was sworn in today at the Board's regular monthly meeting. Ducre, a student at Grambling State University, succeeds Stephen Sumbler. The Board presented Sumbler a plaque in recognition of his service to the Board.



**Roland M. Toups**  
Chair

**Frances T. Henry**  
Vice Chair

**Pat A. Strong**  
Secretary

**William "Billy" Blake**  
**Scott O. Brame**  
**Richard E. D'Aquin**  
**Reggie Dupré**  
**Robert W. Levy**  
**William "Bill" Oliver**  
**Virgil Robinson, Jr.**  
**Norbert A. Simmons**

**William Clifford Smith**  
**Artis Terrell, Jr.**  
**Adonis Ducre**  
Student Member

**E. Joseph Savoie**  
Commissioner of  
Higher Education

## Program Approvals

The Board of Regents today approved the following academic programs and research centers:

### Proposed Academic Programs:

- University of Louisiana at Lafayette - B.S. in Athletic Training
- University of New Orleans - B.A. in Women's Studies
- Louisiana Tech University - M.S. in Molecular Sciences and Nanotechnology

### Formerly conditionally-approved programs:

- Louisiana Tech University Center for Applied Teaching and Learning to Yield Scientific Thinking (CATALYST)
- Louisiana State University - Shreveport - B.S. in Community Health

In addition, the Board approved the establishment of the following departments:

- Southern University - Baton Rouge - Department of Criminal Justice
- Southern University - Baton Rouge - Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies

The Board approved termination of the following program:

- Southern University - Shreveport - Certificate in Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

The Board also approved the following redesigned Teacher Preparation Programs:

1. Grades 7-12 French Foreign Language program at Southern University - New Orleans.
2. Grades 1-6, 7-12, and Mild/Moderate Special Education Non-Master's/Certification-Only Alternate Certification Programs at Nicholls State University.
3. Grades PK-3, 1-6, 4-8, 7-12, and Mild/Moderate Special Education Non-Master's/Certification-Only Alternate Certification Programs at Southern University - Baton Rouge
4. Grades 1-6 and 7-12 undergraduate teacher preparation programs at Loyola University of New Orleans.

In addition, the Board approved a \$12,500 award to Dillard University for its CITAL University-District Subgrant, pending satisfactory resolution of Board stipulations.

## Savoie (continued from page 1)

ties will have to absorb an across-the-board budget cut estimated at \$8 million. Still, Commissioner Savoie noted that Louisiana is bucking a national trend of drastic cuts to higher education.

“In fact, according to a recent national survey, with all but eight states reporting, for 2003-2004 Louisiana is a national leader in increased funds allocated to higher education. Our campuses have worked hard to maintain the confidence of state leaders.”

**For more information on these and other Board of Regents actions, please visit our website at [www.regents.state.la.us](http://www.regents.state.la.us).**

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