

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Activities and Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

March 31, 2005

Regents Receive Positive Report on Admissions Criteria Impact

If the Louisiana college freshman class of 2005 is at least as prepared academically to meet the Board of Regents impending four-year university admissions requirements as is its 2004 counterpart, the overall impact of the new requirements on enrollment this fall at ten public four-year universities across the state should be manageable. According to a report presented to the Board of Regents yesterday, a little over 8% (approximately 1800 to 2000) of the freshmen enrolled at the ten campuses in the fall of 2004 would not have been eligible to enter at least one of the ten institutions under the new admissions standards. The standards are scheduled to take effect at those campuses this coming fall. What's more, all but 170 of those underprepared students would be able to start college at an open-access institution no farther away than an adjacent parish.

"This data validates the efforts of the Regents, our university systems, and our individual university campuses in recent years to raise awareness among middle and high school students of the importance of proper academic preparation for college," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "And given that the fall 2005 class will have had an additional year to prepare, the actual number affected should be even smaller."

Savoie's optimism is supported by recent academic preparation trends. According to the report, the percentage of Louisiana high school graduates completing the Regents Core curriculum increased from 56.5% to 58.6% between 2003 and 2004. Savoie added that the creation and ongoing development of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System has been critical to the implementation of the new standards.

"The new admissions standards were designed to ensure that the students entering our four-year universities had a reasonable chance of success once they were enrolled. But the community college system had to be in place to ensure that there is an entry point for anyone who desires a college education," Savoie said.

The four-year admissions criteria were established as part of Louisiana's 2001 Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education. The minimum requirements vary according to specific campus, but all include successful completion of the Regents Core Curriculum plus *one* of the following: a specified minimum grade-point average, a specified minimum ACT composite score, *or* a specified class ranking range. Campuses to be affected this fall are Louisiana Tech, LSU - Baton Rouge, LSU - Shreveport, McNeese, Nicholls, Northwestern, Southeastern, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and the University of New Orleans. The new requirements will take effect on later dates at Grambling, Southern University - Baton Rouge, Southern University - New Orleans, and LSU - Alexandria.

For details on the Regents Core curriculum and the new four-year admissions criteria, visit the Regents web site at www.regents.state.la.us.



Regents Welcome New Member

At its March 24 meeting, the Board of Regents swore in its newest member, Dr. Ingrid Labat, a New Orleans physician who specializes in emergency medicine. A New Orleans native, Labat received her undergraduate degree at Xavier University in New Orleans and her M.D. from LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans. Labat did her residency at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., where she stayed on for several years as a teacher. She is currently affiliated with St. Tammany Parish Hospital in Covington.



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Jeraul Mackey
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Board Action - March 23-24, 2005

Program Approvals

The Board approved the following proposed new academic programs and proposed academic/research center:

New Academic Programs:

Southern University at Shreveport - A.S. in Human Services

Southern University and A&M College - Ph.D. in Urban Forestry

Louisiana Tech University - M.S. in Health Information Management; Master of Architecture/B.S. in Architectural Studies

Proposed Academic/Research Center:

University of Louisiana at Lafayette - Institute for Early Childhood

Regents Receive FY 2005-2006 Executive Budget Update

Donald Vandal, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, briefed the Board of Regents on the governor's 2005-06 Executive Budget. Vandal told the Board that the process had started in November of 2004 and the budget had been presented at the March 11, 2005, meeting of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. Vandal said that the budget submission painted a better picture for postsecondary education than the initial discussions of the budget, which had included a 3.5% reduction, but added that even though the recommended budget addresses many of postsecondary education's funding concerns, Louisiana's colleges and universities still face a shortfall of at least \$38.1 million because of personnel-related unfunded mandated costs. Vandal also said that in this fiscal year, the Governor has asked all agencies to furnish a plan to save 1.75% of their discretionary general fund budgets.

On another front, Vandal reported to the Board 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.

Enrollment Management Grant Proposals Under Review

Theresa Hay, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Research, reminded the Board that in February Regents had released an RFP for an Enrollment Management Capital Grant Program and that a total of \$1.5 million in capital funds is available to support campus enrollment management initiatives. Hay reported that, as of the March 22 deadline to submit proposals, a total of 67 proposals had been received from 24 institutions.

Dr. Jimmy Clarke, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Students Affairs, told the Board that a team will review the proposals on March 31 and April 1. A final report on the allocation of the funds will be made at the April Board of Regents meeting.

Regents Receive LONI Update

Mike Abbiatti, Associate Commissioner for Information and Learning Technology, brought the Board up to date on the status of fiber bids, equipment purchases, and staffing for LONI, and announced that Louisiana Tech University will host the first LONI Day in May 2005. The event, the first of a series of such events planned for LONI-connected campuses, will showcase the research and networking capabilities made possible by LONI.

Abbiatti also reported that the National LambdaRail (NLR) node is scheduled to be in place in Baton Rouge by July or August, and announced that the NLR Board meeting is scheduled to be in Baton Rouge on September 9, 2005.

Dr. Duane Blumberg, Deputy Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, reported to the Board that a visualization center under development in Lafayette, to be connected to LONI, will be the first and only project of its kind dedicated to economic development.

For more information on these and other Board of Regents actions, please visit our website at www.regents.state.la.us