

Regents Recap

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

November 3, 2004

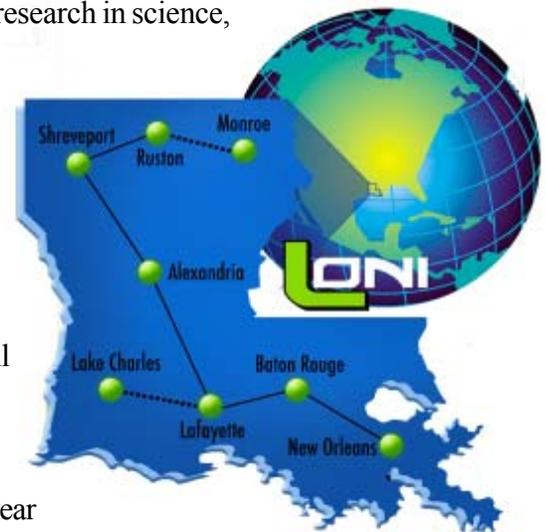
Regents Approve LONI Governance Structure

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) has taken another important step toward becoming a working reality. The Board of Regents approved a governance plan for the statewide fiber-optics network. LONI will link Louisiana researchers and university-based supercomputers at a speed thousands of times faster than currently possible and connect Louisiana to the National LambdaRail (NLR), a consortium of research universities and technology companies deploying a nationwide networking infrastructure to support research in science, engineering, health care, and education. The Board of Regents became a member of NLR earlier this year.

“The Board’s approval of the LONI Steering Committee’s proposed governance structure marks the transition of LONI project implementation from strategic mode to operational mode,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “With the governance structure in place, we can begin moving more aggressively on a variety of fronts to get LONI up and running according to schedule.”

The approval establishes a LONI Management Council, which will be charged with “making recommendations to the Commissioner of Higher Education on the management of operations and associated business activities of LONI.” The Management Council’s responsibilities include making recommendations regarding an annual operating budget and a ten-year planning budget, operational policies and procedures for the daily activities of LONI, hiring of LONI technical and administrative personnel, purchases of equipment and supplies, contracts for materials or services, and agreements or contracts with respect to cooperative enterprises; among other issues.

The composition of the Management Council was also established by the Board’s approval. According to the



(continued on page 3)

“It’s Your Right” Voter Rallies Held October 27 At Campuses Across State

On Wednesday, October 27, the watchword on Louisiana public college and university campuses across the state was “democracy in action.” Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech, Nunez Community College, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe all hosted student voter rallies in conjunction with the “It’s Your Right” voting initiative. The initiative has been sponsored at Louisiana public college campuses by the Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP), a statewide organization of Louisiana public college and university Student Government Association and Student Bar Association presidents chartered to help ensure that Louisiana’s colleges and universities remain responsive to the needs of students and that student opportunity for academic and career success is optimized.

“It is extremely important that we, as student leaders, not only stress the importance of voting but also of

(continued on page 3)



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
Stanley J. Jacobs
Robert W. Levy

W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
William Clifford Smith
Artis Terrell, Jr.
Jeraul Mackey
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Board Action - October 28-29, 2004

Board Approves DEI-SELECT Grants

The Board of Regents approved \$593,132 in grant funding for 15 project proposals submitted under the DEI-SELECT (Distance Education Initiative - Supporting Electronic Learning and Essential Campus Transitions) program. DEI-SELECT, a multi-year initiative funded by the Legislature in 1997, seeks to develop and extend electronic learning capacities for the benefit of all Louisiana public postsecondary institutions.

Program Approvals

The Board approved the following proposed new academic programs, proposed letters of intent, and progress reports:

Proposed New Academic Programs

Delgado Community College - A.A.S. in Veterinary Technology
L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College - Associate of General Studies

Proposed Program Terminations

Southern University, Shreveport - C.T.S. in Construction Technology
Southern University, Shreveport - C.T.S. in Dance
Southern University, Shreveport - C.T.S. in Medical Imaging Assistant

Proposed Letter of Intent - Southern University and A&M College - B.A. in African/African-American Studies

Progress Reports on Conditionally Approved Programs

Southern University, Shreveport - A.A.S. in Safety and Hazardous Materials Technology
Nicholls State University - B.S. in Manufacturing Engineering Technology
Southeastern Louisiana University - M.S. in Applied Sociology
L.T.C., Ascension Campus - A.A.S. in Process Technology
Louisiana Delta Community College - A.S. in General Science, A.A.S. in Business Technology, and A.S. in Early Childhood Education

Board Receives Update on Blue Ribbon Commission Activities

Dr. Jeanne Burns, Board of Regents Associate Commissioner of Academic Affairs for Teacher Initiatives, updated the Board on the October 13 meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence. The meeting's purpose was to identify actions that would help businesses and community leaders support the improvement of educational achievement statewide. In addition, the Board confirmed the appointment to the Commission of Kathy Sellers Johnson (Louisiana Community and Technical College System) and Anngelica Danielle Barrow (representing pre-service teachers).

The Board also granted approval for the redesign of five programs at Louisiana Tech University. Programs approved were as follows: Advanced Master's Degree for Teachers in K-12, Music Education-Instrumental, Music Education-Vocal, Health and Physical Education, and baccalaureate programs in Art Education.

Regents Approve Strategic, Operational Plans

The Board of Regents adopted a revised version of its Five-year Strategic Plan, 2005-2009. Under Act 1465 of 1997, the Division of Administration, which approves the final plan, requested that several changes be made to the Strategic Plan. Most of the changes were technical, due to revisions of some of the forms used in the plan. Additional revisions included the manner in which graduation rates are computed, providing a more accurate assessment of Louisiana's progress, and the way the 'other-race' designation is indicated, removing 'non-resident alien' and 'refused to indicate' from the form.

The Regents also approved the 2005-2006 Operational Plan. The annual plan corresponds with the Strategic Plan and tracks the objectives of the Louisiana's *Master Plan for Postsecondary Education*.

Regents Grant LSU A&M Matching Funds Request

The Board of Regents approved matching funds from the Board of Regents Support Fund for LSU A&M's proposed National Science Foundation-sponsored IGERT (Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship) Program. The IGERT program funds integrative, research-based graduate education and training activities in emerging areas of science and engineering. Jim Gershey, Executive Director of Special Programs informed the Committee that a team of LSU educators and researchers has been invited by NSF to submit a full proposal entitled "Education and Training for Systematic Monitoring and Assessment in Real Time for Bridges and Pavements." To participate in IGERT, LSU requested from the Board a cash commitment of \$900,000 for five years. Board funds will be used only to support Ph.D. students, and LSU will provide \$25,000 cash match per year in support of graduate students and a \$100,000 cash match for equipment.

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

LONI Governance (continued from page 1)

plan, “meeting the LONI research, economic development and public service goals will best be accomplished through the involvement of the participating higher education community and appropriate government interests.” The Management Council will therefore be comprised of the following:

- one member appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education;
 - two members (at least one of which will be from the research/scientific community) appointed by the president of the Louisiana State University System;
 - two members (at least one of which will be from the research/scientific community) appointed by the president of the University of Louisiana System;
 - two members (at least one of which will be from the research/scientific community) appointed by the president of the Southern University System;
 - two members appointed by the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System;
 - two members (at least one of which will be from the research/scientific community) appointed by the president of Tulane University;
 - the chairs of the Research, Technical and Economic Development Advisory Committees (also to be established by the Management Council);
 - one member appointed by the state Commissioner of Administration.
-

Voter Rallies (continued from page 1)

getting educated before we go out to the polls. Grambling, Louisiana Tech, and ULM are hosting a rally together to give an opportunity for students from all backgrounds to come together and discuss the issues and get educated,” said Kimberly Ludwig, Louisiana Tech SGA president and statewide COSBP chair.

Brett Bova, SGA president at Southeastern Louisiana University, also stressed the educational aspect of the events.

“Many students feel that their votes don’t count, and that is not the case at all. Our rally is to encourage all students to vote by informing them on the issues, as well as the candidates, and to let them voice their opinions about what they feel is most important to our generation. This is a great opportunity for students to debate issues dealing with foreign policy, social issues, taxes and spending, environment and energy and homeland security, just to name a few.”

“At Grambling State University, we realize the power of one and have stressed the fact that every vote counts,” said Grambling SGA President Martin Lemelle. “It is evident that one hope can build a dream, one vision can shape tomorrow, and one vote can change a nation, so we are encouraging everyone to bring someone to vote.”

Wednesday’s voter rallies across the state are only the latest example of “It’s Your Right” awareness activities. A wide variety of voter rallies and informational events has taken place at campuses all across the state since the initiative kicked off in August.