



Regents Recap

FEBRUARY 25, 2010

Regents Adopts Postsecondary Education Review Response *Work Underway for 15 of 22 Recommendations*

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BATON ROUGE, La. –The Board of Regents approved their response to the twenty-two recommendations of the Postsecondary Education Review Commission today during their regular meeting. Regents' staff presented the response yesterday in detail, explaining that 15 of the 22 recommendations are already underway or in the planning phase in anticipation of the redesign of higher education in Louisiana as necessitated by the budget.

"This is a time of great opportunity and great challenge for higher education in Louisiana," said Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen. "In the upcoming months, we will continue to concentrate on re-engineering our higher education enterprise to better serve the needs of our students in addition to being cost-effective and workforce relevant."

The report presented to the Regents for approval focused on the need to educate more of Louisiana's citizens in order to ensure the state's economic vitality and quality of life. It stressed the importance of focusing coordination of funding, coordination of offerings and coordination of resources to achieve the goal of a better educated population. It also includes a response to the proposed change in the higher education governance structure in Louisiana.

During the presentation, members were also reminded that Governor Bobby Jindal's LA GRAD (Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas) Act, which focuses on increased autonomy and tuition authority in exchange for increased performance, fits into many of the initiatives outlined in the Regents' response. Governor Jindal announced during a press conference on Tuesday that the LA GRAD Act will be one of his priority pieces of legislation during the upcoming session.

"Higher education is at a crossroads in this state," said Commissioner Clausen "We can either do things differently, in a way we think best serves students, or remain with the status quo and fall off the budgetary cliff when the federal stimulus money runs out. This board has shown strong leadership in its dedication to change and we will continue to support the bold initiatives we know will bring about a more productive and streamlined higher education system, serving the state both in the near-term and in the future."

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**UPCOMING
REGENTS
MEETINGS:**

March 24-25

April 21-22

Joint Regents/BESE

May 20

Academic & Student Affairs Action

The Board of Regents approved the following proposed new academic programs all of which fell into the 2009 Moratorium EXEMPTION:

- Bossier Parish Community College-A.A.S. in Oil and Gas Technology
- Bossier Parish Community College A.A.S. in Construction Technology and Management

The Board of Regents approved the following new research unit:

- McNeese State University-Institute for Industry-Education Collaboration

The Board of Regents received the following progress reports on Conditionally Approved academic programs:

- Louisiana State University at Alexandria-B.S. in Criminal Justice
- Louisiana Technical College, Sullivan-A.A.S. in Care and Development of Young Children
- Louisiana Technical College Delta/Ouachita
 - A.A.S. in Industrial Electronics Technology
 - A.A.S. in Industrial Instrumentation Technology,
 - A.A.S. in Drafting and Design Technology
 - A.A.S. in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

The Board of Regents granted approval to the following Conditionally Approved academic programs:

- South Louisiana Community College-A.A.S. in Emergency Medical Technology (Paramedic)
- Southern University at New Orleans-B.S. in Child Development and Family Studies

The Board of Regents approved the following reauthorization of previously approved research units:

- Louisiana Tech University
 - Center for Career Information Assurance
 - The Professional Development and Research Institute in Blindness

Board of Regents Highlights

Regents approved the following Small Capital Projects:

- Louisiana State University System South Campus Building 3110 (using Economic Development Funding source)
- Louisiana State University A&M South Campus Building 3005 (using grant overhead cost recovery dollars)

Regents approved the following lease amendments:

- Louisiana State University A&M Food Service Amendment
- Louisiana State University A&M Food and Beverage concessionaire-Athletics Facilities

Regents Adopts Postsecondary Education Review Commission Response (Cont.)

In its presentation to the board, Regents' staff divided the PERC response into five focused areas each with its own set of supporting initiatives that are currently underway and will positively impact the quality and performance of higher education in the state. The five areas discussed and endorsed by Regents include:

1. **Successfully Educate More**--Regents supports higher admission standards, increasing the number of graduates produced in Louisiana by 10 thousand by 2015, academic course redesign focused in the area of math in order to increase student progress and save money, and greater institutional autonomy as reflected in the LA GRAD Act which calls for the Board of Regents to be the chartering entity for voluntary, six year institutional performance contracts.
2. **Coordination of Funding**--Regents continues to build its funding formula to redirect as much as 25% towards performance. In addition, Regents will analyze Louisiana's current tuition and financial aid policies with an eye toward increasing student access to postsecondary education.
3. **Coordination of Offerings** --Regents will adjust campus mission statements to ensure that they are streamlined and focused on unique areas of excellence. In 2009, the board has eliminated approximately 250 academic programs to date and will continue to review academic programs for performance and efficiency.
4. **Coordination of Resources**--Regents is promoting a regional delivery focus rather than one that is institution-based. This will expand the reach of institutions given the additional anticipated budget reductions due to the elimination of federal stimulus funding in 2012. Regional delivery will focus on shared facilities and faculty and is workforce relevant. In addition, the board approved an Electronic Learning Task Force to develop and drive a statewide e-learning plan that will increase student access, eliminate unnecessary duplicative programs, deliver courses at a lower cost and respond to students' preferred method of learning.
5. **Coordination of Postsecondary Education Governance**--The board reaffirmed the importance of a coordinating board as a critical need in order to drive collaboration and shared services. They also endorsed the need for strong enforcement authority for Regents.

The 2009 Louisiana Legislature passed legislation sponsored by House Speaker Jim Tucker (Act 309) creating the Postsecondary Education Review Commission to study the governance, facilities, funding, operations, and number and alignment of degree programs at Louisiana public colleges, and to provide a written report of findings and recommendations to the Board of Regents.

As required by law the Board of Regents has until Friday, February 26, 2010 to provide comments on the PERC report to the Legislature. The report approved today will meet that requirement.

Regents Creates Electronic Learning Task Force

BATON ROUGE, La. – Electronic learning across the nation is seeing tremendous growth and interest, however according to a national expert on distance education, capacity for online learning has lacked in Louisiana. To establish e-learning as a priority and respond to this preferred method of learning for many students, the Board of Regents voted to create The Electronic Learning Strategic Planning Task Force yesterday.

The task force will identify strategic objectives, elements, innovative approaches, and best practices that provide the momentum for Louisiana to truly embrace e-learning as a way to increase access to colleges and universities for both traditional students and adults. By doing so, higher education officials believe e-learning can achieve the following things:

- Expand access and success for students,
- Eliminate unnecessary duplication of programs,
- Deliver programs at a lower cost and
- Respond to students' preferred method of learning.

National statistics show that 25% of all U.S. college students took one or more online course in the Fall of 2008. In Louisiana, Northwestern State University leads the state in the number of online programs with 37 of its 108 degree programs offered through distance education. Delgado Community College comes in second with 20 online degree programs.

Due to Northwestern's success in building a comprehensive e-learning initiative, Darlene Williams, Vice President for Technology, Research and Economic Development at Northwestern, was tapped by the Board of Regents to lead the efforts of the Electronic Learning Strategic Planning Task Force.

"Northwestern State University saw the opportunity to re-engineer itself as a leader in e-learning many years ago," noted Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen. "We must move this distance education agenda forward faster. This is a lesson to all of us that it can be done successfully."

Dr. Bruce Chaloux, with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), presented a report on the Distance Education Initiative's SELECT Grant program which awarded more than \$6 million of funding to campuses across Louisiana over the past 10 years. His assessment included a series of recommendations intended



Regents Honor Models for Change

Regent Bob Levy and Regent Roland Toups join Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen in honoring Debra Deprato, Project Director for Louisiana Models for Change. The initiative has transitioned from its home at the Board of Regents to the LSU Law Center in partnership with the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Public Health.