



Regents Recap

MARCH 26, 2009

Regents Allocate Higher Education Cuts *Adopts Guiding Principles*

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BATON ROUGE, La. – Members of the Board of Regents were briefed Wednesday on anticipated budget cuts for the 2009-10 fiscal year. The Executive Budget currently calls for higher education to absorb a \$219 million budget reduction in addition to the \$55 million budget cut which was imposed earlier this year by Governor Jindal due to a revenue shortfall. Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen told board members that the magnitude of these combined cuts to state funding requires higher education to make immediate plans for fundamental adjustments to deal with the proposed reductions.

However, Clausen reminded those in attendance that while higher education and Regents must adjust to the pressing short-term issues such as budget reductions, they must also focus on long-term priorities including the growth of our state's community & technical college system, development of a statewide transfer policy, increasing the number of graduates and incentivizing external research grants.

Regents staff took into consideration the necessity of reducing each system's funding base as required by the executive budget and also began to phase in the new performance-based funding formula in allocating specific dollar amounts to the systems, who will in turn recommend campus budgets.

Phase One Formula and Base Reduction Distribution

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| Louisiana State University System | \$102,087,705 |
| Southern University System | \$ 16,942,411 |
| University of Louisiana System | \$ 67,054,816 |
| Louisiana Community & Technical College System | \$ 28,794,979 |

Additionally, Regents outlined several guiding principles for systems to use in developing detailed and meaningful campus level budgets. The proposed guidelines are:

- Protect core operations and functions that connect directly to student educational needs and workforce development
- Maintain academic access for students to the maximum extent possible
- Ensure that requirements for degree completion of prospective graduates are available where academic programs are constrained or eliminated
- Sustain a high level of excellent research focuses that reflect institutional priorities and further the State's economic development

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Regents Receive Articulation Update *Creating Statewide Transfer Policies*



Articulation Summit 2009:

From Left: John Lombardi (LSU System President), Senator Ben Nevers, Sally Clausen (Commissioner of Higher Education), Joe May (LCTCS President) & Randy Moffett (UL System President)

* In attendance but not pictured, Ralph Slaughter (Southern System President)

BATON ROUGE, La-The leaders of Louisiana's higher education community today presented an agreement to the Board of Regents which will create a statewide pathway for students to earn an associate degree and seamlessly transfer into a 4-year degree program. Currently, students who begin their education at a community college and want to continue working towards a baccalaureate degree must navigate various campus-to-campus agreements in order to ensure that their credits will be accepted. This new plan will remove those barriers and create a statewide transfer system for community college students.

"In most other states, the majority of college students begin their education at the community college level, which is more cost effective than taking those early general education classes at a 4-year institution," said Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen. "We are committed to focusing on student success even in these difficult financial times and while this is a long-term plan, we believe it will ultimately serve to strengthen the entire higher education community and help us reach our goal of 10,000 new degrees by the year 2015," Clausen said.

Recently, the Board of Regents convened a meeting with all four system presidents and campus representatives to discuss transfer articulation. All agreed to establish a Statewide Transfer Council to guide the process, make recommendations and oversee the implementation of the framework that will allow the transfer of all associate degrees. Faculty members will play a key role in ensuring the rigor, quality and appropriateness of general education classes and the development of a general education package that will be transferrable.

"Strong linkages between community college associate degree programs and public four-year universities represent powerful and effective mechanisms for expanding higher education access, said LSU System President John Lombardi. "When a strong community college system produces substantial numbers of associate degree transfer students, the four year universities benefit, the students benefit, and the state benefits. The articulation summit provided all of us with a road map to achieving this desirable result," Lombardi continued.

"As our community and technical college system continues to experience rapid growth, it is imperative that we develop these types of partnerships and agreements throughout the higher education community. Louisiana must have a better educated and more qualified workforce and I believe this agreement is a key component. Currently our students face a confusing situation when it comes to moving to the next level of their education and I am confident that, working together, we can create a system that is easier for them to navigate, meets their educational needs and provides high quality programs," said Joe D. May, president, Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

"The University of Louisiana System and its eight universities have a long history of working with community colleges to facilitate ease of transfer of students. There are currently over 30 2+2 programs in place system wide, but there is much room for growth. By taking a statewide approach and creating an organized plan, we hope to provide students with greater opportunities to pursue a higher education degree and improve Louisiana's educational capital," said UL System President Randy Moffett.

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Budget Cuts Cont.....(from page 1)

The new performance-based funding formula includes six basic components and is designed to reward campuses for increasing the number of degrees and certificates awarded, focusing on workforce development and successfully competing for external research grants. It also more accurately captures the cost of educating students by taking into account the particular discipline and level of students enrolled at an individual campus. While not designed to be a budget-cutting tool, the phased-in approach for using the new formula will guide systems in making imaginative, specific, targeted, strategic and performance-based decisions when crafting their campus plans.

Board of Regents Highlights

The Board of Regents approved the following items during its March 26, 2009 meeting:

- **Small Capital Projects– Dental School Perimeter Fence (LSUHSC-NO), Covered Walkway (LSUHSC-NO), OB/GYN Labor Delivery Room Expansion (LSUHSC-S), N. Stadium Waterproofing (LSU A&M)**
- **Request to Seek Interim Emergency Board Funding (UL Lafayette-Fletcher Hall)**
- **Amendments to the FY 2009-10 Capitol Outlay Budget Recommendation (UL Monroe HVAC for Chemistry & Natural Sciences Bldg., LSU A&M Coverage of Corporation Canal, SUNO Parking Garage)**
- **Temporary Revision of Endowed Chair, Endowed Professorship & Endowed Scholarship Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives**
- **License Renewals-Pearl River Community College, Southern Arkansas University, Southwest Mississippi Community College, Texas Christian University, Texas Wesleyan University, Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting, Central Louisiana School for Dental Assistants, Coastal College-Hammond, Court Reporting Institute of Louisiana, Creative Floral Design School, LLC, Dryades YMCA School of Commerce, Kaplan, Inc.-Baton Rouge, Kaplan, Inc.-New Orleans, Louisiana Dental Assistant School, LLC, Remington College-Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Shreveport Campuses**

Program Updates/Terminations

The Board of Regents terminated the following academic programs:

- **LTC-Gulf Area-TD & Related CTS Programs in Collision Repair & Diesel Powered Equipment Technician**
- **UNO-Robert E. Nims Ctr. For Entertainment, Arts, & Multimedia Technology**

The Board of Regents gave continued approval for the following existing academic programs:

- **LSU A&M-Reilly Ctr. For Media & Public Affairs, Center for Rotating Machinery, Ctr. for Internal Auditing**
- **LSU-Shreveport-Institute for Human Services & Public Policy**

The Board of Regents approved the following academic reorganization:

- **Nichols State University-Select Departmental Changes**

Articulation Cont.....(from page 2)

“Far too many students are losing time and credits when they find that their credits will not transfer to four year institutions,” said Southern System President Ralph Slaughter. “It is in the best interest and long-term viability of our students, institutions, and state to remove barriers to ensure that the transfer process is seamless.”

Senator Ben Nevers is working with higher education to help create standardized articulation guidelines for the state.

Pilot Teacher Training for Troubled Schools to be Funded

BATON ROUGE, La. – Board of Regents members learned of funding opportunities for pilot teacher training programs through the Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program (LaSIP) during their regular board meeting today. Last week, the LaSIP Council authorized approximately \$450,000 for three pilot programs which will be selected from among 33 eligible schools that were recently classified as academically unacceptable by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Targeted schools interested in receiving the competitive grant money will work closely with university faculty in developing long-term teacher training programs that clearly reflect the instructional needs of students in mathematics, science or literacy, or a combination of disciplines. Each proposal can earn up to \$150,000 per year for a maximum of three years, with second and third-year financial support conditional on annual evaluations.

“Collaborative reform efforts such as this one between PK-12 schools and our colleges & universities are so critical if we are going to meet our target of graduating 10,000 additional students by 2015,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen. “By combining our resources and insights, this pilot program will ensure that universities are providing concentrated professional development to teachers in these targeted schools. It is a sound approach that improves student achievement in some of our most challenging schools.”

“There are approximately 400 schools across Louisiana where more than half the students are performing below grade level,” said State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek. “The insight gained through the study of these three schools will benefit not only these schools and the 33 schools that have failed to meet minimum standards for at least four years, but will provide a good framework for supporting professional development in all schools that require significant improvement. Across the education community, most acknowledge a strong connection between professional development and raising student achievement. We are grateful for the willingness of the Board of Regents for their support,” Pastorek noted.

Requests for proposals for the grants will be released to targeted schools and districts in April. Proposals will be due to LaSIP in May, external consultants will review proposals and conduct interviews during May and June, and awards will be granted during the June/August period. While the LaSIP Council voted unanimously to fund three projects, proposals must show significant promise of success through external reviews and identifiable performance measures to receive the award.

City, parish, state, federal, and private stakeholders, as well as representatives from K-12 and postsecondary education, make up the 27-member LaSIP Council. The Chairman of the Board of Regents and President of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education alternate as Council President. Originally funded in 1991-92 by the National Science Foundation, LaSIP’s signature focus has been on partnering with Louisiana university faculty to develop and provide content-rich professional development programs for K-12 mathematics, science, and, more recently, literacy teachers. LaSIP currently administers the \$18 million LA GEAR UP (Louisiana Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education.

