



Regents Recap

MARCH 24-25, 2010

Regents to Expedite Budget Reduction Plans

Board Meets at Nicholls State University

Board of Regents

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Thibodaux, La. – The Board of Regents today urged the Commissioner of Higher Education to expedite the planning and implementation of budget cuts with the four system presidents in light of declining state revenue and future anticipated cuts to postsecondary education. The unanimous vote allows Regents staff to accelerate their work to identify budgetary savings totaling \$289 million which is the anticipated shortfall in 2012 due to the loss of federal stimulus money. Since 2008, higher education budgets have already been reduced by \$250 million dollars, a reduction of approximately 20%.

"The magnitude and impact of an additional \$300 million in cuts from our campus and system budgets will dramatically impact personnel, academic programs and the students we serve," said Commissioner of Higher Education Sally Clausen. "We have been directed to accelerate the budget reduction plans now, and that very serious work is underway."

Regents also discussed proposed legislation for the upcoming session during their two-day meeting at Nicholls State University and unanimously voted to support the Governor's signature piece of legislation, the LA GRAD Act. The GRAD Act, which stands for Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas, gives colleges that sign 6-year contracts with the Board of Regents increased autonomy in exchange for increased performance.

The performance indicators to be measured include such things as raising graduation rates, increasing retention of students, increasing the number of students transferring between 2-year and 4-year institutions, and increasing the number of degrees awarded which meet identified workforce needs in the state. In return campuses will earn the ability to raise tuition as much as 10%, per year, increase the per unit tuition charges beyond the current 12-hour cap, and earn the ability to carry forward funds in exchange for performance.

"This is a significant piece of legislation for higher education," said Commissioner Clausen. "It demonstrates to the campuses that performance does indeed pay. This bill will provide a multi-faceted approach to ensure that our campuses improve their performance in key areas. The timing is right for this kind of policy and it is receiving great support from all of our system leaders."

The Regents also discussed increasing minimum statewide admissions requirements for college students entering a four-year university. The proposed changes to the standards would include the setting of a required Core GPA, decreasing developmental education at four year institutions, and decreasing admissions by exceptions. The Board of Regents sets the floor for admissions requirements statewide. The individual systems and campuses can have stricter rules for admissions if they choose.

The board could vote on the increased admissions standards at next month's meeting.

Upcoming Regents Meetings:

April 21-22

Joint Regents/
BESE

May 20

May 26-27



As part of its two-day meeting in Thibodaux, the Board of Regents toured the British Petroleum Operations Learning Center in Schreiver. The tour allowed Board members to see first-hand the connection between higher education and workforce.

The Operations Learning Center is a multi-million dollar facility where all of BP's Gulf of Mexico offshore workers are trained.

Academic and Student Affairs Action

The Board of Regents conditionally approved two proposed new academic programs which are exempt from the 2009 Moratorium based on workforce needs:

- Bossier Parish Community College—A.S. in Nursing
- Bossier Parish Community College—A.A.S. in Occupational Therapy Assistant

The Board of Regents granted full approval of the following academic programs:

- Northwestern State University—B.S. in Unified Public Safety Administration
- Baton Rouge Community College—A.S. in Criminal Justice

The Board of Regents received the following progress reports on Conditionally Approved Academic Programs:

- Northwestern State University —M.S. in Radiologic Sciences and B.A. in Communication
- Bossier Parish Community College—A.A.S. in Cyber Technology Program

The Board of Regents Reauthorized the following Approved Research Units:

- Louisiana State University A & M—Center for Biomodular Multi-Scale Systems
- Southeastern Louisiana University—Center for Nursing Research and Education

The Board of Regents approved revisions to Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures:

- Policy 2.15– Definitions of Undergraduate/Graduate Certificates and Undergraduate Degrees
- Policy 2.17-Staff Approval of Routine Academic Requests

The Board of Regents granted approval of following Post Baccalaureate Academic and Post-Masters Academic Certificates:

- Practitioner Teacher Program, Certification-Only Alternate Path Program, Add-on Certification Program, Alternative Leadership Program and School Turnaround Specialist Program

Board of Regents Highlights

The Board of Regents approved the following Small Capital Projects:

- Louisiana State University A & M Northgate Pedestrian Corridor (Department of Transportation and Development funding)
- Louisiana State University A & M Pentagon Service Building Renovation (Auxiliary funds)
- Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans Dental School Parking Lot (Self-Generated funds)
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette Softball Facility (Self-assessed student fee)

The Board of Regents approved the following lease:

- McNeese State University —Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development Facility

The Board of Regents approved the following license renewals:

- Southwest University—Kenner, LA
- Walden University—Minneapolis, MN

The Board of Regents approved the following Initial Licenses for Proprietary Schools:

- J.W. Training Center, LLC—Donaldsonville, LA
- Southland School of Taxidermy—Baton Rouge, LA

The Board of Regents approved all Budget Adjustment (BA-7) requests