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BUDGET HEARINGS

Monday, October 22, 2007
Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Because of scheduling conflicts, Commissioner Savoie and the Finance and Administration staff of the Board of Regents met with Delgado Community College on

Monday, October 22, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Claiborne Building and with Louisiana

Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

in the Claiborne Building.

DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Alex Johnson, Chancellor for Delgado Community College provided staff with an overview of the status of Delgado in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He expressed his continued frustration as to the significant delays being experienced in getting their facilities back up and running even though they are

two plus years from the disasters. He reported that he is experiencing significant growth in the areas of workforce development, dual enrollment, first time freshman, and transfer students. The increases are positive for the institution. However, because of lack of access to prior space, the increases do create problems for the institution as it has no room to accommodate the students. Dr. Johnson explained to staff that his flexible funding was used to off-set the State budget reduction experienced by Delgado in FY 2006, to increase faculty and staff salaries, and to increase expenditures for marketing and recruitment. Dr. Johnson also expressed that student scholarships was also a major priority at Delgado, but that Delgado was successful in raising funds from the private sector to establish those scholarships.

LOUISIANA UNIVERSITIES MARINE CONSORTIUM

Dr. Nancy Rabalais, Director, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), reported to staff the status of LUMCON in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She also expressed frustration as to the lack of progress in the restoration and mitigation of the facilities at LUMCON. Dr. Rabalais explained that most of her flexible dollars were used to move an Information Technology position and an education position off of federal indirect cost recovery dollars and onto state supported dollars. Dr. Rabalais explained that she was also able to raise staff and faculty salaries, and to partially fund the rebuilding of several monitoring stations that were damaged.

