

Regents Recap

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

January 2008

2008 Regents Officers Sworn In

The Board of Regents' 2008 officers were sworn in at a special ceremony on January 9.

Serving for the coming year will be Pat Strong, chair; Artis Terrell, vice chair (sworn in on January 23); and Robert Levy, secretary.

Also sworn in on January 9 were the new members of the Board of Regents Executive Committee: Pat Strong, Artis Terrell, Robert Levy, Scott Brame, W. Clinton Rasberry, Mary Ellen Roy, and Harold Stokes.



2008 Board of Regents chairman Pat Strong (left) and secretary Bob Levy (center) receive the oath of office from Regents executive counsel Connie Koury on January 9.

The next Board of Regents meeting will be held February 27-28, 2008, at McNeese State University in Lake Charles

Report Recommends Creation of *Louisiana Innovation Alliance*

If Louisiana hopes to realize maximum economic advantage from the valuable research being conducted at its public and private research universities, the state should create the *Louisiana Innovation Alliance* (LIA), an agency tasked with accelerating Louisiana's economic growth by enhancing technology-based research, developing and attracting scientific talent, encouraging technology commercialization, and fostering entrepreneurial skills. This proposition is the primary recommendation of a report released recently by the North Carolina-based firm Regional Technology Strategies, Inc. (RTS), a nationally-recognized think tank with expertise in university research commercialization. Highlights of the RTS report, entitled "Building Louisiana's Innovation Economy: A Plan to Foster University Technology Development and Commercialization," were presented at the January Board of Regents meeting.

The Board of Regents commissioned the RTS study in collaboration with the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA). The effort was spurred initially by the need to stimulate recovery of the research capacity of institutions directly impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The RTS plan presented today, however, goes well beyond hurricane recovery, focusing on ways to energize technology transfer (turning university research into commercially-viable products and companies) at all of the state's research institutions.

"The RTS plan offers a well-thought-out, *strategic* approach to harnessing Louisiana's considerable university research capacity — especially in areas identified as Louisiana research *strengths* — to stimulate the creation and development of high-tech businesses," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "And the bottom line, of course, is that those businesses have the potential to generate the kind of new-economy jobs Louisiana badly needs in order to be competitive."

The plan focuses on three key elements of technology-based economic development that fall squarely within the purview of university research:

- 1) *Strategic investment*: Louisiana must identify and build upon the state's most competitive assets and invest on a scale that will allow success.
- 2) *Technology transfer*: Success will depend on the state's ability to improve the capacity to move university technology from the lab to the marketplace.
- 3) *Entrepreneurial talent*: While universities can not start or grow companies, they *can* produce graduates and recruit people with that capacity.

While Louisiana's universities conduct exciting and commercially-valuable research across a broad spectrum of technological disciplines, RTS has identified four primary but broad areas of research strength at Louisiana's universities:

(continued on page 2)



Pat A. Strong
Chair

Artis Terrell, Jr.
Vice Chair

Robert W. Levy
Secretary

Scott Brame
Robert J. Bruno
Richard E. D'Aquin
Maurice C. Durbin
Donna G. Klein
Ingrid T. Labat
W. Clinton Rasberry

Mary Ellen Roy
William Clifford Smith
Victor T. Stelly
Harold M. Stokes
Roland M. Toups
James Klock
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Board Action - January 23-24, 2008

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following proposed letters of intent, proposed academic programs, proposed program terminations, and progress reports on conditionally-approved programs/centers:

Proposed Letters of Intent

Southeastern Louisiana University: B.S. in Supply Chain Management

Northwestern State University: M.S. in Global Security and Counter-Terrorism

Louisiana State University and A&M College: Ph.D. in Library and Information Science; B.A. in Sports Administration

Proposed Academic Programs

Louisiana State University-Alexandria: A.B.S. in Nursing ; B.B.A. in History

Proposed Program Terminations

Louisiana Technical College-Jefferson: A.A.S. in Computer Electronics Technology; A.A.S. in Drafting and Design Technology

Louisiana Technical College-West Jefferson: A.A.S. in Office Systems Technology

Louisiana Technical College-Gulf Area: A.A.S. in Computer Specialist (Applications)

Progress Reports on Conditionally Approved Programs/Centers

Southern University-New Orleans: B.S. in Business Entrepreneurship; B.S. and M.S. in Management Information Systems; B.A. in Public Administration; B.S. in Health Information Management

Louisiana State University and A&M College: Center for Turbine Innovation and Energy Research

Louisiana Tech University: Doctor of Audiology
Louisiana Technical College-Shreveport/Bossier City: A.A.S. in Drafting and Design Technology; A.A.S. in Culinary Arts and Occupations

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-New Orleans: Doctor of Physical Therapy

Board of regents Support Fund Plan and Budget Approved

The Board of Regents approved the FY 2008-09 Board of Regents Support Fund (BORSF) Plan and Budget on January 24. In his presentation of the plan to the Board, John Wallin, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration, noted that several members of the Planning Committee expressed concern about the sharp reduction in the amount of money available for expenditure in the Traditional Enhancement component of the Support Fund. While \$7,415,000 was expended in this category during FY 2006-07, only \$3,204,064 is anticipated to be available during FY 2008-09. The primary reason for the reduction was the decision to support the Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative (PKSFI). Much of the P-KSFI funding is devoted to Enhancement activities, although the targeted focus of the initiative has not included all disciplines and all institutions. The BORSF Planning Committee recommended that any overage realized in FY 2008-09 be devoted to restoring the Traditional Enhancement component to its FY 2006-07 level, and that previously unspent money from the reserve fund be used if necessary to accomplish this purpose.

Alliance (from page 1)

agricultural science, life sciences, materials science, and materials engineering. According to the report, these areas offer Louisiana the highest potential for technology transfer and research commercialization.

The entire RTS report is available on the Board of Regents web site: <http://www.laregents.org/www2/index.htm>.

**For more information
about these and other
Board of Regents actions,
please visit our web site at
www.regents.state.la.us**