



Regents Recap

DECEMBER 7, 2011

Board of Regents

Jim Purcell

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Higher Education

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Student

Institutions Seek GRAD Act Changes *Regents Hold Firm on ‘Extraordinary Circumstances’*

BATON ROUGE, La. – Two institutions of higher education asked the Board of Regents this month to consider lowering annual performance targets for the GRAD Act which grants tuition authority and autonomies in exchange for improved outcomes. Louisiana State University Law Center and Louisiana State University at Eunice both brought recommended changes to Regents, but only LSU Law was granted approval based on the trigger provided in the law.

Current state law allows for changes to be considered by the Board of Regents and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) only in the event “extraordinary circumstances” prevent an institution from meeting its targets. Regents must first approve any changes before sending recommendations to JLCB for a final vote.

In the case of the LSU Law Center, a Louisiana Supreme Court rule changed the way the state’s bar exam will be graded, which is expected to impact the Institutional Passage Rate category of the Law School’s GRAD Act agreement. Regents approved the change indicating the Supreme Court decision was in fact an “extraordinary circumstance.”

However, in the case of LSU Eunice, the institution argued that continued budget reductions coupled with overly-aggressive targets set by the campus resulted in the need to request changes to several Student Success measures including First to Second Year Retention Rate, Same Institution Graduation Rate and Statewide Graduation Rate for this year and the following four years. Chancellor Bill Nunez indicated if LSU-E was not permitted to renegotiate its targets it would not only lose a 9% tuition increase, but also 15% in performance formula funding resulting in potential accreditation and fiscal issues.

Regents’ staff testified that when the GRAD Act agreements were initially negotiated, meeting notes indicate that all campuses were notified that future budget cuts were likely and would not be considered an “extraordinary circumstance.” Additionally, LSU-E was specifically asked to reconsider its targets but chose not to do so.

“The GRAD Act stakes are very high and this is the first test of whether this law will truly impact performance by rewarding improvement over time or not,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell. “We will work with the system and campus to make sure the impact is manageable. Our intention is not to close LSU Eunice, but to help them. So we recommend that the performance funds be set aside at Regents to support specific interventions that can get the campus back on track.”

“We can’t change the goal line in the middle of the game and I believe it is imperative that we are responsive to law which clearly states ‘extraordinary circumstance’ as the trigger for change,” said Board of Regents Chairman Bob Levy. “Regents has an opportunity to follow up and assist all higher education institutions to ensure changes to the law and/or the formula are considered.”

REGENTS NOMINATES OFFICERS

The following individuals were nominated to serve in various capacities for the Board of Regents in 2012. The board will formally elect and install its officers at a special meeting on January 5, 2012.

Board Officers:

Robert Levy-President (Ruston)
Charlotte Bollinger-Vice President (Lockport)
Joe Wiley-Secretary (Gonzales)

Executive Committee:

Donna Klein (New Orleans)
W. Clinton Rasberry (Shreveport)
Harold Stokes (New Orleans)
Victor Stelly (Lake Charles)

Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission:

Maurice Durbin (Denham Springs)
Larry Tremblay (Board of Regents Staff)

Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission:

Richard D'Aquin (Lafayette)

CAPITAL OUTLAY HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Regents approved the following Small Capital Projects:

- **Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Shreveport**-9th Floor Stryker Simulation Lab (self-generated funds)
- **Louisiana State University and A&M College**-Aster/Alaska Street Parking Lot Renovations (auxiliary funding)
- **Louisiana State University and A&M College**-Horticulture Parking Lot Renovations (auxiliary funding)
- **Louisiana State University and A&M College**-Highland Hall Bathroom Renovations (auxiliary funding)
- **Louisiana State University and A&M College**-Taylor Hall Bathroom Renovations (auxiliary funding)
- **Louisiana State University and A&M College**-Cypress Drive/Alaska Street Parking Lot and Sidewalk (auxiliary funding)
- **Louisiana Tech University**-Graham Hall Air Handler Replacement (auxiliary funding)
- **Nicholls State University**-Powell Hall Auditorium Renovation (building use fees)
- **Northwestern State University**-Modification of Art Lab for Percussion Practice Room (building use fees)

The Board of Regents approved an amendment to the Capital Outlay Budget Request for FY 2012-13 for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System/Fletcher Technical Community College.

The Board of Regents approved a lease for the Louisiana State University System/Equine Lameness Unit, LLC.

REGENTS' LEGISLATIVE RESPONSES

The Board of Regents adopted the following House Concurrent Resolution responses:

- HCR 110 concerning tuition disparities for 4-year institutions
- HCR 129 concerning LOUIS
- HCR 78 concerning campus space utilization
- HCR 180 concerning midwifery
- HR 50 concerning LUMCON

REGENTS' HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Regents received the recommendations of the Governance Commission and will provide input to staff in order to immediately begin implementation and coordinate necessary legislation.

After receiving additional fiscal information, the Board of Regents approved the following conditionally approved 2011-12 Operating Budgets:

- LUMCON
- LSU Ag Center
- Pennington Biomedical Research Center

After receiving additional fiscal information, the Board of Regents approved Southern University and A&M College's 2011-12 Operating Budget which had been deferred.

The Board of Regents approved an amendment for GRAD Act agreements requiring only mutual agreement between system presidents and the Commissioner of Higher Education when small technical changes are made to attachments.

The Board of Regents approved the Support Fund Plan and Budget for FY 2012-13.

The Board of Regents approved a request to divide the Boysie Family Endowed Chair in Business Administration at Nicholls State University.

The Board of Regents approved nominations for new members of the Support Fund Planning and Advisory Committees.

The Board of Regents approved funding recommendations for the Research Enhancement Awards Program component of the LaSPACE Program.

REGENTS' PROGRAMATIC ACTIONS

UPCOMING REGENTS MEETINGS:

January 5, 2012
(Officer Installation)

January 25-26

February 23

The Board of Regents approved the following New Academic Programs:

- **Louisiana State University and A&M College-** Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training
- **McNeese State University-** Post Baccalaureate and Graduate Certificate Programs in Pump Reliability Engineering
- **LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, Southern University, University of Louisiana Lafayette and Southeastern Louisiana University-** Doctorate of Nurse Practice (DNP)

The Board of Regents approved the following New Research Units:

- **McNeese State University-**Center for Advancement of Meat Production and Processing
- **University of Louisiana at Monroe-**Small Business Risk Management Institute

The Board of Regents approved the following Post-Baccalaureate Certificate:

- **Louisiana State University at Alexandria-**Post-Baccalaureate Academic Certificate: Add-on Certification-Early Childhood Education (CIP Code: 13.1210)

The Board of Regents approved the following Initial Licenses:

- **Columbia University Teachers College**
- **Delta School of Business and Technology**
- **University of Massachusetts Boston**
- **Alexandria Dental Assistant School**
- **Pelican Training Institution**
- **Unitech Training Academy-Metairie**

The Board of Regents approved the following License Renewals:

- **Central Michigan University**
- **University of Arkansas for Medial Sciences**
- **University of Phoenix**
- **Academy of Interactive Entertainment**
- **Acadiana Area Career College**
- **American School of Business**
- **Ayers Career College**
- **Becker Professional Education—Baton Rouge/New Orleans**
- **Carvas College d/b/a Cardiovascular Technology Training, Inc.**
- **Career Technical College**
- **Career Technical College of Shreveport**
- **Coastal College—Baton Rouge**
- **Compass Career College**
- **Crosby Court Reporting Center**
- **Delta College, Inc.**
- **Delta College, Slidell Branch**
- **Diesel Driving Academy—Shreveport**
- **Eastern College of Health Vocations**
- **Nursing Assistant Network Association**
- **Professional Institute of Court Reporting, Inc.**
- **Southern Security School, inc.**
- **Sparx Welding & Developmental Center, Inc.**
- **Thomas Training and Development Center, Inc.**
- **Unitech Training Academy, West Monroe**
- **The World's Only Tattoo School, LLC**