

**RESPONSE TO HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 200 OF THE 2010
REGULAR SESSION OF THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE**

LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS

FEBRUARY 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Process	3
Findings	4
Recommendations	7
Summary	8
Attachment A House Resolution No. 200	10

INTRODUCTION

House Resolution 200 of 2010 requests the Board of Regents to study the availability of facilities at public postsecondary education institutions under the jurisdiction of the other public postsecondary management education boards that can be used by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) for the offering of regional programs and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions.

The Board of Regents maintains statistical information on the utilization of classrooms and laboratories for all public postsecondary institutions. Currently the collection system does not include shop space utilized by the LCTCS. The Board of Regents and the LCTCS are jointly researching methods utilized by other states in reporting community and technical college space with the intent of modifying the existing process.

PROCESS

The Board of Regents staff began this availability study by recognizing the following parameters:

- Regional availability and proximity of campuses; (this is the primary factor and may have resulted in some campuses being excluded from the study)
- Availability of classrooms or laboratories, properly configured and equipped for two-year programs;
- Space requirements for technical colleges; and
- Assumption that the premise has at its core the generation of cost savings.

The Board of Regents receives enrollment and space data annually and maintains statistical information on the utilization of classrooms and laboratories for all postsecondary institutions.

- For classrooms, a Space Factor (SF) of 1.0 represents proper utilization. A higher number indicates poor utilization or an excess of space (availability of space to loan), while lower numbers represent either excellent utilization or more likely, an overcrowded condition (a need to borrow space).
- For class laboratories, the Space Factor = 2.5 represents the accepted norm.
- In both cases, the Space Factor is the Net Assignable Square Footage (NASF) for either classrooms or labs divided by the total weekly contact hours delivered therein.

The resulting data was reviewed in a meeting among facilities staffs of the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

FINDINGS

Facilities most likely to be available for sharing include classrooms and traditional class laboratories. Faculty offices, libraries, housing, food services, recreational facilities, and athletic venues might be considered for use as well, but the analysis requires more in-depth review.

The following chart indicates four-year institutions on the left side and two-year institutions proximate to them on the right side. Numbers are the current space factors for classrooms (the first column following the institution name) and class laboratories (the second column). A Space Factor = 1.0 is normal for classrooms, with numbers less than 1.0 portraying a need for added space, and number higher than 1.0 indicating available space. A Space Factor = 2.5 is normal for labs. Where bold print is shown on each side of the chart, a need for space is being shown or projected at the two year LCTCS institution, and a corresponding availability of space is shown or projected for the four-year institution in close proximity to it.

Traditional Four-Year Institution	Class	Lab	LCTCS Institution	Class	Lab
Louisiana Tech	1.47	6.59	Ruston LTC	2.43	1.78
Grambling State University	2.56	10.31			
University of Louisiana at Monroe	1.84	5.08	Delta Ouachita LTC	1.45	0.068
			Bastrop LTC	3.57	0.69
			Louisiana Delta CC (new campus)		
Louisiana State University-Shreveport	3.06	7.08	Shreveport LTC	0.42	1.65
Southern University - Shreveport	3.29	3.51	Bossier Parish CC (new campus)	N/A	N/A
Northwestern State University	3.23	6.67	Natchitoches LTC	2.25	0.00
Louisiana State University - Alexandria	1.95	8.41	Alexandria LTC	0.98	6.58
McNeese State University	1.12	3.93	SOWELA TCC	1.06	1.77
Louisiana State University - Eunice	1.73	5.53	Ville Platte LTC	NA	NA
			Morgan Smith LTC	10.54	1.34
			Acadian LTC	0.80	2.82
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	1.19	5.65	South Louisiana CC	1.30	2.34
			Lafayette LTC	0.91	1.69
Louisiana State University & A&M College	0.91	4.22	Baton Rouge LTC	2.22	1.50
Southern University & A&M College	1.95	6.94	Baton Rouge CC	1.08	2.15

Southeastern Louisiana University	1.31	4.55	Hammond LTC	0.84	0.67
Nicholls State University	1.52	5.57	Thibodaux (Lafourche) LTC Fletcher TCC	0.68 0.87	2.19 4.58
University of New Orleans	1.83	6.21	Jefferson LTC	3.12	2.57
SUNO (institution still recovering from Katrina and is partially housed in temporary facilities)	1.5	5.71	West Jefferson LTC Delgado Community College (includes West Bank Campus)	2.11 1.06	2.33 3.92

From this chart, it can be seen that some LCTCS institutions report a current need for space and an implied greater space need for the future. Further, for some of those LCTCS institutions that need space, there is a traditional four-year institution within a reasonable travel distance that has the needed type of space available.

Staff encountered inconsistencies in the space utilization data reporting system and therefore employed a second method of evaluation from other sources: total academic space per full-time equivalent (FTE).

The results of this analysis found:

- LTC institutions average 75 NASF (Net Assignable Square Feet) per FTE
- Community Colleges average 25 NASF per FTE
- A group of traditional four-year institutions selected at random (LSU A&M, SU A&M and UL Lafayette) average 25 NASF per FTE to provide a point of comparison.

From this, we conclude that the Technical Colleges, on average, are not short of space, but that the community colleges are more crowded.

In general, most Louisiana Technical College institutions are not short of space; however, they may have space shortages in high demand times of the day, which is a function of when students can attend, and when professors are available to teach. To fully analyze this component of space requirements, new reporting standards must be developed to include attendance patterns and student needs at two-year institutions.

A significant finding of the study is that the Technical Colleges may be short of laboratory space. Laboratory space is typically not a chemistry lab, but rather, a carpentry, automotive, or air conditioning equipment shop. The primary conclusion from the data currently collected is that the four-year institutions do not have the same type of space required to meet all the demands of the two-year technical institutions. Traditional four-year institutions simply do not have shops.

Over the past few years, construction for LCTCS institutions has been significant. Entirely new campuses have been established for Baton Rouge Community College, Bossier Parish Community College, South Louisiana Community College, and Louisiana Delta Community College. Major additions have been provided at Nunez Community College and Delgado Community College West Bank Campus. Act 391 of 2007 provided for the replacement of

several substandard existing Community Colleges, Technical Community Colleges, and Technical Colleges including Winnfield, Westside in Plaquemine, Florida Parishes, Fletcher TCC, Northwest in Minden, Sidney Collier in New Orleans and others.

The point of this study may be for the LCTCS to borrow existing available space at traditional four-year institutions, and thereby avoid the cost of any new facilities. While the borrowing of space may solve short term problems during difficult economic times, the longer term answer is in providing adequate facilities at appropriate locations that will facilitate the entire purpose of the Community and Technical College System in Louisiana.

Information provided below outlines specific LCTCS institutions, their space needs, and the ways in which those needs are being or can be met, including the borrowing of space from proximate four-year institutions:

Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC): BRCC is short of classroom space, and could borrow space from Southern University and A&M College, which has sufficient classroom space for that purpose. Louisiana State University and A&M College has limited excess classroom space and would not have space to dedicate to this purpose. The BRCC campus was constructed in 2000 but enrollment has continued to outpace construction. The Board of Regents recommended a new building for this institution in its FY 2011-2012 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation. Regents recommends that various classrooms be made available for use by BRCC at Southern University and A&M College during the interim.

Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC): This campus does not need to borrow space at this time. Should that change, Louisiana State University in Shreveport has sufficient classroom and laboratory space to meet this need. BPCC was completed in the past few years with 365,000 gross square foot (GSF) and was intentionally overbuilt to allow growth. Subsequent to the initial construction, a theater and gymnasium were built. This institution has, or appears to have, sufficient facilities for the foreseeable future.

Delgado Community College (DCC): This institution reports needing classroom space and turning away students. It is still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. Recently, five small classroom buildings were declared 50% damaged by FEMA, and it is expected that new facilities will replace those older small buildings, as well as constructing a new library. The anticipated replacement buildings combined with the use of the Regional VoTech allowed the LCTCS to abandon a request for an additional new classroom building for the FY 2011-2012 Capital Outlay Recommendation. Therefore, DCC has sufficient space on its City Park Campus. If this should change in the future, this institution could utilize classroom and laboratory space at either UNO or SUNO. However, the Delgado Community College West Bank Campus is crowded and they are seeking an additional classroom building. The advantage of the West Bank campus is its location; New Orleans traffic and the Mississippi River tend to make access to other possible institutions difficult.

Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC): This institution just moved from rented space at University of Louisiana at Monroe to its new campus located just off I-20 in the eastern area of Monroe. The campus was built to meet the anticipated demand for the near term. If needed, this institution could continue to borrow classroom space from University of Louisiana at Monroe,

which is only three miles from the LDCC campus.

Nunez Community College: This institution was devastated by Hurricane Katrina and continues to move through the slow recovery process. A major classroom building, a smaller classroom building, and the gymnasium have been restored. However, the original VoTech Buildings which housed the shops have not be repaired or replaced. It is possible that Nunez could borrow space from University of New Orleans (UNO) to a limited extent until its facilities are restored. The institution is located approximately twelve miles from UNO.

River Parishes Community College (RPCC): RPCC is very short of classroom and laboratory space. There is no four-year institution proximate to RPCC that could alleviate this space need. Act 391 provided significant funding for the acquisition of a site and the development of initial buildings for the relocation of this institution. The Technical College campus in Sorrento was recently made a part of the Community College. In addition, the Board of Regents has also recommended a new building for RPCC in its FY 2011-2012 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation.

South Louisiana Community College (SLCC): SLCC is short of classroom and laboratory space. This institution has a new campus located adjacent to the Lafayette LTC and relatively close to University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The campus is growing significantly and is now ready for its second building, which is being recommended in the Board of Regents FY 2011-2012 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation. Being immediately adjacent to the Lafayette LTC, SLCC could borrow classroom space as needed from the LTC.

Fletcher Technical Community College: Fletcher Technical Community College is short of classroom space. It already had an excellent working relationship with Nicholls State University and each institution assists the other with programs and classes. The institutions are approximately fifteen miles apart. In addition, this institution is also named in Act 391 for the acquisition of a site and the development of a new campus. It also benefitted from the acquisition of a vacated State Farm building to house its nursing program in recent years. Space needs could be met by retaining the old campus once the new campus comes on line. The distance between the two campuses is ten miles.

SOWELA Technical Community College: SOWELA reports being short of lab space, however, the institution continues to recover from Hurricane Rita. The only proximate institution to SOWELA is McNeese State University, approximately eight miles distant and itself short of lab space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

House Resolution 200 of 2010 requests the Board of Regents to study the availability of facilities at public postsecondary education institutions under the jurisdiction of the other public postsecondary management education boards that can be used by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) for the offering of regional programs and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions.

Based on the data available, the Board of Regents recommends the following:

- Continued campus collaboration to determine the most cost effective use of space, especially in this time of tight budgets;
- Updating the space utilization reporting system to better analyze the needs of LCTCS institutions in order to compare them to peer groups in other states. This will provide for rational determinations of the LCTCS need for facilities compared to the overall need for facilities at all institutions in Louisiana; and
- Further analysis of faculty offices, libraries, housing, food services, recreational facilities, and athletic venues at four-year institutions to determine plausibility of sharing space with LCTCS institutions.

SUMMARY

In conclusion, classroom overcrowding at community colleges may be alleviated through the use of classroom space at proximate four-year institutions; however, providing appropriate laboratory space at a four-year institution for technical college use is more complex. Technical colleges require laboratory space that is typically not a chemistry lab, but rather, carpentry, automotive, or air conditioning equipment shop. Traditional four-year institutions simply do not have these kinds of facilities.

From this analysis, it is apparent that the four-year institutions do not appear to have the same type of space required to meet all the demands of the two-year institutions. While the borrowing of space may solve short term problems during difficult economic times, the longer term answer is in providing adequate facilities at appropriate locations to meet the educational needs of Louisiana's students. The Board of Regents will continue to analyze space utilizations to promote facility sharing and to seek to address shortcomings in the current data collection system.

Attachment A:

**House Resolution
No. 200**

Regular Session, 2010
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 200
BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, to study the availability of facilities at public postsecondary education institutions under the jurisdiction of the other public postsecondary management education boards that can be used by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System for the offering of regional programs and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, there is some concern that the implementation of the provisions of the Act which originated as House Bill No. 1171 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature, commonly known as the "Louisiana Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act" or the "GRAD Act", will result in the reduction of building capacity at many of the state's public postsecondary education institutions; and

WHEREAS, many predict that there will be an increase in enrollment in institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS Board of Supervisors) as the result of the expected tuition and fee increases at certain public postsecondary education institutions as well as stricter academic standards; and

WHEREAS, under these circumstances, it is appropriate to explore the possibility of making certain facilities under the jurisdiction of other public postsecondary management boards available for use by the LCTCS Board of Supervisors in order to meet the educational needs of LCTCS students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, to study the availability of facilities at public postsecondary education institutions under the jurisdiction of the other public postsecondary management education boards that can be used by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System for the offering of regional programs and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, and the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

