



Regents Recap

SEPTEMBER, 27 2012

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Jim Purcell

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Higher Education*

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REGENTS APPROVES BUDGETS

BATON ROUGE, La – The Board of Regents approved the current year operating budgets for all higher education institutions, as required by law, after holding a series of budget hearings earlier this week.

“The budget for higher education in Louisiana has become a very important topic for the past several years as state revenues have declined,” said Board of Regents Chairman Bob Levy. “These hearings allow us to understand each system’s unique budget realities and strategies.”

“It’s important for our board to see the steps being taken by our system and campus leaders to address the continued budget challenges facing higher education,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell. “There has been significant effort to do things differently.”

The Legislative Fiscal Office, which provides independent guidance to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, presented a statewide budget picture to Regents in advance of individual system/campus updates. While still very cautious about the state’s financial outlook, staff reminded Regents that this year’s Legislative Session will focus on fiscal issues, including tax breaks, which could impact the bottom line for higher education.”

According to the Legislative Fiscal Office the higher education state general fund budget and the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP), which funds K-12 education, represent 55% of over-all state general funds in the FY 13 budget. However, the MFP is considered non-discretionary since it is mandated constitutionally resulting in significant cuts to higher education and health care when budget reductions are required. For FY 12-13 the total higher education budget is \$2.9 billion.

“The cultural shift that is necessary-- including working in a more centralized system, delivering more coursework online and having our two-year campus on our four-year campus is not easy, especially at the speed in which we are changing,” said Southern System President Ron Mason. “However, if we pull this off, we hope to be a model for the nation.”

“Many departments that should have been consolidated long ago didn’t for a number of reasons,” said Interim Louisiana State University System President William Jenkins. “But those reasons have dissipated now because the budget situation has become critical. These things take time and we are out of time.”

Jenkins also reports that Louisiana State University and A&M College has achieved several GRAD Act autonomies in the area of facilities and investments and the system is hopeful that solid savings and efficiencies will be realized as a result.

Regents Highlights

The Board of Regents conducted its annual evaluation of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

The Board of Regents named Barbara Goodson as Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration.

The Board of Regents conditionally approved the following programs:

- University of Louisiana System-BA in Organizational Leadership
- Southern University and A&M College-BS and MS in Mathematics and Physics

The Board of Regents fully approved a Graduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages to Northwestern State University.

The Board of Regents approved all Routine Academic Requests.

The Board of Regents approved the following Small Capital Projects for Louisiana State University and A&M College:

- Dalrymple Drive Roundabout
- Geology Colorado Field Campus-Cabin Renovation
- Laboratory School Site Improvements
- Wayfinding Signage for Athletic Facilities

The Board of Regents approved the following licenses:

- Indiana State University
- Stevens-Henager College-Independence University
- University of North Carolina
- University of Southern California
- Remington College
- Vanderbilt University
- Pelican Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Training Center, Baton Rouge
- Pelican Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Training Center, Southwest Campus
- Lazarus Driving Academy
- Accelerated Dental Assisting Academy
- Ark-La-Tex Dental Assisting Academy
- Art Instruction School
- Baton Rouge School of Computers
- Camelot College
- Coastal College-Alexandria
- Crescent City Career Institute
- Crescent City School of Gaming and d Bartending
- Dominion Technical College, LLC
- Falck Alford Training Center-Houma, Maurice
- Forits College
- Healthcare Training Institute
- Houston Marine Training Services

Upcoming Meetings:

Oct. 25-26

No November Meeting

The Board of Regents welcomes you to
INCREASE STUDENT COMPLETERS
through
STRONG CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2012
Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel

9:00 - 9:30am

REGISTRATION

9:30am

WELCOME AND PURPOSE

Salons III and IV

Jim Purcell, Commissioner of Higher Education



9:45am

**USING CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT TO
DRIVE STRONGER STUDENT COMPLETION**

Salons III and IV

Charles Schroeder, Senior Consultant at Noel-Levitz

10:45am

BREAK



11:00am

LEVERAGING FINANCIAL AID FOR COMPLETION

Kevin Crockett, President and CEO of Noel-Levitz

Noon

LUNCH

Salons I and II

1:15pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- High Impact-Low Cost Initiatives that Improve Student Success

Salons III and IV

- Leveraging Financial Aid for Completion

Camelia Room



3:00pm

WRAP UP SESSION

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