

**Attachment C**  
**FY 2010-2011**  
**DOA Approved Autonomies**  
**Pursuant to Act 741 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Louisiana**  
**Legislature**  
**Louisiana Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act**

*Per the GRAD Act agreement Section III.C.8., the management board will certify initially, through formal Board action, the base level autonomies and, after year three, additional autonomies the Institution is capable of successfully managing as evidenced through audit reports and timely quarterly reports.*

*In addition to the formal Board action, evidence that the institution has met the specific criteria listed below for autonomies that must be individually approved by LPAA or OCR must also be sent and certified by the management Boards.*

**Autonomy on Travel:**

The Board of Regents specifically requests that entities of postsecondary education be allowed to purchase the lowest airfare available and not be mandated to use the State contracted travel agency. An annual report would be submitted detailing usage and savings.

**Response:** DOA is currently in a 3-year contract, with a travel agency that was competitively bid and requires use by all state entities including higher education. The only exception is under Section 2.10 in individual cases where a traveler can obtain better pricing outside the contract. Removing higher education from this contract would significantly reduce the volume and could be seen as a violation of the contract's terms, thereby risking litigation against the state. However, the Division commits to asking the state travel agency for a formal opinion on whether an exception for higher education institutions would be considered a breach of the state's contract (if it were limited to instances with better pricing, similar to the exception already allowed on a case-by-case basis). The Division also commits to raising this autonomy in the negotiations for the next contract with a state travel agency, and to considering other specific travel autonomy requests that Regents and the institutions may have in the meantime.

*The Board of Regents has received no further information as of yet.*

**Autonomy for Obsolete Equipment:**

Provided, however that autonomy be granted within R.S. 39:330 to allow postsecondary education entities to approve items worthy of scrap or

dismantling and to approve trade-ins without the necessity of additional LPAA approval.

**Response:** Due to current law, the DOA cannot provide this autonomy through this request. However, as required by current law, the Commissioner of Administration will provide an annual memorandum to waive current law. The memorandum will be subject to annual review of this request. The institutions will be required to submit an annual list of items disposed of through this autonomy.

*Regents has requested that this memorandum be issued as soon as possible and has received no further information as of yet.*

### **Autonomy on Inventory Control:**

Provided, however that notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, entities of postsecondary education shall be allowed to deviate from the definition in section 307 of Title 34 Part VII Chapter 3 of the Louisiana Administrative Code of Items of Property to be Inventoried and instead be allowed to define items of property to be inventoried at the same threshold used in the entities Annual Financial Report (AFR) for depreciable capital assets.

**Response:** The DOA, through the Louisiana Property Assistance Agency (LPAA), will grant exceptions to the colleges and universities included in the La Grad Act on an institution by institution basis, and subject to annual review. Any such request must first be reviewed by the institution's management board for compliance with the following criteria. If the Board approves making the request the request should be reviewed by the Board of Regents and then forwarded to LPAA for final approval. Following is the criteria to be met before the LPAA would grant approval for one of these entities to increase their agency's tagging threshold from \$1,000 to \$5,000:

- A. The school has had its property and fleet management programs audited by LPAA, the Legislative Auditor's Office, the Inspector General's Office, the Attorney General's Office, or a similar entity within the past three years and the results of any or all audit(s) failed to produce notable property or fleet findings. (In other words, the agency has been fully compliant with the rules and regulations governing the property and fleet management programs for a minimum of 36 months prior to the date of the agency's request for the exemption.)
- B. The agency has less than 5% of all its movable items having an original acquisition cost of \$4,999 or less missing or reported as

unlocated as determined by an audit. The quantity missing, not its cost, will be the determining factor. The audit will be conducted by LPAA's audit staff within 60 days of granting the exception.

- C. A review of the agency's previous three years' property certification packets verify a consistent history that the agency has been a good steward of its movable property.
- D. Staff officially assigned property and fleet responsibilities have been employed by the agency in that capacity for at least three years, and the staff has a solid understanding of the respective program's statute and code mandated requirements.
- E. Future audits conducted after receiving this approval must verify the agency's performance has remained exceptional or the approval would be revoked.
- F. As with all autonomies being requested, no actions by an institution shall be in violation of current laws. In addition, property tags will still be required for all items currently required to have a property tag.

***The Board of Regents have requested that the institution should not have to go through LPAA to receive this autonomy. The Board has received no further information as of yet.***

### **Autonomy on Contracts:**

Provided, however that notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, entities of postsecondary education shall be granted delegated authority as allowed in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Code Part V Chapter 1 Section 5 101 in the amount assigned to each individual postsecondary education entity in its charter not to exceed \$49,999.99.

**Response:** The DOA will consider requests for individual institutions. Upon receipt of the specific institution(s) and staff member(s) from the Board of Regents, the DOA would use the following criteria for delegation consideration:

- A. a combination of years of experience in contracting capacity at the institution in addition to education, and/or certification specific to procurement and/or contracts,
- B. satisfactory performance record and solid understanding of contract statute, regulations and requirements and,
- C. other factors of relevance mutually agreed upon by the DOA and Board of Regents.