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*Commissioner of*  
*Higher Education*



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**AGENDA**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, June 21, 2017 ~ 11:20 a.m.**

**Claiborne Building**

**Thomas Jefferson Room 1-136, Sections A and B**

**1201 North Third Street**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. 2017 Regular Session Recap
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment

**Committee Members:** Marty Chabert, Chair; Charles McDonald, Vice Chair; Claudia Adley, Blake David, Robert Levy, Collis Temple III, Louisiana Community and Technical College System Representative; Louisiana State University System Representative; Southern University System Representative; and University of Louisiana System



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**2017 Regular Legislative Session**

Louisiana's 2017 Regular Legislative Session concluded at 6:00 p.m. on June 8, 2017. Several bills and resolutions affecting Higher Education were passed ranging from topics such as governance, TOPS, campus policy, funding and study resolutions. However, the Legislature adjourned without passing the Appropriations, Capital Outlay, or Supplemental Appropriations bills. Minutes after the Regular Session ended this evening, the Legislature convened in an [extraordinary session](#) called by the Governor to consider several fiscal items. Below you will find a statement from Commissioner Rallo and a summary of the higher education bills that passed the legislature during the 2017 Regular Session.

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**Statement from the Commissioner**

"While we are most appreciative of the support for Higher Education from the House and the Senate, we are saddened at the inability to pass a budget. Uncertainty is not in the best interest of our students."

-Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education

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**Legislation Recommended by the Board of Regents via the  
[Response to Act 619 of 2016](#)**

[HB 113 \(Broadwater\)](#) Extends the authority of the management boards to establish fees, with limitations, and sunsets the authority in the 2020 academic year.

[Act 44 \(SB 71 - Donahue\)](#) Sets TOPS awards to the amount of tuition charged at each institution during the 2016-17 academic year.

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**Legislation Impacting Higher Education**

[HB 133 \(Edmonds\)](#) Requires each management board to develop a centralization plan and a cooperative unification plan and submit the plans to the legislature every four years.

[HB 178 \(Simon\)](#) Creates an exception for certain educator provider programs from the proprietary schools law.

[HB 269 \(L. Harris\)](#) Requires management boards to adopt policies prohibiting disruptive protests and provide for sanctions after a disciplinary hearing and creates a 15-member subcommittee under the Board of Regents that would report instances and on consistency of policies among institutions.

[HB 688 \(Pierre\)](#) Prohibits an institution from inquiring about a prospective student's criminal history, except for history pertaining to specified offenses, prior to his acceptance for admission.

[SB 90 \(Erdey\)](#) Provides relative to scholarships for children of certain law enforcement officers and other investigative employees killed or permanently disabled in the performance of duty; to allow use of the scholarships for part-time attendance, and to provide for related matters.

[SB 102 \(Johns\)](#) Creates the Louisiana Educational Workforce Training Fund, subject to an annual appropriation to the LCTCS, for short-term, high-demand workforce training programs at public two-year institutions.

[SB 106 \(W. Bishop\)](#) Requires the management boards in conjunction with the Commissioner and the President of each system adopt a policy requiring each institution to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancies among unmarried students as part of the institution's freshman orientation activities.

[SB 145 \(Claitor\)](#) Provides that the Tulane Legislative Scholarship shall be applied toward a TOPS recipient's financial obligations prior to applying any TOPS amounts.

[SB 190 \(Thompson\)](#) Provides relative to college and career readiness. The bill provides for a tiered implementation that ensures high school seniors address any remediation issues in English and math prior to high school graduation. Beginning in 2017-2018, a student's English and math ACT and standards for remediation established by the Board of Regents will be used to determine college readiness. Beginning in 2018-2019, each high school senior who does not meet the established college readiness standards for English and Math shall be given the opportunity to take the appropriate transition course.

[SB 225 \(Hewitt\)](#) Provides for the creation, membership, powers, duties and functions of the Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (LaSTEM) Council. The Council will serve under the auspices of the Board of Regents. The purpose of this council will be to: 1) Oversee the creation of STEM education programs. 2) Increase student interest and achievement in STEM fields. 3) Align education, economic development, industry & workforce needs. 4) Increase the number of women who graduate from a postsecondary institution with a STEM degree or credential. The bill also creates a fund for private contributions.

### **Resolutions Passed Impacting Higher Education**

[HCR 89 \(Stokes\)](#) Provides for the Board of Regents and Board of Supervisors of the UL system to jointly study the possibility of the reclassification and admission standards for UNO and SUNO.

HSR 2 (Landry) Requests the House Committee on Education to examine issues related to postsecondary education services for current and former foster youth.

SCR 110 (Morrish) Creates a task force to study TOPS, including a review of the program's purpose and history, the role of the program in relation to tuition and fees, and other institutional, state, and federal financial assistance programs, and ways to ensure the program's long-term viability. The task force shall be comprised of ten members: the two chairs of the education committees, four members from the Senate and four members from the House.

SCR 117 (Walsworth) Creates the Louisiana Historical Archives Task Force to study the conditions, needs, issues, and problems relative to the preservation of precious print, visual, audio, and digital historical records and to recommend any action or legislation that the commission deems necessary or appropriate.