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**AGENDA**

**STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

**Friday, February 24, 2017 • 10:40 a.m.**

**Claiborne Building**

**Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100**

**1201 North Third Street, First Floor**

**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

**III. Consent Agenda**

- A. Authorize Publication of Final Rule**
- B. Authorize Publication of Rule Repealing LASFAC Bylaws and Adopting Bylaws for the LOSFA Advisory Board**
- C. Approval of Exceptions**

**IV. Other Business**

**V. Adjournment**

**Committee Members:** W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr., Jacqueline Wyatt, Vice Chair, Claudia Adley, Marty Chabert, Thomas Henning, Robert Levy, Charles McDonald, T. Jay Seale III, and Collis Temple III

## **REVISED Executive Summary**

### **Statewide Programs Committee Consent Agenda Agenda Item III.A.**

Authorize publication of final rule to amend Sections 703 and 1903 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to add AP Computer Science A as a course that will be calculated on a 5.0 grading scale beginning with graduates of 2018 and to delete a provision requiring certain information be included on students' fee bills.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Beginning with the high school class of 2018, certain honors, advancement placement, gifted, and dual enrollment courses will be graded on a 5.0 grading scale for purposes of calculating students' grade point average on the TOPS core curriculum courses. The TOPS statutes provide that the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will determine which of these courses will be eligible for the heightened grading scale.

The rulemaking amends the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules as follows:

- Section 703: Adds AP Computer Science A as a course that will be graded on a 5.0 grading scale for purposes of determining a student's TOPS grade point average;
- Section 1903: Adds an expiration date to the requirement that eligible colleges and universities include specific line items on its fee bills that set forth tuition only, TOPS Award Amount, and TOPS stipends.

The Notice of Intent was published in the Louisiana Register on October 20, 2016. The text of the rule changes is reflected on the attached excerpts from the Louisiana Register.

No comments have been received.

### **Consent Agenda Agenda Item III.B.**

Adopt proposed amendments in rulemaking to repeal the by-laws for the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) and to convert the by-laws of the LASFAC Advisory Committee to bylaws for the LOSFA Advisory Board and authorize the Executive Director of LOSFA to publish notice of intent to make these rules permanent.

Act 314 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature abolished the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) and replaced it with the Louisiana Board of Regents. Since LASFAC no longer exists, and since the Louisiana Board of Regents has its own by-laws, staff recommends that the by-laws of LASFAC be repealed.

The Board of Regents has created the LOSFA Advisory Board to review all matters related to the conduct of the financial assistance programs of the state as well as the state's 529 savings plan and to provide recommendations to the Board of Regents based on its findings. The proposed rulemaking provides bylaws for the Advisory Board and includes matters such as purpose, membership, term of members, conduct of meetings, and public meetings requirements.

**Statewide Programs Committee  
Consent Agenda  
Agenda Item III.C.**

Requests for exception to the TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to enroll full-time, to remain continuously enrolled, and to earn at least 24 credit hours during the academic year.

**BACKGROUND:**

Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules require TOPS recipients to continue to enroll full-time for the fall and spring semesters of each academic year, to remain enrolled throughout the semester, and to earn a minimum of 24 credit hours by the end of the academic year. Section 2103.E authorizes the governing body to grant an exception to the full-time, continuous enrollment and 24-hour requirements when the “student/recipient has exceptional circumstances that are beyond his immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution.”

Six requests for exception to the full-time, continuous enrollment, and 24 hour requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of January 24, 2107. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.