

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

The Finance Committee met on Wednesday, April 27, 2005, at 11:25 a.m. in the Louisiana Building at Baton Rouge Community College, 5310 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Chair Virgil Robinson, Jr., called the meeting to order. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Virgil Robinson, Jr., Chair
William Blake, Vice Chair
Scott Brame
Robert Levy
W. Clinton Raspberry, Jr.
Artis Terrell
Laura Leach, LSU System
Winfred Sibille, UL System
Kathy Sellers Johnson, LCTCS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Jesse Bilberry, Jr., SU System

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Roland Toups
Frances Henry
Harold M. Stokes
Stanley Jacobs
Pat Strong
Richard D'Aquin
Clifford Smith
Jeraul Mackey

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

E. Joseph Savoie
Donald J. Vandal
Connie Koury
Louise Moore

GUESTS PRESENT

Appendix A

OPERATING BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS (BA-7's)

Mr. Donald J. Vandal, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented three BA-7 requests which must also be considered by the Division of Administration and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Those include request from: (1) Louisiana Technical College, which budgets \$3,062,310 of self-generated fund balance, (2) Southern Shreveport, which budgets \$396,747 of additional self-generated revenue, and (3) LUMCON, which provides an increase of \$500,000 in self-generated revenue and a like reduction in Federal funds.

After further discussion,

On motion of Regent Levey, seconded by Regent Blake the committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve BA-7's proposed for Louisiana Technical College, Southern Shreveport, and LUMCON as submitted.

ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE POOL FUNDS

Mr. Vandal reminded the committee that \$5 million had been appropriated in the current fiscal year for community and technical college growth and development, which has included academic learning centers. The Board has previously approved distribution of all funds except approximately \$109,000.

The committee was reminded that a report on the Jefferson West Learning Center had been submitted by Dean Marjorie Taylor at last month's meeting which included a recommendation for a comprehensive needs assessment for the Jefferson West Learning Center. Regents' staff have been in discussions with Dennis Jones of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) regarding such an assessment. NCHEMS has

estimated they could conduct a comprehensive needs assessment for an estimated \$34,000. The staff requested the committee authorize an allocation of funds in that amount from the balance of the community and technical college pool for that purpose.

On motion of Regent Terrell, and seconded by Regent Blake, the committee voted unanimously to recommend the Board approve the allocation of \$34,000 from the balance of the Community and Technical College Pool funds for a comprehensive needs assessment for the Jefferson West Learning Center.

Mr. Vandal indicated that although discussion have been held with Dr. Bumphus regarding potential allocation and use of the remaining funds in the pool, a specific proposal has not been finalized at this time. Recommendations regarding these funds will be made at the Board's May meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF LOUISIANA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION TUITION AND FEE POLICY

Mr. Vandal gave a Powerpoint presentation on the proposed Louisiana Postsecondary Education Tuition and Fee Policy. Mr. Vandal began by providing the Committee with the background and context of this proposed policy (Constitutional authority, financial challenges, 1995 Constitutional Amendment, creation of LCTCS, and Act 1105 of 2003). Mr. Vandal also mentioned our state's involvement with the Appropriations, Tuition and Financial Aid (ATFA) national project funded by the Lumina Foundation.

Mr. Vandal identified tuition and fee policy considerations such as cost of education by type of institution, sharing of the cost of education, and benefits derived from education. Mr. Vandal also mentioned tuition related issues such as the TOPS and the lack of need-based financial aid. Finally, it was stated that legal limitations require the policy to establish

“parameters” within which the management boards can set tuition and fee rates, that SREB median and flagship average rates must be projected, and that the projections will serve as the limits for the setting of rates.

System representatives were also asked to share their position. They expressed support for the policy.

After further discussion,

On motion of Regent Terrell, seconded by Regent Blake, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board approval of the Louisiana Postsecondary Education Tuition and Fee Policy (Appendix B); authorization for the commissioner and staff to make further technical and editorial changes; and to authorize the Executive Committee of the Board to adopt any substantive changes to the policy which may be needed as the legislation authorizing implementation of the policy is considered during the legislative process.

The Chair announced that the committee would recess for lunch and tour of the college campus until 2:00 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

STATUS REPORT ON ULM SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Dr. Savoie proceeded to summarize the need for and appropriateness of a state PharmD program at ULM. Dr. Clausen briefly updated the Board on developments at ULM under the leadership of Dr. Jim Cofer. Dr. Clausen then introduced Dr. Cofer and Dr. Lamar Pritchard, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, and they reviewed the nature of today’s pharmacy education, the status of the ULM program, and the financial challenges the School of Pharmacy faces. Dr. Cofer then outlined the changes envisioned for the program, including reduced enrollment, the additional state resources needed for support of the program, and enhanced tuition levels. The

school representatives then presented specific request for support. Further discussion followed.

On motion by Supervisor Sibille, seconded by Regent Rasberry, the committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board support of the request by the UL System and ULM to secure additional state resources for the School of Pharmacy.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business came before the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.