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## AGENDA BOARD of REGENTS, COMMITTEE as a WHOLE (Academic & Student Affairs Items) March 20, 2017 Pennington Biomedical Research Center

### V. Reports and Recommendations

### A. Academic and Student Affairs

### 1. Academic Programs

- a. Letter of Intent: BGS/ General Studies GSU
- b. Program Proposals
  - i. BS / Chemistry LSUA
  - ii. PBC / Library Science LSU

### 2. Consent Agenda

- a. Previously Approved Centers and Institutes: Continued Authorization
  - i. Hospitality Research Center UNO
  - ii. Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences UNO
- b. Routine Staff Reports
  - i. Staff Approvals
  - ii. Progress Reports for Conditionally Approved Programs/Units
  - iii. Past Due Reports
  - iv. Letters of Intent/Proposals in the Queue

### 3. Other Business

<u>Committee Members</u>: Thomas Henning, Chair; Robert Levy, Vice Chair; Claudia Adley; Marty Chabert; Benson Kinney; Collis Temple III; Jacqueline Wyatt; LCTCS, LSU, SU, UL System Representatives.

Claudia H. Adley Blake R. David Thomas G. Henning Robert W. Levy Roy O. Martin III Charles R. McDonald Darren G. Mire W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr. T. Jay Seale III W. Gray Stream Collis B. Temple III Jacqueline V. Wyatt Benson T. Kinney, Student

# AGENDA ITEM V A 1 a LETTER of INTENT GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY BACHELOR of GENERAL STUDIES

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Grambling State University (GSU) requests Board of Regents' approval of a Letter of Intent (LoI) to create a proposal for a Bachelor of General Studies (BGS). The LoI was approved by the ULS Board of Supervisors and sent to the BoR in November, 2016. The campus has been working with Regents' staff to address questions raised.

#### STAFF SUMMARY

#### 1. Description and Need

A General Studies degree is designed to offer students an interdisciplinary curriculum that includes both structure and flexibility, drawing on a large variety of course choices through options for concentrations and minors. It not only allows a student to actively design a degree that matches personal interests and goals, but it also facilitates the completion of a baccalaureate degree for those who do not settle on a major. GSU's intended BGS degree will target those students whose educational needs can best be met in a non-traditional course of study that will allow them to integrate several disciplines into a degree with breadth, intellectual cohesion and practical value. In addition, the program can offer students who have completed many or most of the requirements of a major, but are unable or unwilling to complete a regular degree program, a route to graduation. Under the direction of an academic advisor, students will map out a plan of study with either two general concentrations (27 credit hours each), or a concentration and a minor (at least 18 credit hours in one subject area). Plans for the BGS curriculum include the following concentrations: Humanities and Culture; Gender, Race and Intersectionality; Juvenile Behavior Studies; and Gerontology.

Nationwide, there is increasing emphasis on degree attainment. A recent (2016) College Board Report reiterated the correspondence of higher levels of education to positive economic (employability, higher wages) and social outcomes (more taxes paid, lower dependency of social services) regardless of the field of study. As an example, in 2015, median earnings for those with bachelor's degrees and no advanced degree were 67% higher than those of high school graduates. In addition, bachelor's degree holders paid an estimated 91% more in taxes than high school graduates. Currently, GSU has no BGS-type flexible curriculum that will accommodate the interests of students who do not wish to pursue a traditional academic degree. The intended BGS will provide that pathway for students to earn a bachelor's degree that would not have been available otherwise.

### 2. Students

This BGS program will provide students the opportunity to explore interests that extend beyond a single major. The University expects that both current and returning students will be likely to embrace the BGS as a route to completion of a liberal arts or sciences-oriented undergraduate degree, especially for those who have completed a significant number of hours and changed majors or realized that they would like to change majors and broaden their educational experience. Switching majors as an upper-level student usually requires substantial additional coursework, time, and resources. GSU expects 75 students to enroll in the first year of implementation, increasing to as many as 200 by the fifth year.

#### 3. Faculty, Resources & Administration

If approved, the General Studies program will be housed in the Department of History in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Chair of the History Department will manage the proposed program until such time that enrollment might require a coordinator to help facilitate advising and oversight. All courses required of the proposed degree are already offered by the institution, and sufficient faculty and infrastructure are in place. The program can be offered at no cost to the institution. In fact, the campus anticipates an increase of revenue from tuition and fees driven by enrollment growth.

#### STAFF ANALYSIS

With varied courses that cross many disciplines, general studies programs have the potential to address the needs of organizations across industries, including government, healthcare, education, etc. by developing graduates with broad educational backgrounds with a focus in one or two more specific areas of study. Recognizing the value of a well-structured General Studies program, BoR staff intend to conduct a statewide review of all general- and interdisciplinary-studies degree programs to ensure that the broad-based curricula, as implemented, do include both structure and flexibility as well as rigor. BoR staff have worked closely with the GSU faculty representative in preliminary design toward developing a quality interdisciplinary program. Staff support the need for such a program at Grambling and the likelihood that it will benefit both the students and the institution.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommends that the Board of Regents grant <u>approval</u> of the Letter of Intent to develop a proposal for a <u>Bachelor in General Studies</u> (CIP 24.0102) at Grambling State University.

# AGENDA ITEM V A 1 b i PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAM LOUSIANA STATE UNIVERSITY in ALEXANDRIA BACHELOR of SCIENCE in CHEMISTRY

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

LSU Alexandria (LSUA) requests Board of Regents' approval to offer a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Chemistry. After the Letter of Intent was approved by the BoR in December 2016, the program proposal was presented to the LSU Board of Supervisors in January 2017 and forwarded for review.

#### **STAFF SUMMARY**

### 1. Description

LSUA has designed a BS in Chemistry to meet the needs of students with a variety of goals, including: securing employment in the Central or South Louisiana chemical industry; becoming local high school chemistry teachers; or pursuing graduate or professional studies in areas such as chemistry, pharmacy or medicine. LSUA currently offers 14 chemistry foundation courses on a regular basis as major components of existing academic programs (e.g., biology, pharmacy technician, clinical and medical laboratory sciences, and nursing), as well as a minor and a concentration (under the General Studies degree) in chemistry. Within the proposed degree's curriculum, students may choose to pursue concentrations in chemistry, preprofessional studies, secondary education, or management, which include chemistry course requirements ranging from a low of 37 hours of chemistry in the secondary education concentration to a high of 46 hours in the chemistry concentration. Graduates with the proposed BS in Chemistry will be well prepared for positions in product development or as high school teachers, as well as in marketing and sales or in management in area businesses and plants.

## 2. <u>Need</u>

The LA Workforce Commission rates chemists, chemical technicians, and sales representatives of technical and scientific products in wholesale and manufacturing as 5-star jobs. There are a number of potential local employers in and around Rapides Parish, several of whom submitted letters of support for initiation of the new program, who would benefit from the University being able to provide trained, local talent for technical and management positions in their growing industries. Evidence of the growing chemical-related industries in the Central Louisiana region is easy to come by. For example: *Sundrop Fuels* has purchased lands in Rapides Parish to build the world's largest bio refinery; *American Specialty Alloy* has announced plans to build a \$2.4B plant in Pineville; and *Cool Plant Energy Systems* is opening a plant in Alexandria to turn wood chip waste from the timber industry into gasoline and biochar, an agricultural crop booster. All letters of support mentioned that the writers would be in a much better position to recruit effectively if LSUA were to generate a pool of chemistry graduates.

The University also anticipates that the BS in Chemistry will provide a pathway for graduates to teach chemistry in local high schools. The vast majority of high school teachers in the region are educated locally; however, among the major barriers for educating Central Louisiana high school students in STEM areas is a dearth of qualified chemistry teachers. LSUA hopes to address that need by offering a local program.

## 3. Students

Although enrollment in the existing chemistry minor and concentration has been light, over 30 current students have expressed interest in the chemistry major during a recent survey. The BS program would probably remain relatively small, as they tend to be in the regional universities that offer one, but with the strong chemistry influence in related programs on campus and the projected employment opportunities in area plants and facilities, the campus expects to meet viability breakpoints by Year 5, with 46 majors and 8 graduates, an accomplishment that has been met by only three of the six regional institutions with a chemistry degree: LSUS (avg 9), McNeese (avg 10), and Southeastern (avg 8 -- while GSU, Nicholls, and

SUBR average 4, 5, and 6 graduates). Programs similar to the one proposed are only available at public universities that are remote to Central Louisiana; the nearest comparable programs are at McNeese and Grambling.

Among the letters of support included with the proposal were two from local companies (*Cenla Environmental Science* and *Natural Advantage*) whose writers committed to providing summer internship opportunities to upper-level majors to encourage persistence, and they expressed interest in hiring Chemistry graduates from LSUA.

### 4. Faculty Resources & Budget

Because most of the courses required for the proposed Chemistry major are already offered, most of the infrastructure and facilities are in place for the University to offer the BS in Chemistry at minimal additional costs. LSUA already has four full-time chemistry faculty and access to two additional faculty (in biology and in medical lab science) with graduate training in chemistry who can help to meet the demand as the program grows. The six additional classes needed have been created and are going through the campus review process. Revenue generated by new Chemistry majors should cover the expense of a new faculty member, when needed. LSUA is a regional teaching institution whose faculty engage in moderate research which will provide students with several options in research topics, and one of the faculty has secured a commitment from *GlaxoSmithKline* to consider LSUA students for summer internship experiences. The department estimates that roughly \$100K in new instrumental analysis equipment will be needed by Year 3 or 4 of the program, most of which will be covered by laboratory fees, allocations from the LSUA Foundation, and a grant in progress.

### 5. Accreditation

The University will seek American Chemical Society (ACS) certification, for which it must be able to demonstrate that it has a rigorous, broad-based curriculum that includes the intellectual, experimental, and communication skills to prepare students to become effective scientific professionals.

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

The proposed BS in Chemistry program responds to the workforce needs of the profession and the Central Louisiana region. The University has received several commitments from local companies who are willing to help support the program through internship and future employment opportunities. LSUA will leverage existing courses and faculty to provide this educational opportunity to its students.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommends that the Board of Regents grant <u>conditional approval</u> of the <u>Bachelor of Science in Chemistry</u> (CIP 40.0501) at Louisiana State University Alexandria. A progress report shall be due by December 1, 2018.

# AGENDA ITEM V A 1 b ii PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE in LIBRARY SCIENCE

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

LSU is seeking Board of Regents' approval to offer a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in Library Science. The proposal was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors at their meeting in January 2017.

#### **STAFF SUMMARY**

#### 1. Description & Need

LSU's School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) offers the State's only degree in Library & Information Science – an online MLIS that averages 57 graduates per year. SLIS has been expanding its outreach with a GC/School Librarianship, approved in June 2015, and an undergraduate minor in Library Science, launched this semester. The proposed 15-credit certificate would include five of the courses from the minor so that those who have already graduated with a bachelor's degree could return to study library science and earn a formal certificate in the subject.

The proposed online PBC in Library Science is designed for bachelor degree holders who are interested in qualifying for a position as a paraprofessional (library technician or assistant) in a public or academic library, for existing library paraprofessionals to qualify for workforce advancement, and to increase the quality of library services offered to the citizens of Louisiana. Current library paraprofessionals in civil service positions would be able to advance more quickly by taking the courses and earning education credit, which could substitute for experience. Likewise, college graduates interested in library work would be more competitive and score more highly on the civil service exam for paraprofessional positions while also having the additional certified educational experience.

The success of the minor and the PBC hinge on each other. At library conferences in Louisiana, Arkansas and Virginia, library directors have expressed great interest in a post-bachelor's certificate program such as this for their paraprofessionals and clerical staff. USM (Southern Mississippi) has a very successful undergraduate major and minor in Library & Information Science, but USM does not offer a PBC – the proposed program would be the only PBC available in the SREB Academic Common Market.

### 2. Students

Enrollment projections expect at least five new PBC students each semester who, combined with those pursuing the minor, should easily generate the 15 student minimum enrollment established by the University. LSU hopes to achieve viability (at least 10 completers) soon, especially by combining completers in the PBC and minor, since the two opportunities are essentially paired.

### 3. Faculty, Resources & Administration

The online certificate will be directed by Dr. Suzanne Stauffer, Associate Professor of LIS, within the College of Human Sciences & Education. Current faculty will teach the program courses. LSU does not anticipate needing any additional full-time faculty but is prepared to hire adjuncts, if needed, to offer additional sections if the program grows beyond expectations.

### STAFF ANALYSIS

The proposed PBC will fill a unique niche, making it attractive to individuals whose job/career can benefit from their acquiring skills in both areas. Through marketing in Library networks, and by making the program available online, this PBC could easily attract students from all over Louisiana and the SREB.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommends that the Board of Regents grant <u>conditional approval</u> of the <u>Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Library Science</u> (25.0301) at Louisiana State University. A progress report shall be due by August 1, 2018.

## AGENDA ITEM V A 2 a i REAUTHORIZATION of a PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESEARCH UNIT

## UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS HOSPITALITY RESEARCH CENTER

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The University of New Orleans is requesting reauthorization of the Hospitality Research Center (HRC) for an additional five-year period. The Center was first recognized by the Board of Regents in September 2001 (granted one-year conditional approval), with full approval granted in February 2007. The request for reauthorization was received by BoR staff in February 2017.

## STAFF SUMMARY

## 1. Description and Need

The Hospitality Research Center at UNO continues to be a vital source of practical research, focusing on hospitality and tourism for the State of Louisiana. The HSC is principally known for its research related to the tourism infrastructure (including hotels, restaurants, bars and nightclubs, festivals, tourist attractions and transportation), which has become increasingly important since a major component of the State's economy is generated through the tourism and hospitality industry. The New Orleans area, in particular, depends on the Center for the collection of longitudinal data since Hurricane Katrina to evaluate resiliency and transformational change. Currently, there is no other university-based hospitality and tourism research center that has the breadth of hospitality and tourism studies that the HRC conducts.

## 2. Activities

The UNO-HRC facilitates a relationship between traditional academic units and individual faculty research initiatives in an effort to sustain economic development in Louisiana. Working in cooperation with the Division of Business and Economic Research, the HRC's projects include economic and socio-economic impact studies, gambling research, customer satisfaction surveys, marketing conversation studies, marketing images, visitor intercepts, visitor characteristics, convention market segment analysis, convention booking modeling, gaming impacts trend analysis, and quality strategy and planning. The Center's forecasts have proven valuable for planning growth. With the addition of many new festivals and the expansion of many existing festivals, the HRC is receiving new requests for research on festival participation in the New Orleans area. Examples include economic impact studies for events such as the Super Bowl, Women's Final Four, and the WWII Museum. Much of the research has been presented in seminars for the public, industry, and various professional associations. The Center is developing a collaborative relationship with Hebei Technology University of China to share research methods and findings, positioning HRC to assume a larger role in conducting research that will have an international focus.

### 3. Resources and Administration

UNO's Associate Dean for Research in the Division of Business and Economic Research and the Director of the Lester E. Kabacoff School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Administration serve as co-directors of the Research Center. The HRC also employs a Project Manager, a Research Analyst, two graduate assistants, and two student workers. Additionally, faculty within the Kabacoff School contribute their expertise on projects.

## 4. Budget

The HRC was designed on a self-funding model and continues to operate in this fashion, with its grants and contracts bringing in more than sufficient funds to support its operational costs. For example, standing annual projects for such entities as the WWII Museum, French Quarter Festival, Inc., and the LA Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism bring in over \$112K per year. The Center has already earned \$150K of its budgeted \$261K in revenues for AY 2016-17. Current and projected expenditures are in line with funding that has been achieved and that is anticipated.

### STAFF ANALYSIS

The continued need for and usefulness of the Hospitality Research Center at the University of New Orleans is evident. The Greater New Orleans area's economy is largely dependent on the tourism industry for its lifeblood, and the Center is firmly focused on serving that industry's need. The level of funding brought in through its research productivity in the past and projected for the future is significant evidence that the Center is a known entity and is providing valuable work products.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommends that the Board of Regents grant full approval for the Hospitality Research Center at the University of New Orleans for a period of five years, through February 2022.

## AGENDA ITEM V A 2 a ii REAUTHORIZATION of a PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESEARCH UNIT

## UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS PONTCHARTRAIN INSTITUTE for ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The University of New Orleans is requesting reauthorization of the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences (PIES) for an additional five-year period. The Institute was first recognized by the Board of Regents in June 2001, with reauthorization granted in October 2006 and April 2012. The current report for reauthorization was received by BoR staff in March 2017.

## STAFF SUMMARY

### 1. Description and Need

The Pontchartrain Institute was establishing in the College of Sciences at UNO to foster interactions between professionals with expertise in basic and applied environmental research. Its mission has been and continues to be to combine rigorous scientific analysis with education, outreach, and planning in order to develop practical solutions to the environmental challenges facing coastal and estuarine systems. Faculty and students partner with both academic and non-academic institutions to provide information critical for the development of effective strategies to preserve the natural resources and biological diversity of coastal and marine environments. PIES is intimately involved with coastal restoration and protection activities in coastal Louisiana, providing advice and support to similar restoration efforts across the country.

### 2. Activities

Several significant activities that have or are currently taking place within the Institute include, but are not limited to:

- Collaborated with the US Geological Survey (USGS) to gather and organize data to examine LA's dynamic barrier island systems and how they have changed, providing a foundation for State and Federal investment in barrier island restoration and a guiding framework for the dredging of inlets for ports and waterways around the coast.
- Developed a set of linked models to predict changes in the nature of coastal LA under future conditions with and without project implementation within the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority's LA Coastal Master Plan.
- Worked with the USA Corps of Engineers to analyze effects of flood gates and weirs on tidal hydrodynamics to evaluate the effects of restoration and protections efforts.
- Engaged with the Water Institute of the Gulf, with direct involvement in research to better understand the response of the Mississippi River and the modern delta to proposed sediment diversions to introduce freshwater and sediments to enhance land building and help sustain the wetlands.
- Conducted research involving potential impacts of the shrimping industry on federally threatened and endangered sea turtles.
- Engaged in oil spill training and outreach, helping to create a citizen science program to collect quantitative beach and tar ball data for oil spill planning and response in coastal regions, which can serve as a backbone of the response effort should another spill take place.
- Conducted a Coastal Education Program to provide unique opportunities to explore and learn about the coastal wetlands of southeastern LA. In 2016 alone, nearly 2,000 students and teachers participated in 35 events as part of the program.

### 3. <u>Resources and Administration</u>

There have been no major changes to the administrative structure of the Institute since its last approval. A hydro acoustic Doppler profilers and velocimeters, optical backscatter sensors, pressure based wave sensors, and a suite of conductivity and tide gauges have been added to the equipment to which PIES faculty and students have access for their research activities.

### 4. Budget

PIES attracted extramural funding of approximately \$3.6 Million for the three-year period of 2014-2016, an increase of approximately 10% from the previous reporting period. The \$1.65 Million in revenues budgeted for AY 2016-17 will cover the Institute's operations and expenses. PIES funding stems from ongoing collaborations with faculty at other institutions, state and federal agency contracts, and industry support.

### STAFF ANALYSIS

The continued need for and usefulness of the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences at the University of New Orleans is readily demonstrated. The Institute is highly visible and successful in fulfilling its mission, and in securing funding to support its work. Given the Institute's history of successful contract/grant application, the staff is confident that the Institute will continue to be an academically and scientifically profitable venture for both the University and the State of Louisiana.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommends that the Board of Regents grant full approval for the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences at the University of New Orleans for a period of five years, through March 2022.

## AGENDA ITEM V A 2 b i

## **ROUTINE ACADEMIC REQUESTS**

Staff Approvals

Institution	n Request		
LSU	Request to change the name of the Department of Entrepreneurship & Information Systems to the <u>Stephenson Department of Entrepreneurship &amp; Information Systems</u> in the E.J. Ourso College of Business <u>Approved</u> .		

## AGENDA ITEM V A 2 b ii

## PROGRESS REPORTS for CONDITIONALLY APPROVED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & RESEARCH UNITS

Initial Approval	Institution	Staff Analysis	Staff Recommendation for Board Action
01.2013	Louisiana Delta CC <b>AAS in Forensic Science &amp; Technology</b> (43.0106) Conditional approval was granted in December 2013 with annual reporting requested until notified otherwise. The most recent report was received on 02.16.17.	Program enrollment has remained consistent with previous years, with 30 declared majors in Fall/16; one student graduated with the degree in AY 2015-16. The campus provided information about recruitment efforts to attract additional majors.	Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is requested by January 1, 2018.
01.2015	UNO <b>MS in Transportation</b> (45.9999) Conditional approval granted 01.12.2015. A progress report was received 03.20.2017.	The program's second year of implementation is going well with the admission of 13 new majors in Fall/16, and 5 expected for Fall/17. There were 2 graduates in Fall/16 and 7 anticipated for Fall/2017. The program is on track to steadily increase in new candidates and graduates, with continued collaboration between UNO with its industry partners.	Receive and accept the progress report. A subsequent report is requested for 03.01.2018.

## AGENDA ITEM V A 2 b iii

## PAST DUE REPORTS FOR APPROVED ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Listed below are reports that have yet to be received for various academic programs and research units.

	Past Due:					
Due Date	Institution	Program / Unit	Summary			
01.01.2017	SCLTC	AAS/Marine Transportation (CIP 49.0309)	Conditional approval was granted to the program in February 2012 with the stipulation that a progress report on program implementation be provided by January 1, 2013, and subsequent reports have been requested each year until the program demonstrates an ability to achieve and maintain viability. Staff has been in communication with the campus, but the report has not been submitted for 2017.			

## AGENDA ITEM V A 2 b iv LETTERS of INTENT/PROPOSALS in the QUEUE Forwarded to BoR by Management Boards

REQUEST	CAMPUS	PROGRAM	RECV'D	STATUS	
Letters of Intent	ULM	BA - Dance	03.17.16	03.24.16 circulated to CAOs. Under staff review, discussion with Provost on possible revision, 02.24.17.	
	LSUA	BA - Religious Studies	03.24.16	03.24.16 circulated to CAOs. Campus sent letters of support and is collecting information on student interest.	
	ULL	MAT – Elem Ed	03.01.17	03.06.17 circulated to CAOs, with input requested by 04.05.17.	
	Nicholls	BS – Criminal Justice	03.01.17	03.06.17 circulated to CAOs, with input requested by 04.05.17.	
	GSU	BSN – Nursing	03.01.17	03.06.17 circulated to CAOs, with input requested by 04.05.17.	
Program Proposals	SUBR	GC - Supply Chain Mgt & ERO Systems	09.09.16	09.15.16 – Questions sent to campus; response received 03.08.17; staff review.	

Center of Excellence	Culinary CWE – Continued Authorization	17/06/16	12.22.16 – Staff questions on continuation report; campus is working on response.
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