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AGENDA

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Monday, May 22, 2017 • 10:45 a.m.

Claiborne Building

Louisiana Purchase Room

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. 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

Consent Agenda
Agenda Item III.A.

Authorize publication of final rule to amend Section 703 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to add Human Anatomy and Physiology as an equivalent to Biology II in the TOPS core curriculum, to add Human Anatomy and Physiology as a dual enrollment course that may be graded on a 5.0 scale for graduates of 2018 and later, and to add Pre-Calculus as a gifted course that may be graded on a 5.0 scale for graduates of 2018 and later.

BACKGROUND:

The TOPS statutes authorize the Board of Regents to "establish course equivalencies for any course included in the definition of core curriculum" provided that the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) has given prior approval. The statute also requires recommendations from the Board of Regents on establishing a TOPS Core Curriculum course equivalency.

In addition to authorizing the establishment of course equivalencies, the TOPS statutes provide that certain honors, advanced 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 beginning with 2018 high school graduates. 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.

At its joint meeting of December 7, 2016, the Board of Regents and BESE approved the addition of Human Anatomy and Physiology as an equivalent to Biology II in the TOPS core curriculum and approved gifted Precalculus and dual enrollment Human Anatomy and Physiology as courses to be graded on a 5.0 grading scale at its joint meeting in December 2016. The Board of Regents authorized the Executive Director of LOSFA to publish A Notice of Intent to promulgate administrative rules implementing these additions.

The Notice of Intent was published in the *Louisiana Register* on January 20, 2017. 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.

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."

Seven 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 April 27, 2017. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.