Board Defers Action on Policy and Rule Changes

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System today deferred action on proposed policy and rule changes that would extend program elimination to include academic program reductions and shortened notifications to impacted personnel.

When the changes were introduced last June, UL System President Moffett met with the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) to solicit their input. Today, members of the FAC and other faculty members addressed the committee as well as submitted written feedback asking for more time to come up with alternative solutions.

"We empathize with the Board and officers of the system as we know on a small level the struggle you have with the budget. Over the summer we were willing to work with you. We ask now that you postpone the changes and send it back to the faculty so we may help find workable solutions," said FAC Chair Donna Rhorer.

After much discussion, the board voted to defer the item to a future meeting so system staff can work with legal counsel to consider faculty feedback.

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Hebert Named President Emeritus of McNeese

Applause interspersed with the clanging of cowbells celebrated the naming of Robert Hebert as President Emeritus of McNeese State University.

The Board bestowed their highest honor on Hebert who retired in June after serving 41 years at McNeese and 23 of them as president. He is the longest-serving president of the university.

"I am extremely grateful. This is a great honor, and I would like to honor my wife, Lilly Ann, too. She deserves recognition for her many years of supporting me. Further, I cannot accept this award without mentioning not only the current staff, but also the many former staff members who worked so hard at McNeese," said Hebert.
As a result of the most recent reduction, the office lost five staff members and issued furloughs to its remaining 17 employees. Furloughs range from six to 20 days based on pay scale.

At today’s meeting, two campus presidents spoke on behalf of the assessments. “There is not a week that goes by that I don’t seek advice or counsel from this Board. I can not imagine this Board not having enough staff or enough resources to function effectively. I strongly support the assessments,” said Louisiana Tech University President Daniel Reneau.

“I’ve worked at four other systems across the country and campus assessments are routine. However, we typically see an increase in assessment amounts when there are cutbacks in state budgets, but the UL System is simply trying to maintain. I appreciate what they do and fully support these charge-backs to the campus,” said Nicholls: appoint Dr. J. Steven Welsh as Acting Dean of College of Education.

While several speakers considered the proposed changes to be an assault on tenure, several Board members addressed their concerns. “No one on this Board has in mind this is a threat to tenure. We do want to preserve that. However, considering previous budget cuts, there’s not a whole lot of other places to cut in the future,” said Andre Coudrain.

Deferred Action

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UL System President Randy Moffett wrapped up the discussion with thanks and cautionary words. “Unfortunately, we cannot afford the enterprise that exists today. I appreciate the faculty’s willingness and openness to discuss options to our fiscal challenges. However, I caution that the solutions will not be easy.”

Other Board Action

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System approved the following requests:

**ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS**
- Southeastern: eliminate the Associate of Arts degree program in Criminal Justice
- Southeastern: reorganize academic departments in two of its Colleges
- UL System: the System Universities’ 2010-11 Promotions in Faculty Rank and Recommendations for Tenure
- UL System: revision to Board Rule, Chapter II. Students, Section VIII. Baccalaureate Degrees Requirements

**ATHLETIC**
- UL System: acceptance of Fiscal Year 2009-10 Financial and Compliance Representation Letters for Grambling, McNeese, Southeastern, UL Lafayette, and UL Monroe

**FACILITIES PLANNING**
- McNeese: the authorization of system staff and legal counsel to continue negotiations with the United States Department of Justice to become in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- UL System: the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Capital Outlay Budget Request and Institutions’ Five-Year Capital Outlay Plans

**FINANCE**
- UL System: the Fiscal Year 2010-11 OPERATING Budgets, including organizational charts, undergraduate/graduate mandatory attendance fees, and scholarships
- UL System: ratification of nonresident fee increases at University of Louisiana System institutions
- PERSONNEL
  - Grambling: appoint Mr. Leon Sanders as Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration
  - Nicholls: appoint Dr. J. Steven Welsh as Acting Dean of College of Education
  - UL Lafayette: appoint Dr. Robert Twilley as Vice President for Research
  - UL Lafayette: continue the appointment of Mr. Kenneth Ardin as Interim Vice President for University Advancement
  - UL Monroe: appoint Dr. Eric Pan as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**SYSTEM PRESIDENT’S BUSINESS**
- UL System: the LA GRAD Act Performance Agreements and associated campus autonomies
- UL System: the 2010-11 Shared Cost Schedule
- UL System: grant Robert Hebert the title of President Emeritus of McNeese State University

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