Board Passes Resolutions on Legislative Bills

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System today passed three resolutions addressing bills in the 2013 Regular Legislative Session: Senate Bill 16, Senate Bill 204, and House Bill 194.

Senate Bill 16 by Gerald Long would allow higher education to maintain the current employer contribution rate of 5.7% for members of the Optional Retirement Plan. The resolution states “…this would not incur additional costs for the institutions but would provide institutions flexibility in their efforts to attract quality faculty.”

Senate Bill 204 by Robert Adley would allow the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to issue bonds for $251 million in new capital construction circumventing the Board of Regents’ capital outlay review process and incurring an estimated $20 million in annual state general revenue.

Board Thanks Student Member for His Year of Service

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System today thanked Student Member William Dearmon for his year of service on the Board. “I have been so very impressed with this young man,” said Board Chair Wayne Parker. “Will has been an exceptionally engaged board member while also managing his time as a student.”

Dearmon, who will graduate in May from Louisiana Tech University, served on the university’s presidential search committee and participated in the UL System Presidential Search. As SGA President he implemented Leadership Louisiana Tech, a professional development program that educates students on a variety of topics while also connecting them to community leaders.

“One thing our system excels in is not just educating, but also developing our students into leaders of the future,” said Dearmon.
...Resolutions Continued

fund direct appropriations. The resolution states “…passage of Senate Bill 204 could equally equate to an annual budget reduction for all colleges and universities in order to fund selected new construction projects which have not been objectively evaluated in the context of the highest and best use of state dollars.”

House Bill 194 by Walter Leger shifts tuition pricing authority from the Legislature to the management boards within the guidelines of the Board of Regents’ Tuition and Fee Policy. The resolution states “…management boards are in the best position to assess the need for increased tuition at any of their member institutions…this bill will provide some relief for the deficit in funding for Louisiana’s public institutions of higher education.”

With $489 million dependent on overcollections, the FY 2013-14 Executive Budget will reduce education’s general fund dollars from $1.42 billion in 2008 (excluding TOPS) to $229.3 million or a total reduction of $1.24 billion (84.5%).

In the UL System general fund dollars would go from $520 million in 2008 to $72 million in FY 2013-14, an 86% reduction with $153 million dependent on overcollections. (Illustrated in chart on page 4)

“We have a growing workforce demand in our state for university graduates at a time when the resources are simply too scarce to meet all the needs. The resolutions the Board passed today highlight the continuing urgency to find additional flexibility on self-generated revenue and retirement benefits and to protect Louisiana against unbalanced resource shifts that could directly result in the state’s inability to also meet the workforce demands for university graduates in such fields as engineering, computer science, and health professions,” said UL System President Sandra Woodley.

Electronic copies of all three resolutions can be found at www.ulsystem.edu.

Other Board Action

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

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
- McNeese: Award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Joseph T. Miller, Sr. at the Spring Commencement Exercises.
- McNeese: Proposal to offer a Graduate Certificate Program in Business Administration.
- McNeese: Proposal to offer a Graduate Certificate Program in Academically Gifted Education.
- McNeese: Proposal to offer a Graduate Certificate Program in Immersion Education.
- Nicholls: Proposal to terminate the Master of Arts in Teaching degree program (Elementary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate Grades 1-5).
- Nicholls: Proposal to terminate the Master of Arts in Teaching degree program (Middle School Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate Grades 4-8).
- Nicholls: Proposal to terminate the Master of Arts in Teaching degree program (Elementary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate Grades 6-12).
- Louisiana Tech: Proposal to offer a Graduate Certificate Program in Business Administration.
- McNeese: Proposal to offer a Graduate Certificate Program in Academically Gifted Education.
- McNeese: Proposal to offer a Graduate Certificate Program in Immersion Education.
- Nicholls: Proposal to terminate the Master of Arts in Teaching degree program (Elementary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate Grades 1-5).
- Nicholls: Proposal to terminate the Master of Arts in Teaching degree program (Middle School Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate Grades 4-8).
- Southeastern: Contractual agreement with Mr. James Yarbrough, Men’s Head Basketball Coach, effective April 1, 2013.
- UL Lafayette: Contractual agreement with Mr. James Willis, Assistant Football Coach, effective February 9, 2013.
- ULM: Amendment to a contractual agreement with Mr. Todd Berry, Head Football Coach, effective May 1, 2013.

FACILITIES PLANNING
- Louisiana Tech:Rename Room 209 in George T. Madison Hall the Dennis E. Minor Technical Writing Lab.
- Southeastern: Revised Affiliation Agreement with University Facilities, Inc.