Today the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System accepted Horace Judson’s resignation as President of Grambling State University effective Oct. 31. President Judson announced his decision to step down earlier this week.

“Dr. Judson effected tremendous change on Grambling’s campus during the five years he served, and it is with great regret that I recommend we accept his resignation,” said UL System President Randy Moffett.

Following the vote to accept Judson’s resignation, the Board announced it would like more time to consider an interim president and will call a special meeting to make that appointment.

“Because of the momentum and change in place at Grambling, the selection of his permanent and interim replacement requires thoughtful and deliberate action,” said Moffett.

“It is our job to give Grambling the best interim president possible, and it would have been unfair to rush to do that today,” said Board Chair Elsie Burkhalter.

Moffett reminded the Board that while President Judson is off campus, Provost Robert Dixon is in charge as is typical per the standard chain of command.

A national search for Judson’s permanent replacement will take place as quickly as possible. The first step in that process is the appointment of a search committee by the Board Chair. Board policy for presidential search committees outlines board member, student member and faculty representation with the UL System President serving as the non-voting chair.

Our immediate focus is to find a new president for Grambling, and we pledge to do that quickly,” said Burkhalter.

UL System to Offer Online Business Degree

Starting next fall, the UL System will offer an online Baccalaureate Degree in Business that involves all eight of its institutions. The program is made possible by a grant from the Board of Regents Center for Adult Learning in Louisiana (CALL) program. This initiative is the second degree program offered entirely online and collaboratively by several universities within the UL System.

“This degree is attractive because it is student-centered and focused on adults who have already completed courses but not a degree. When operational, a student enrolled at one of our universities can take online courses from other universities in the UL System that will count towards the student’s degree. This will allow students the ability to complete their degree quickly without sacrificing quality,” said UL System President Randy Moffett.

It is estimated that in Louisiana there are over 600,000 adults who have attended college but do not have a degree. That is the impetus behind the CALL program.

CALL is a joint initiative between the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Southern Regional Education Board and the Consortium for Education, Research and Technology of North Louisiana that strives to expand adult participation in postsecondary education. Four of the six institutions that currently participate in the CALL program are from the UL System: McNeese State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Northwestern, the state’s leading provider of online programs, was recently recognized by the Board of Regents, the Lumina Foundation and GetEducated.com for its work in online education.

“The work by UL System universities already involved in the CALL initiative and the distance-learning programs and collaborations that exist among all eight campuses in the system provide a strong foundation for this proposal,” said Moffett.

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Student Success is About Personal Attention According to Northwestern

Northwestern State University recruiters are literally on the ground working to attract students to their 125-year-old institution. From dual enrollment to personalized communications and visiting every school in the state, aggressive recruitment is a major component in the university’s strategy to increase student access.

NSU was the seventh university to present student access to success efforts to the UL System Board’s special committee today.

According to NSU’s Enrollment Management Director, Mary Edith Stacy, participation in the Early Start Program over the last five years has increased by 367 percent. The university’s student retention growth from 59.3 percent in 2004 to 67.8 percent in 2008.

Interim Provost Lisa Abney shared with the Board activities that make students feel part of the university community such as service-learning.

“The university has taken a leap forward in institutionalizing service-learning with the creation of an office and hiring a director. Students are actively engaged with Habitat for Humanity, a new green initiative and other projects that establish a bond between campus and community,” said Abney.

One project highlighted was counseling students addressing truancy problems in the New Orleans Recovery School district.

“The students apply their classroom knowledge and the New Orleans schools benefit from outside expertise, so everyone wins. That’s the power of service-learning,” said Abney.

Visit www.ulsystem.edu to see the full presentation and learn more about the UL System Access to Success Initiative.

Board Action

The Board of Supervisors for the UL System approved the following university requests:

Academic and Student Affairs
- McNeese: Award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mr. William D. Blake at the Fall Commencement Exercises.
- Nicholls: Award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Mr. Kenneth Louis Wells at the Fall Commencement Exercises.
- Northwestern: Award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mr. Thomas N. Carleton at the Fall Commencement Exercises.

Athletic
- La Tech: Addendum to the contract of Mr. Derek Dooley, Head Football Coach and Director of Athletics.
- La Tech: Employment agreement with Golf Coach, Mr. Jeff Parks.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Football Coach, Mr. Bernard M. Viator, for the period October 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Women’s Soccer Coach, Mr. Ronald Paul Savoie, Jr. for the period of October 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Women’s Volleyball Coach, Mr. Dale P. Starr, for the period October 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Men’s Basketball Coach, Mr. Dave Simmons, for the period October 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Men’s Basketball Coach, Ms. Brooks D. Williams, for the period October 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Men’s Golf Coach, Mr. Adrian Neel DeRouen, for the period October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Women’s Tennis Coach, Ms. Magali Risledo, for the period October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Women’s Softball Coach, Ms. Natalie Mae Poole, for the period October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Women’s Golf Coach, Mr. Michael E. Fluty, for the period October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
- McNeese: Employment agreement with Head Men’s Golf Coach, Mr. Adrian Neel DelRouen, for the period October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

President’s Business
- Grambling: Appointed Dr. Wyetta Y. Lee as Dean of the College of Education effective September 6, 2009.
- Southeastern: Continue the interim appointment of Dr. Tammy Bourg as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective July 21, 2009.
- UL Lafayette: Continue the interim appointment of Mr. Edward Pratt as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs effective July 1, 2009.

Facilities & Finance
- McNeese: Lease for 7,700 square feet of temporary modular building space.
- UL System: Ratification of Auxiliary Rates and Non-Governmental Charges that have been administratively approved.

Personnel
The UL System already offers a 100 percent online Master of Science in Nursing Degree, which is a collaboration between McNeese, Southeastern and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. A collaborative Doctorate in Educational Leadership Degree between Southeastern and UL Lafayette also contains online components, both programs offering sound models from which to build this unique business program.

Classes in the online baccalaureate business degree proposal will be offered in an accelerated format. Although participating schools would offer a general business degree, potential concentrations may be developed in areas such as marketing, human resources, business technology and international business.

According to Labor Market Data Analysis, there is current and future demand for individuals to become qualified professionals in the field of business. Based on labor estimates for Louisiana through 2016, the 10-year job growth percentage may be as high as 59.6 percent in specific concentrations under consideration.

“This has all of the earmarks of a successful venture,” said Moffett. “Not only are we offering a desirable degree, we are also doing so with the cooperation of all eight of our institutions in an online environment where many of our schools already have proven abilities.”

The UL System currently offers 62 distance-learning programs of which 28 are completely online and 34 are a mix online and traditional classes.

Board Chair Elsie Burkhalter praised the UL System faculty and administrators for their creative and collaborative spirit. “This is exactly what we need to be doing - working hard to find cost-effective ways to meet Louisiana’s workforce needs and grow its educational capital. Harnessing the power of eight comprehensive universities in this manner gives students access to exceptional faculty and minimizes time to degree completion. The Board hopes that we can create other offerings in this fashion.”

For more information about CALL, visit www.yourCALLla.org. For a complete listing of UL System distance-learning programs, visit www.ulsystem.edu/onlinedegrees.