

**MEETING OF THE  
LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DATE:** April 22, 2014  
**TIME** 10:30 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Louisiana Retirement Systems Building

Mr. F. Travis Lavigne, Jr., Commission Chair, called a meeting of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission to order at 10:53 a.m.

The following members of the Commission were present:

Mr. F. Travis Lavigne, Jr.  
Mr. Raymond Brandt  
Mr. Jeffery Ehlinger, Jr.  
Mr. Walter Guidry, Jr.  
Mr. Myron Lawson  
Mr. Jimmy Long  
Ms. Wendy Simoneaux  
Dr. Larry Tremblay

The following members were absent:

Mr. Scott Ballard  
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer  
Ms. Erin Bendily  
Mr. Willie Hendricks  
Mr. Richard Maciasz  
Mr. Michael Murphy  
Mr. Winfred Sibille  
Mr. Stephen Toups  
Mr. John Woodard

Eight members were present which did not represent a quorum; therefore, in accordance with the Meeting Notice, the Chairman called the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission to order.

The following members of the Commission's Executive Committee were present:

Mr. Jeffery Ehlinger, Jr.  
Mr. F. Travis Lavigne, Jr.

Mr. Jimmy Long  
Dr. Larry Tremblay

The following members were absent:

Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer  
Mr. Winfred Sibille

Four members were present which did not represent a quorum. Mr. Lavigne temporarily appointed Mr. Brandt, Mr. Guidry, Mr. Lawson, and Ms. Simoneaux. A quorum was established.

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Sujuan Boutté  
Mr. Neal Boyd  
Ms. Rhonda Bridevaux  
Ms. Alice Brown  
Dr. Tireka Cobb  
Mr. Kelvin Deloch  
Mr. George Eldredge  
Ms. Shanna Estay  
Ms. Carol Fulco  
Mr. Jack Hart  
Ms. Robyn Lively  
Mr. Jason McCann  
Ms. Nyetta Meaux  
Ms. Deborah Paul  
Mr. Gus Wales

Under Introductions and Announcements, Dr. Boutté stated there were no introductions and announcements.

The minutes of the March 25, 2014 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission were presented for review and approval. Mr. Guidry made a motion to approve. Ms. Simoneaux seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Lavigne offered a public comment period. There were no comments.

Under Program Updates, Mr. Wales, Public Information and Communications Division Director, presented the Outreach Report for the period ending March 2014. Mr. Wales reported 33 outreach events around the state with an attendance of 4,933.

Mr. Hart presented the Federal and Agency Operating Fund financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2014. Mr. Hart reported a fund balance of \$8.5 million in the operating fund and a fund balance of \$7.6 million in the federal fund. He stated the agency's reserve ratio is .68% on the total portfolio of \$1.263 billion. He reviewed the current month and year-to-date net assets of the operating fund for the month of March 2014. Mr. Hart stated the fund ended the month with a profit of \$149,000.

Ms. Paul, Scholarship and Grant (S/G) Program Director, presented a GO Grant update as of April 17, 2014. Ms. Paul stated that three institutions still had remaining GO Grant funds. Ms. Paul answered Dr. Tremblay's question from the previous committee meeting regarding the amount of funding schools would need to fully fund all students eligible for GO. She stated that the GO Grant program had \$26.1 million to allocate this year. The results of a survey showed that approximately \$53 million would be need to fully fund all GO eligible students in the state.

Ms. Paul presented a John R. Justice update as of April 17, 2014. She stated that the application period deadline is next Wednesday, April 30th. Ms. Paul informed the committee that \$29,400 was available to be awarded to prosecutors and the same amount was available to be awarded to public defenders. Dr. Boutté stated that it was projected that there would be a reduction in the funding of this program by approximately 50 percent.

Ms. Paul presented a TOPS update as of April 11, 2014. TOPS processing for next year will begin on June 6, 2014. For the current year, we are still holding the La Tech spring quarter bill. We are paying exceptional circumstances, since we have a small amount of funds available

to assist these students. Mr. Hart presented the TOPS Current Fiscal Year Expenditures report. He explained the shortfall we are anticipating for this current fiscal year. For fiscal year 2014, we will be short between \$7.1 million and \$8.6 million. Ms. Simoneaux asked whether a cushion was built into the TOPS estimate. Mr. Hart replied that the projections were based on a model that included a 10% increase in tuition and estimated the number of students. A \$3 million cushion was built into the estimate; however there was still a shortfall. Dr. Tremblay stated that the state handles the shortfall in one of two ways, by supplementing TOPS or by taking the funds out of the following year's appropriations. He asked if the latter method is used, would those funds for the following year be replaced, or is the availability of that money lost. Mr. Hart replied that if this occurs, the funds must be paid back the following year.

Dr. Boutté presented an update on the Louisiana Connect portal. Dr. Boutté stated that there are currently 146,496 Louisiana Connect portal users, which has increased since the previous year.

Dr. Cobb, Assistant Director of GEAR UP, presented a LA GEAR UP update. Dr. Cobb discussed the 2014 Annual Performance Report submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (US DOE) on April 15th. The update highlights what was reported to the US DOE. She stated that of approximately 6,000 students, 88% received college entrance requirement information. The Rewards for Success (RFS) program has awarded approximately \$2.2 million to students since 2003.

Ms. Meaux presented a CACG update. Ms. Meaux discussed the 2014 FLY Tour College Quest performance. A video highlighting the FLY Tour was shown. Mr. Guidry asked how the 10 schools were chosen for a FLY tour visit. Ms. Meaux replied that the majority of

schools visited were GEAR UP high schools. The schools were informed of the tour and responded if they were interested in a visit.

Dr. Boutté presented an Executive Director's update. Dr. Boutté mentioned the Civil Service Audit and stated that LOSFA's Human Resources' staff should be proud.

Dr. Boutté shared the presentation and the programmatic analytics presented to the Senate Finance Committee at the Higher Education Hearing on April 14, 2014.

Dr. Boutté mentioned the large number of data requests that continue to come into the office. Mr. Eldredge presented a Legislative Update. He stated that a bill was proposed to amend Act 1202. The bill would amend TOPS reporting requirements based on a number of demographics, including parent income.

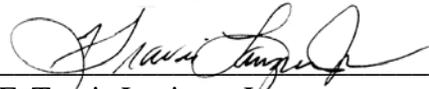
Under Old Business was a proposal that the Commission consider publication of final rules to amend Sections 701, 705, 805, and 1903 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to provide for the period of time for a TOPS awardee to re-enroll after completing a program of study and receiving any type of credential. Dr. Tremblay made a motion for approval. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Under New Business the first item was a proposal that the Commission consider and act upon the 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. Staff recommended approval of the requests by two students based on the similarity of their situations to previous students who were granted exceptions. Mr. Long motioned for the approval of the recommendation; it was seconded by Ms. Simoneaux. There were no recommendations for denial and the motion was approved.

The second item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider the adoption of meeting dates for the period July through December 2014. The proposed dates are as follows: Thursday, July 17, 2014; Tuesday, August 19, 2014; Tuesday, September 16, 2014; Thursday, October 16, 2014; Tuesday, November 18, 2014, and Thursday, December 18, 2014. Mr. Ehlinger made a motion for approval. Mr. Guidry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Mr. Guidry made a motion to adjourn at 11:43 a.m., Dr. Tremblay seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

APPROVED:



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F. Travis Lavigne, Jr.  
Chairman