**MEETING OF THE**

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DATE:** November 18, 2014

**TIME** Immediately following the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA) Meeting

**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 10:52 a.m.

The following members of the Commission were present:

Mr. F. Travis Lavigne, Jr.

Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer

Mr. Ken Bradford

Mr. Nichquin Dumas

Mr. Jeffery Ehlinger, Jr

Mr. Walter Guidry, Jr.

Mr. Myron Lawson

Dr. Larry Tremblay

The following members were absent:

Mr. Scott Ballard

Mr. Raymond Brandt

Mr. Willie Hendricks

Mr. Jimmy Long, Sr

Mr. Richard Maciasz

Mr. Michael Murphy

Mr. Wilfred Sibille

Ms. Wendy Simoneaux

Mr. Stephen Toups

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. F. Travis Lavigne, Jr.

Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer

Mr. Jeffery Ehlinger, Jr

Dr. Larry Tremblay

Four members were present, which did not represent a quorum.

The following members were absent:

Mr. Jimmy Long, Sr

Mr. Winfred Sibille

Mr. Lavigne temporarily appointed Mr. Bradford, Mr. Dumas, Mr. Guidry, and Mr. Lawson.

The following staff members were present:

Dr. Sujuan Boutté

Ms. Rhonda Bridevaux

Ms. Alice Brown

Mr. Kelvin Deloch

Mr. George Eldredge

Ms. Shanna Estay

Ms. Carol Fulco

Mr. Jack Hart

Ms. Denise Jacobs

Ms. Tisha Lewis

Ms. Robyn Lively

Mr. Richard Omdal

Ms. Stacy Oubre

Ms. Deborah Paul

Mr. Gus Wales

The minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission were presented for review and approval. Mr. Bradford made a motion to approve. Dr. Barnes-Teamer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Lavigne asked members of the Commission to add an agenda item for meeting dates of the Commission from January 2015 – June 2015. Mr. Guidry made a motion for approval. Mr. Ehlinger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Under Program Updates, Mr. Wales, Director of Public Information and Communication, presented the Field Services report for Statewide and Concentrated services for September and October 2014. Ms. Jacobs, LA GEAR UP Program Coordinator, presented the Field Services report for Intensive Services. Ms. Jacobs also reported on Louisiana College Application Month.

Mr. Hart, Assistant Executive Director of Fiscal and Administrative Affairs, presented the financial statements update. Mr. Hart reported on the agency’s 3-Year Cohort Default rate which was 10.6%. Mr. Hart presented the financials for the period ending September 30, 2014. Mr. Hart reported the financial statement from September 2014 showed Operating Fund net assets of $10.7 million and Federal Fund net assets of $7.2 million.

Ms. Paul, Scholarship and Grant (S/G) Program Director, presented a GO Grant update as of November 17, 2014. The fall semester billing deadline was November 1, 2014. Once all billing was received, GO Grant had billings of $11.24 million dollars with a balance of $13.4 million remaining. Once billing is received for winter quarters and the spring semesters, the GO Grant funding for the 2014-2015 AY is expected to be depleted.

Ms. Paul presented a John R. Justice update as of November 6, 2014. John R. Justice awards have been paid and reporting requirements for the program have been completed. The application process will start again in January 2015.

Ms. Paul presented a TOPS update as of November 7, 2014. Ms. Paul reported that $124 million has been paid to postsecondary schools. Students are awarded continually through out the year. TOPS billing is run weekly.

Dr. Boutté presented the Executive Director update. Dr. Boutté shared with the Commission an announcement from the Federal Student Aid that will change the way students access federal student and borrower based Web sites. The social security number will still be required on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Dr. Boutté commented on an article about student loan defaulter’s explaining that defaulters are students who did not complete their degrees or completed less than a bachelor’s degree. Dr. Boutté also commented on the Budget Presentation that was made to the Board of Regents in September.

Under New Business, the first item was a proposal that the Commission recognize Advisory Committee members who have completed their terms and new appointees.

The second item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider revising Policy and Procedure Memorandum - #29 Substance Abuse. Dr. Barnes-Teamer made a motion for approval. Mr. Guidry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The third item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider the internal audit report pertaining to the Procurement Card Program. Mr. Dumas made a motion for approval. Dr. Tremblay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The fourth item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider amending Section 1003 of the Scholarship and Grant program Rules to add a definition of “Technical or Applied Course” for the TOPS Tech Early Start Award. Mr. Bradford made a motion for approval. Mr. Ehlinger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The fifth item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider issuing an emergency rule amending Sections 113, 301, 502, 703, 803, 1703, 2103, and 2113 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to implement Acts 566, 733, 737, and 837 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and consider amending the Notice of Intent to make these rules permanent. Mr. Lawson made a motion for approval. Mr. Bradford seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The sixth item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider amending Sections 301, 501, 503, 505, 507, 701, 703, 705, 801, 803, 1903, 2103 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to change the way the cumulative grade point average is calculated for students with the TOPS Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards. Dr. Banes-Teamer made a motion for approval. Dr. Tremblay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The seventh item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider and act upon Requests for Exception to the TOPS Provisions that Require Students to Enroll Full-Time, to Remain Continuously Enrolled, and to Earn at Least 24 Credit Hours During the Academic Year. Mr. Dumas made a motion of approval of requests from Reid (558639), Fallon (418413), Andrea (572672), McKeba (477640), Kaitlyn (623827), Amanda (559653), Marina (417946), Kristina (454046), Jeniece (451073), Joneisha (523229), Kelsey (100211), Aaron (423796), Austin (584901) and Lauren (450632). Mr. Lawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The eighth item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider the adoption of meeting dates of January 27, February 19, March 24, April 29, May 20 and June 16, 2015. Dr. Barnes-Teamer made a motion for approval. Mr. Guidry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Mr. Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn at 11:52 a.m. and Mr. Bradford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ F. Travis Lavigne, Jr.

Chairman