**MEETING OF THE**

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DATE:** September 16, 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 10:46 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

Mr. Jimmy Long, Sr

Mr. Wilfred Sibille

Dr. Larry Tremblay

 The following members were absent:

Mr. Scott Ballard

Mr. Raymond Brandt

Mr. Willie Hendricks

Mr. Richard Maciasz

Mr. Michael Murphy

Ms. Wendy Simoneaux

Mr. Stephen Toups

 Ten 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

Mr. Jimmy Long, Sr

Mr. Winfred Sibille

Dr. Larry Tremblay

Five members were present, which did represent a quorum. Mr. Lavigne temporarily appointed Mr. Bradford, Mr. Dumas, Mr. Guidry, and Mr. Lawson.

The following guest was present:

Mr. Jason McCann

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. Tisha Lewis

Ms. Robyn Lively

Mr. Richard Omdal

Ms. Stacy Oubre

Ms. Deborah Paul

Under Introductions and Announcements, Mr. Eldredge introduced Ms. Oubre as the new LOSFA Human Resource Director. Ms. Oubre was appointed after Jason McCann officially resigned from LOSFA effective September 5, 2014.

The Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA) meeting was reconvened to meet jointly with the LASFAC.

The minutes of the August 19, 2014 meeting of the Joint Executive Committees of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission and the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority were presented for review and approval. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve. Mr. Guidry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The LATTA then adjourned.

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

Under Program Updates, Dr. Boutté presented the Outreach Report for August 2014. Dr. Boutté gave an update on Trailblazer Camp and attendance at LACRAO Articulation Workshops.

Mr. Hart presented the Federal and Agency Operating Fund financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2014, July 31, 2014 and August 31, 2014. Mr. Hart reported the financial statement from July showed Operating Fund net assets of $9.4 million and Federal Fund net assets of $7.5 million. Mr. Hart reported the financial statement from August showed Operating Fund net assets of $11 million and Federal Fund net assets of $7.5 million.

 Ms. Paul, Scholarship and Grant (S/G) Program Director, presented a GO Grant update as of September 4, 2014. GO Grant billings have started for the fall semester. November 1st is the GO Grant billing deadline. Ms. Paul reported that billings will increase since schools have now passed the fourteenth day of classes.

 Ms. Paul presented a TOPS update as of September 5, 2014. Ms. Paul reported for the fall semester $5.9 million in TOPS payments have been processed.

Ms. Paul presented a John R. Justice update as of September 4, 2014. Ms. Paul reported that all the service agreements from prosecutors and public defenders who were selected have been received. Ms. Paul reported that all the awards have been paid. She also stated LOSFA received notification of the award amount for the 2014-2015 Federal Fiscal Year, which will be $32,982.

Dr. Boutté presented the LA GEAR UP update. GEAR UP contracts for the districts are in. GEAR UP employees are conducting College Kick Off Events at the schools currently. Dr. Boutté reported that GEAR UP is distributing t-shirts and bracelets to students at the College Kick Off Events.

 Dr. Boutté presented an Executive Director update. Dr. Boutté shared with the commission a presentation from Signal Vine, the new source for reaching students via text messaging. Dr. Boutté commented on the handout about legislative changes on TOPS Tech Early Start and TOPS Tech. Dr. Boutté also commented on the TOPS Retention Strategies Pilot Program that PIC is launching.

Under New Business, the first item was a proposal that the Commission consider amending Section 703 of the Scholarship and Grant Program Rules to add Law Studies as an equivalent of social studies in the TOPS Core Curriculum for students graduating from high school in 2014 and to add courses taught at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts as equivalents to designated courses listed in the TOPS Core Curriculum. Mr. Dumas made a motion for approval. Mr. Ehlinger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

 The second item under new business was a proposal that the Commission consider awarding monetary performance adjustments in the amount of four (4) percent to the agency’s classified and unclassified staff funded by dedicated federal FFELP operating and GEAR UP funding. Mr. Long made a motion for approval. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The third item under new business 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. Mr. Bradford made a motion for approval for Ariel (565803), Jessica (575603), Kyle (101864), Mariel (465617), LaKala (611181), Kristen (552685), Victoria (416755), Danielle (595570), Christopher (616018), Bobbie (598527) and Jacques (617360). Mr. Guidry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Mr. Sibille made a motion to adjourn at 11:14 a.m. and Mr. Dumas seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPROVED:

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 Chairman