

MINUTES
2017-18 College and Career Readiness Commission
Louisiana State Capitol
Governor’s Press Room – 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Friday, October 6, 2017

The College and Career Readiness Commission met on Friday, October 6, 2017 at 9:02 a.m. in the Governor’s Press Room on the 4th Floor of the Louisiana State Capitol. The roll was called.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Christopher Broadwater*
Ms. Emily Broussard
Dr. Keith Courville
Ms. Angelina Drago
Mr. Wesley Watts (proxy for Mr. Michael Faulk)
Mr. James Garvey, Jr.
Dr. James Henderson, Chair
Ms. Shan Davis (proxy for Dr. Gary Jones and Ms. Doris Voitier)
Ms. Cheramie B. Kerth
Ms. Melinda Mangham
Ms. Carolyn McGee (proxy for Ms. Kim Mims)
Mr. Keith Fehnel (proxy for Ms. Elizabeth “Beth” O’Quinn)
Ms. Bambi Polotzola
Mr. Scott Richard (proxy for Dr. Janet Pope)
Dr. Larry Tremblay (proxy for Dr. Joseph Rallo)
Dr. David Bellar (proxy for Dr. Nathan Roberts)
Mr. Jason St. Pierre
Dr. Monty Sullivan
Ms. Christal Sylvain
Ms. Kellie Taylor-White
Dr. Lisa Smith Vosper
Mr. Ken Bradford (proxy for Mr. John White)

**Arrived at 9:40 a.m.*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Robert “Paul” Baker
Ms. Nicole Learson
Mr. Todd McDonald
Senator Dan “Blade” W. Morrish
Mr. Jim Randels
Mr. Thomas Roque
Ms. Jamie Tindle

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Department of Education Staff

Ms. Erin Bendily
Ms. Lisa French
Ms. Leslie Hill

Legislative Staff

Ms. Jodi Mauroner
Ms. Cheryl Serrett

University of Louisiana System Staff

Dr. Jeannine Kahn
Mrs. Carol Slaght

Welcome and Roll Call

Dr. Jim Henderson, Chair of the Commission, welcomed the members and other attendees to the meeting. Included in the folders for review were the following:

- A roster of Commission members;
- A copy of R.S. 17:3951, Chapter 41. College and Career Readiness Commission, which indicated the required membership of the Commission as well as its purpose and responsibilities;
- A copy of the Board of Regents August 23, 2017 Agenda VB, Proposed New Policy, Minimum Requirements for Dual Enrollment and Staff Summary; and
- The Response to House Concurrent Resolution 141 and Senate Resolution 182 of the 2016 Regular Session from the State Superintendent of Education and Commissioner of Higher Education.

Introduction and CCR Commission Chair Remarks

Dr. Henderson asked that the members briefly introduce themselves including the constituent groups that they represent, which are public, private, and governmental entities as well as private citizens.

Dr. Henderson said that advances in technology promote a rise in employment and increase the need for skilled workers who possess the ability to think critically. He remarked on the impact of education on the citizenry as well as the challenge to ensure that students in secondary education have appropriate career and/or college preparation.

Mr. Ken Bradford, representing Superintendent of Education John White, gave a brief history of the Commission. He indicated that he was pleased that the Commission was being reinstated after a few years of inactivity.

Chair Henderson referenced some of the responsibilities of the Commission per R.S. 17:3951, one of which was “Strategies for increasing dual enrollment opportunities for high school students...” He stated that this was the focus of discussion for the current meeting.

Consideration of Proposed Board of Regents Policy Relative to Dual Enrollment Admission

Dr. Henderson indicated that the Board of Regents had proposed a new policy regarding dual enrollment eligibility at its August meeting. He said that there was considerable discussion about the proposal and concern about its recommendations, especially because of limiting student access.

Dr. Larry Tremblay, Board of Regents Deputy Commissioner for Planning, Research, and Academic Affairs, provided background as regards dual enrollment. Next, he stated that the Board of Regents had asked staff to develop a statewide dual enrollment policy, which resulted in the proposed policy being presented at the August meeting. Dr. Tremblay reported that the Board of Regents tabled the proposal for 60 days until its October meeting because of concerns that were voiced. Dr. Tremblay assured that modifications are being discussed by staff and any revisions may not be finalized until December.

Dr. Jeannine Kahn, UL System Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, reported that the proposed policy had been circulated among the chief academic officers, and the main concerns noted are the eligibility requirements.

Dr. Henderson asked Representative Chris Broadwater to share his thoughts. Representative Broadwater thanked members for their service on the Commission. He said that he has witnessed success by high school students who have begun to develop relationships with a university while taking dual enrollment courses. He said he would like to expand access to dual enrollment rather than slow students’ pathway to success.

There was extensive discussion among the Commission members about other concerns with the proposed policy. These included rigor of courses in high school, developmental courses, and limiting access for rural, minority, and at-risk students and students with disabilities because of restrictive eligibility requirements. Concerns about the proposed policy were expressed by representatives of the State Superintendents’ Association, the Louisiana School Boards Association, and numerous others.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Steps and Adjournment

Dr. Henderson stated that at the next meeting he would like to formulate a recommendation regarding dual enrollment to share with the Board of Regents. He requested that the meeting be scheduled for Friday, October 13, and indicated that details would be forthcoming.

Chair Henderson also suggested that the Commission meet every two months.

At 11:00 a.m., the Commission adjourned.