

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE
FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Governmental Concerns Committee (GCC) Robert Slater
Name of Committee Person Submitting Report

3/30/22
Date

Members:

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Task of Committee (please indicate the task of your committee here):

“The Governmental Concerns Committee shall call to the attention of the Senate issues pending before governmental bodies which affect higher education and shall furnish the Senate with information necessary to understanding such issues.”

Progress Report:

#	Since the last Faculty Senate Meeting, the <u>following has been accomplished:</u>
	Legislative bills reviewed

Committee Members Present at Committee Meetings: N/A

Anticipated Future Plans

#	Before the next Faculty Senate Meeting, the <u>following actions are planned:</u>
1.	Meet with the members of the Committee to discuss and monitor issues and legislation and report to Senate
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Action Required by the Faculty Senate (list any action that needs to be taken by the Faculty Senate as a result of this report)

Consult the current session website and review the pending bills in the House and Senate

The 2022 Regular Legislative Session convened on Monday, March 14, 2022. Final Adjournment no later than 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2022.

Pending House Education

HB 185 Original 2022 Regular Session Charles Owen Abstract: Revises provisions relative to expressive activities on college campuses. **Present law** provides for the protection of expressive activities at public postsecondary education institutions. Requires public postsecondary education management boards to adopt policies on free expression, including prohibiting protests and demonstrations that infringe upon the constitutional rights of others to engage in or listen to expressive activity by creating a "substantial and material disruption" to the functioning of the institution or to someone's expressive activity. **Proposed law** adds that "substantial and material disruption"

means when a person, with the intent and knowledge of doing so, significantly hinders expressive activity; prevents the communication of the message; or prevents the transaction of the business of a lawful meeting, gathering, or procession by either of the following.

HB 196 Original 2022 Regular Session Nelson **Abstract:** Creates the Stimulating More Advanced Research and Technology (SMART) Program and SMART fund for the purpose of awarding grants to support research in science, technology, engineering, and math at public postsecondary education institutions. **Proposed law** establishes the Stimulating More Advanced Research and Technology (SMART) Program for the purpose of awarding grants to support research in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at public postsecondary education institutions. Provides for program administration by the Bd. of Regents. Proposed law further: (1) Provides that grants shall be used for the following purposes: (a) Matching research grants from federal agencies and other sources. (b) Awarding hiring bonuses and startup packages for the purpose of attracting faculty. (c) Construction, improvement, or procurement of research facilities, laboratories, equipment, or supplies. (d) Scholarships and stipends for graduate students. (2) Requires the board, as funding allows, to award grants on a competitive basis among the four categories above with a preference for those purposes related to research that has the opportunity for commercialization. (3) Requires at least 20% of the grants to be awarded to institutions outside of the Baton Rouge and New Orleans metro regions.

HB 231 Original 2022 Regular Session Brass **Abstract:** Requires agreements between universities and community colleges that allow the transfer of academic credit from universities to community colleges. **Present law** requires the postsecondary education management boards, the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, and city, parish, and other local public school boards to develop and implement articulation and transfer programs and agreements that facilitate the transfer of credits between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions and that make the most efficient use of faculty, equipment, and facilities. Encourages independent colleges and universities to participate in developing programs and agreements to facilitate credit transfers. **Proposed law** retains present law. Present law authorizes and encourages four-year colleges and universities and community colleges to enter articulation or transfer agreements to facilitate the transfer of academic credits earned at a four-year postsecondary institution to a community college for the purpose of enabling students to complete associate degrees. **Proposed law requires, rather than authorizes, such agreements between four-year colleges and universities and community colleges.**

HB 364 Original 2022 Regular Session McKnight **Abstract:** Establishes procedure for public postsecondary students to be represented by an attorney or non-attorney advocate in certain disciplinary hearings. **Proposed law** requires public postsecondary education management boards to establish policies relative to the procedure for students or student organizations being charged with non-academic offenses to use an attorney or non-attorney advocate in their defense at disciplinary proceedings and appeal hearings. Such a policy shall apply to a student or student organization being accused of violating a nonacademic rule or policy and shall include: (1) Requirements for notice of a charge being brought against a student or student organization. (2) The opportunity for a student or student organization to appeal a decision that it was in violation of a non-academic policy or rule within 90 days of the decision. (3) A procedure for presenting evidence. (4) The victim or accuser having an opportunity to be represented by an attorney or non-attorney advocate. Provides for the role of the attorney general in the enforcement of proposed law. Authorizes a court to award treble damages for a violation of proposed law. Provides exception for disclosing identity of victims of sexual assault.

HB 391 Original 2022 Regular Session Bryant **Abstract:** Provides relative to tuition for nonresident students at postsecondary education institutions who are children of graduates from such institutions. Present law provides for

the powers and duties of public postsecondary education management boards, including but not limited to the authority to establish tuition and mandatory attendance fee amounts applicable to nonresident students attending institutions under their jurisdiction. Proposed law retains present law. Proposed law requires nonresident students who are children of graduates of postsecondary education institutions be considered resident students at those institutions for purposes of determining tuition and mandatory fee amounts. Proposed law applies to public and nonpublic fouryear postsecondary education institutions.

HB 546 Original 2022 Regular Session Mincey Abstract: Revises requirements for entrance into a teacher preparation program. **Present law** provides conditions for entry into a teacher preparation program at a postsecondary education institution, including meeting certain examination and grade point average requirements. Proposed law removes the examination requirement and retains all other entrance requirements provided in present law. Present law provides requirements for teacher certification, including certain examinations. Proposed law retains present law.

HB 556 Original 2022 Regular Session Turner Proposed law requires the Bd. of Regents to develop and implement healthcare workforce training initiatives in order to expand the healthcare workforce in La.

SB 76 Original 2022 Regular Session Fields Present law provides that each public postsecondary education management board shall have the authority to determine the fees paid by students. Proposed law provides that notwithstanding present law, a graduate student who serves as a teaching assistant or research assistant shall be exempt from payment of all mandatory fees imposed in accordance with present law except for tuition. Proposed law exempts such graduate students from all of the following specific fees imposed in accordance with present law: (1) Technology fee (all campuses) (R.S. 17:3351.1) (2) Academic excellence fee (LSU System, Univ. of La. System, & La. Community and Technical Colleges System) (R.S. 17:3351.3, 3351.9, 3351.10) (3) Facilities use and maintenance fee at the Univ. of New Orleans (R.S. 17:3351.7) (4) Facilities use and maintenance fee at Southern Univ. at New Orleans (R.S. 17:3351.8) (5) Professional program fee at LSU (MBA program) (R.S. 17:3351.12) (6) Digital media program fee at LSU (R.S. 17:3351.18) (7) Building use fee (all campuses) (R.S. 17:3351.19) (8) Mandatory fees (all campuses) (R.S. 17:3351.20) Proposed law further requires each public postsecondary education management board to adopt a policy providing that such graduate students are exempt from the payment of all mandatory fees except for tuition. Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

SB 131 Original 2022 Regular Session Mizell Present law (R.S. 39:249) requires the division of administration to adopt policies relative to the acceptable use by state employees of computers owned or leased by the state. Present law prohibits internet access to online sites that contain material which is reasonably believed to be sexually explicit, pornographic, or sexually harassing and, therefore, reasonably believed to create a hostile work environment as prohibited by federal law. Proposed law requires the Board of Regents and each public postsecondary education management board to adopt policies regarding the: (1) Acceptable use of computers owned or leased by each board, system office, and institution under its supervision, including prohibiting use of the computers to access content which is reasonably believed to be sexually explicit, pornographic, or sexually harassing and reasonably believed to create a hostile work environment as prohibited by federal law. (2)

Acceptable use of internet services provided by or through each board, system office, and institution under its control including prohibiting the use of the provided services to access content reasonably believed to be sexually explicit, pornographic, or sexually harassing and reasonably believed to create a hostile work environment as prohibited by federal law. (3) Authorization of an employee or student to have unfiltered or unrestricted access to the internet for legitimate scientific, educational, or law enforcement purposes. Proposed law further requires the authorization to be given in writing to the employee or student, be kept on file at the appropriate institution and board, specify the purpose for the access and the time period during which the access is granted, and be periodically reviewed. Proposed law requires the Board of Regents, each public postsecondary education management board, and each public postsecondary education institution to utilize computer-related technology to block access to any material prohibited in proposed law. Proposed law clarifies that a public postsecondary employee or student shall not be restricted from having unfiltered or unrestricted access to the internet or any online service on a computer or device that is not owned by the board, office, or institution, so long as the computer or device is not used to access any material prohibited in proposed law through an internet service provided by or through the board, office, or institution.

SB 227 Original 2022 Regular Session Milligan Proposed law requires certain disclosure of foreign support for public entities, scrutiny of grants and vendors and services with certain foreign entities. Provides for scrutiny of foreign applicants for research and teaching positions including scrutiny of foreign travel and activities of certain employees. Proposed law requires state agencies to disclose certain foreign donations and gifts and applicants for grants from, or proposing contracts with, certain foreign countries of concern. Proposed law defines foreign countries of concern. Prohibits agreements with foreign countries of concern. Proposed law requires screening of foreign applicants for research positions and foreign travel and activities of employees. Proposed law requires state agencies or political subdivisions to disclose receipt, directly or indirectly, any gift or grant of \$50,000 or more from any foreign source. Requires disclosure of the gift/grant date, amount, and the name and country of residence or domicile of the foreign source. Proposed law requires anyone applying to a state agency or political subdivision for a grant or proposes a contract having a value of \$100,000 or more to disclose any current or prior interest of, any contract with, or any grant or gift received from a foreign country of concern if the interest, contract, or grant or gift has a value of \$50,000 or more and the interest existed at any time the contract or grant or gift was received or in force at any time during the previous five years. Requires the disclosure to include the name/ mailing address of the disclosing entity, the amount of the contract or grant or gift or the value of the interest disclosed, the applicable foreign country of concern and, if applicable, the date of termination of the contract or interest, the date of receipt of the grant or gift, and the name of the agent or controlled entity that is the source or interest holder. Proposed law requires institutions of higher education to semiannually report any gift received directly or indirectly from a foreign source with a value of \$50,000 or more during the fiscal year. Requires that all gifts received from the foreign source be reported if the total in a fiscal year is \$50,000 or more. Gifts through an intermediary are considered an indirect gift to the institution

SB 297 Original 2022 Regular Session Barrow Present law provides for public postsecondary education institutions to provide for safe campuses and requires certain actions to ensure campuses are safe and that postsecondary education administrators are accountable for providing the safe environment. Proposed law amends certain definitions and imposes implementation deadlines. Requires the Louisiana Power-Based Violence Review Panel to provide a report by Feb. 1, 2023, to the Senate and House select committees on women and children

SCR 6 Original 2022 Regular Session Cathey Creates the Task Force on Tenure in Public Postsecondary Education to study the policies on tenure and to submit a report to the legislature by March 1, 2023, on its findings and recommendations