

1 State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, or his designee, shall
 2 serve as chairman for the subsequent two-year term. Thereafter, the governing
 3 board shall elect a chairman from the nine members of the board to serve two-
 4 year terms.

5 (4) The initial vice chairman shall be elected by the five members
 6 provided in Subparagraphs (1)(e) through (i) and shall rotate among those
 7 members in two-year terms for the first two terms. Thereafter, the vice
 8 chairman shall be elected every two years by the governing board from the nine
 9 members of the board.

10 C. The board shall serve as the fiscal agent for the consortium and shall
 11 review and approve the consortium's budgetary request and operating budget and
 12 shall review and approve all funds appropriately awarded or bequeathed to the
 13 consortium. All funds appropriated to the consortium shall be appropriated as a
 14 separate line item ~~within the appropriation of the Board of Regents~~ for the
 15 Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education.

16 BD. As the governing body of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
 17 for Research and Education, the governing board shall have authority to:

18 * * *

19 (6)(a) Appoint an executive director.

20 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, approve the appointment
 21 of ~~such administrative officers~~ senior leadership positions and other personnel as
 22 the board deems necessary and designate their titles. In making its appointments, the
 23 board shall give consideration to the recommendations of the executive director and,
 24 in proper cases, to the head of any college or university affected by an appointment.

25 (c) Appointments of classified employees shall be in conformity with
 26 applicable civil service laws, rules, and regulations.

27 ~~(b)(d)(i)~~ The compensation of the executive director and all officers and
 28 senior leadership positions shall be fixed by the governing board.

29 (ii) The terms of employment and compensation of all employees, except
 30 those classified civil service employees and those senior leadership positions, shall
 31 be fixed by the board and the officers so appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the
 32 board executive director.

33 * * *

34 EE. The board may enter into contracts and agreements with any public
 35 agency for the establishment of state or other public offices on the property and in
 36 the buildings belonging to or under the control of the consortium. The board also
 37 may enter into contracts and agreements for joint construction, equipment,
 38 maintenance, and financing of such buildings, and enter into contracts and
 39 agreements for the joint financing, supervision, and conduct of cooperative
 40 enterprises and undertakings.

41 EF. The liability of any of the acts of the consortium or any of its employees,
 42 or persons associated with any property of the consortium, shall be the liability of the
 43 consortium as represented by the board.

44 G.(1)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, each
 45 public postsecondary institution shall be a member of the consortium and is
 46 entitled to reasonable and equitable access to the consortium's research
 47 facilities, equipment, programs, and resources.

48 (b) Any member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges
 49 and Universities may complete an application and shall become a member of the
 50 consortium.

51 (2) The consortium shall develop and promulgate a standard application
 52 for membership, except that each public postsecondary institution shall not be
 53 required to apply for membership, as provided in Subparagraph (1)(a) of this
 54 Subsection.

55 (3) The staff of the consortium shall ensure that each member
 56 postsecondary institution is afforded fair, reasonable, and equitable access to
 57 the consortium's facilities, equipment, programs, and resources, and that such
 58 access shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed. The
 59 consortium staff shall further coordinate scheduling and facilitate collaborative
 60 research opportunities in a manner consistent with maximizing participation
 61 by, and equitable benefit to, all participating institutions.

1 **H.(1) It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana that the governance**
2 **structure established in this Section, including the creation of the governing**
3 **board of the consortium, shall increase federal, private, and other external**
4 **research funding in Louisiana and enhances the state's research competitiveness**
5 **for the benefit of all public postsecondary education institutions in the state.**

6 **(2)(a) If any member institution is denied fair, reasonable, and equitable**
7 **access to the consortium's facilities, equipment, programs, and resources by the**
8 **staff of the consortium, the member shall notify the consortium governing**
9 **board. The consortium governing board shall take corrective action and**
10 **instruct the staff to provide services to the members institutions in compliance**
11 **with this Section.**

12 **(b) If the consortium governing board refuses to act and rectify the**
13 **denial of access to facilities as provided in Subparagraph (2)(a) of this**
14 **Paragraph within thirty days of receiving the complaint, then the member**
15 **institution shall notify the members of the Louisiana Senate and the members**
16 **of the Louisiana House of Representatives representing the parish in which the**
17 **member institution is located and shall notify the Senate Committee on**
18 **Education and the House Committee on Education.**

19 **I.(1) The governing board shall submit a written report no later than**
20 **December first of each year, in accordance with R.S. 24:771 and 772, to the**
21 **Senate Committee on Finance, the Senate Committee on Education, the House**
22 **Committee on Appropriations, and the House Committee on Education.**

23 **(2) The report shall include, at a minimum, data for the prior fiscal year,**
24 **including:**

25 **(a) The amount of federal, private, and other external research funding**
26 **obtained by or through the consortium, including a comparison to prior fiscal**
27 **years to reflect any increase in such funding.**

28 **(b) The number and identity of Louisiana public postsecondary**
29 **education institutions utilizing the consortium's facilities, equipment, programs,**
30 **or services including the magnitude of usage.**

31 **(c) A summary of the research activities conducted through the**
32 **consortium, including collaborative research involving multiple public**
33 **postsecondary education institutions."**