

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 123

BY SENATORS APPEL AND DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

To direct the Board of Regents to study the provision of public postsecondary educational opportunities in the New Orleans region, establish the appropriate role, scope, and mission for each public community college and four-year college and university in the region, and formulate a plan that will make optimal use of all available academic, fiscal, and physical resources, recognize the unique nature of each individual postsecondary institution, and which will allow each student attending such institutions to successfully and efficiently pursue his or her chosen academic path.

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina impacted postsecondary education in Orleans Parish and the surrounding area as severely as the cultural and physical landscape; and

WHEREAS, the various public colleges and universities in the region, through diligent, valiant, and tireless effort, have made tremendous strides to rebuild and recover their facilities, their programs, and their enrollment; and

WHEREAS, although great progress has been made by all systems and institutions, there is much left to be done, and the state's ongoing budgetary crisis is not only impeding progress, but is seriously threatening the progress made to date; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the current levels of enrollment and funding and the quality and capacity of existing facilities are insufficient to successfully sustain the long-term viability of these postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS, it is logical, reasonable, and imperative that these institutions no longer be forced to compete individually for students and resources, but rather work within a cohesive, comprehensive, regional framework that maximizes scarce resources in a manner that considers the unique nature of each institution and enures to the benefit of each public postsecondary institution and the students and community they exist to serve.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Board of Regents to study the provision of public postsecondary educational opportunities in the New Orleans region, establish the appropriate role, scope, and mission for each public community college and four-year college and university in the region, and formulate a plan that will make optimal use of all available academic, fiscal, and physical resources, recognize the unique nature of each individual postsecondary institution, and which will allow each student attending such institutions to successfully and efficiently pursue his or her chosen academic path.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study shall be based upon best practices for the development of a world class, integrated educational delivery system; further, the study shall be objective and shall preclude the historic missions of the various public postsecondary institutions in the region and the existing relationships between such institutions from prejudicing the conduct and conclusions of the study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education, not later than March 1, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE