

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to collaboratively study and report relative to the status of the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan of 2012, including an update on the needs and strategies outlined in the 2012 report by Eva Klein and Associates, *Achieving a Comprehensive Public University in Shreveport-Bossier: Analysis of Alternative Strategies*.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan was developed by Louisiana State University at Shreveport (LSUS) in collaboration with the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) at Shreveport and Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College; and

WHEREAS, published on April 4, 2012, the plan addresses the continued evolution of LSUS as a major university presence in the Shreveport region; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2012, the LSU Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed the plan and directed its implementation through close collaboration with all institutions in the LSU System, recognizing that all LSU entities have a stake in the successful development of LSUS; and

WHEREAS, the plan defined both a series of short-term initiatives designed to provide immediate impact from new program offerings and longer-term initiatives to grow selected graduate programs; and

WHEREAS, the plan also identified programs, degrees, and certificates, recognized the commitment of the responsible university administrators for each program, and established a timeline for implementation; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 112 of the 2012 Regular Session of the legislature expressed support for the plan, urged the Board of Regents and all public postsecondary education institutions in the Shreveport region to cooperate with the plan, and requested that the LSU Board of Supervisors report to the legislature over the next three academic years on matters including details on new programs offered and put into effect as well as student enrollment and completion data for such programs; and

WHEREAS, the plan is regarded by many to be merely, in the words of LSU-S chancellor Larry Clark, a "political document", that did not represent the needs of students, prospective students, or regional employers or embody a realistic or worthwhile vision for the future; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Clark noted in past remarks that the plan was "quickly pulled together" and that "everyone involved in creating that document is no longer in place, either at LSU or LSU-S"; and

WHEREAS, there is widespread consensus that there has been a grave lack of investment in LSU-S and that the commitment plan fell woefully short in terms of realistically addressing the measures needed to strengthen the institution and meet the needs of its students; and

WHEREAS, there remains an extremely strong need for investment in and support for LSU-S and further educational opportunities in the Shreveport-Bossier area; and

WHEREAS, prior to the publication of the commitment plan, the Board of Regents, along with several community organizations, co-sponsored a study conducted in 2011-2012 by Eva Klein and Associates, which analyzed unmet needs in postsecondary education in the Shreveport-Bossier region; the report resulting from this study was published in February of 2012; and

WHEREAS, it has been several years since the issuance of the last report from the LSU Board of Supervisors and the publication of the Eva Klein report, and there is ongoing discussion as to the progress made in implementing the components of the plan and the strategies recommended in the report; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate at this time that the Board of Regents and the LSU Board of Supervisors take the necessary measures to provide an update on these important issues.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education on the status of the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan of 2012, including but not limited to whether or not the commitments contained in the plan have been fulfilled and if the plan is still in place.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the plan is not still in place, the report shall identify what specific vision, plan, or strategy is in place for the future of LSUS that will result in its establishment as the comprehensive research university that is needed in the Shreveport area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include an analysis of the status of meeting the needs and implementing the strategies outlined in the 2012 report by Eva Klein and Associates, *Achieving a Comprehensive Public University in Shreveport-Bossier: Analysis of Alternative Strategies*, including the following:

(1) Needs: Reconfiguring academic programs so that all are high quality and market responsive; growing incoming enrollment and improving retention and degree completion rates; strengthening recruitment and marketing; improving the quality of the student experience in and beyond the classroom; recognizing and responding to scheduling and support service needs of adult students; building greater engagement with the community; and growing both state and self-generated resources.

(2) Strategies for addressing these needs: Assessing all existing programs as well as proposed new ones; where appropriate, revamping traditional programs to achieve interdisciplinary structure and content; aligning programs more closely with industry, service, and professional enterprises in the metro area; building graduate programs in health care fields based on alliances with the LSUHSC-Shreveport; developing graduate programs oriented to urban needs; building on existing strengths; aligning the program delivery calendar and schedule with underserved populations' needs; where possible, restructuring and revising presently authorized degree programs; and reducing program duplication in the Shreveport-Bossier market.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall be submitted to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of higher education, the chairman of the Board of Regents, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the chancellor of Louisiana State University at Shreveport.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES