

King Alexander
LSU System

Curt Eysink
LA Workforce Commission

Ronald Mason, Jr.
SU System

Charles Moniotte
Workforce Investment Council



Stephen Moret
Economic Development

Joseph C. Rallo
Board of Regents

Monty Sullivan
LCTC System

Sandra Woodley
UL System

The Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) Council convened its sixth meeting on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 1:05 p.m., on the 6th Floor of the Claiborne Building, in Room 6-242, located at 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Commissioner Joseph C. Rallo called the meeting to order and opened by welcoming everyone in attendance and expressed his appreciation for those who had to rearrange their schedule to attend today's meeting. He informed the Council and everyone present that the meeting was being recorded, and to speak accordingly when using the microphones. He stated that he was new to the WISE process, but spent lots of time with the membership and former Chairman Mr. W. Clinton "Bubba" Rasberry.

Roll Call

Ms. Barbara Goodson, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, Board of Regents, called the roll and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

F. King Alexander, LSU System
Curt Eysink, Workforce Commission
Ronald Mason, SU System
Charles Moniotte, WIC
Stephen Moret, Economic Development
Commissioner Joseph C. Rallo, Board of Regents
Monty Sullivan, LCTCS
Sandra Woodley, UL System

Absent from the meeting were:

Approval of the minutes of November 10, 2014

On motion of Member Monty Sullivan, seconded by Member Charles Moniotte, the WISE Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of November 10, 2014.

Value of the WISE Partnership

Commissioner Rallo stated that as WISE Council moved forward, he recommended continued use of all partnerships and encouraged crafting a landscape for Higher Education over the coming months. He also stated that he would like to see the group meet on a regular basis.

Funding Status

Ms. Barbara Goodson, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration stated that for the current fiscal year, \$40 million was appropriated; \$3.5 million was earmarked for other special institutions leaving \$36.5 million for the WISE program. She added that the entire general fund was distributed to the systems in November or December after all the implementation plans were approved. The HB 2 funds (\$11 million) will be forthcoming and we do not have a deadline as to when that will occur. She also added that the remaining funds are the CDBG funds which we will continue to work closely with the division and disaster recovery unit to obtain. At this time there is no approved application because additional information is required.

New Business

Ms. Barbara Goodson, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, stated that for FY 15-16 there are no WISE dollars available. She stated that the budget outlook is pretty severe and includes budget reductions on the general fund, a tuition swap and no WISE funding.

She added that there is no indication that WISE is currently in the budget numbers. She suggested that the WISE Council do a calendar of monthly meetings within the next five months to maintain communications.

WISE Council members individually shared their perspectives and raised some genuine concerns regarding the budget reductions on the general fund, tuition swap and the unavailable WISE dollars.

Board of Regent's Chairman, Roy Martin, spoke of the positive impact he thinks that the WISE Council will have on solving the problem for Higher Education. He stated that he is very hopeful and optimistic that if the WISE group continues to stick together, many of the problems with education will be solved. He added, "With every crisis there is an opportunity and that opportunity is now, this is the right group."

In closing, Commissioner Rallo reminded everyone that the parallel group was working with respect to the recommendations on finding sources of revenue and that they were moving along at a good pace. He added that there are representatives from various systems and agencies that are involved in this group who are doing great work for the right reasons.

There being no further business to come before the WISE Council, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Appendix A

Guest List for February 2, 2015 for Board of Regent's Committee meetings

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>AFFILIATION</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Christopher Leach | NBC33 |
| Joe Marin | LCTCS |
| Wendy Simoneaux | LSUBOS |
| Paul Carlsen | LED |
| Rachel Veron | LED |
| Jenee Slocum | LED |
| Kevin Appleton | SUS |
| S. Moret | LED |
| Monty Sullivan | LCTCS |
| Richard Lipsey | BoR |
| Jason Droddy | LSU |
| Rachel Kincaid | ULS |
| Gray Stream | BoR |