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Louisiana
Community
& Technical
College System

265 South Foster Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Phone: 225-922-2800
Fax: 225-922-1185

www.lctcs.edu

APPROVED

SKR 6/12/19
LCTCS BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: Dr. Monty Sullivan
President

FROM: Joseph F. Marin
Chief Operations Officer

SUBJECT: Tuition and Mandatory Fees for Academic Year 2019-2020

DATE: May 29, 2019

FOR BOARD ACTION

Recommendation: Given ongoing concerns of tuition affordability, staff recommends that the Board continue the past practice and not increase tuition and mandatory fees at LCTCS colleges for Academic Year 2019-2020; and furthermore staff recommends the Board extend the authority granted in Academic Year 2018-19 to the LCTCS President to negotiate and enter into any agreements necessary to reduce tuition should other resources be identified to offset lost revenues from such reductions with a subsequent report of such actions provided to the board for Academic Year 2019-20.

Staff also recommends that, contingent upon enactment of House Bill 89 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature into law, the Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College shall assess students at the technical community college tuition and mandatory fee rates effective with the spring 2020 semester. Additionally, staff recommends that students enrolled at Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College during the fall 2019 semester will continue to be assessed at the current technical college tuition and mandatory fee rate through the fall 2021 semester, provided these students maintain continuous enrollment at the college, excluding summer semester enrollment.

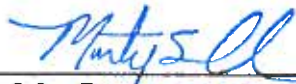
Background: After consecutive years of annual 10% GRAD Act tuition increases, the annual tuition rate of LCTCS colleges is approximately \$1,000 above the southern average at a time when many in the state are facing economic hardships. To help minimize this burden, the LCTCS Board has taken steps to authorize LCTCS colleges to enact institutional aid efforts through such endeavors as the "5 for 6" initiative. While these initiatives have had some measure of success, the ultimate relief that can be afforded to students is to keep the tuition and mandatory fees at academic year 2017-2018 levels even in the face of inflationary cost factors and potential reduced state resources faced by LCTCS colleges for the oncoming fiscal year.

Given the above, there have been public policy discussions regarding the impact that an infusion of state resources could have to offset the financial burden on students through state funded scholarship opportunities. Granting authority to the LCTCS President is sought to continue the momentum gained thus far from previous board approved institutional aid measures.

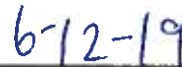
Regarding HB 89, the bill converts Northwest Louisiana Technical College from a technical college to a technical community college with the rebranded name of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College with a broader role, scope and mission warranted. While the college wishes to implement the new technical community college tuition and fee rate for the spring 2020 semester, as has been the practice historically for other colleges that have converted from a technical college to a technical community college, providing a transition period to fully implement the tuition and mandatory fee schedule of technical community colleges helps to mitigate the impact of the tuition and fee increase on current students while it provides the resources to the college to make the transition.

**Fiscal Impact:** Approximately \$1 million annually in additional tuition and fees for Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College.

**History of Prior Action:** The last GRAD Act tuition increase was approved for the 2015-2016 academic year at the June 2015 meeting. The Board approved assessing tuition and mandatory fees for the 2016-2017 academic year for sixteen or more student credit hours at the September 2016 meeting. The Board approved the current recommended tuition reduction authority at the June 2018 meeting.



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**Approved for Recommendation to the Board**  
**Dr. Monty Sullivan, President**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**