

1 Section 1. R.S. 17:3217 is hereby amended and reenacted and Part III-A of Chapter
2 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:3241
3 through 3251 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
4 to read as follows:

5 §3217. University of Louisiana system

6 The University of Louisiana system is composed of the institutions under the
7 supervision and management of the ~~Board of Trustees for State Colleges and~~
8 ~~Universities~~ Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System as follows:

- 9 (1) Grambling State University at Grambling.
- 10 (2) Louisiana Tech University at Ruston.
- 11 (3) McNeese State University at Lake Charles.
- 12 (4) Nicholls State University at Thibodaux.
- 13 ~~(5) Northeast Louisiana University of Louisiana at Monroe.~~
- 14 ~~(6)~~(5) Northwestern State University of Louisiana at Natchitoches.
- 15 ~~(7)~~(6) Southeastern Louisiana University at Hammond.
- 16 ~~(8) University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette.~~
- 17 (7) The University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
- 18 (8) The University of Louisiana at Monroe.
- 19 (9) The University of Louisiana at New Orleans.
- 20 ~~(9)~~(10) Any other college, university, school, institution or program now or
21 hereafter under the supervision and management of the ~~Board of Trustees for State~~
22 ~~Colleges and Universities~~ Board of Supervisors for the Louisiana University System.

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24 PART III-A. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR
25 THE NEW ORLEANS REGION

26 §3241. Legislative intent; goals

27 A. It is the intent of the legislature that a comprehensive, integrated regional
28 delivery system be created for the provision of postsecondary education in the New
29 Orleans region that will:

1 (1) Provide a world class educational environment that will meet the
2 academic needs and interests of every student, while providing each student with the
3 support, assistance, and guidance necessary to attain his or her educational goals and
4 aspirations.

5 (2) Ensure that students who are academically unprepared are provided the
6 educational resources they need to have a reasonable chance for success in their
7 academic pursuits.

8 (3) Raise the educational attainment of the population, improve the quality
9 of life, and contribute to the economic well being of the New Orleans region.

10 (4) Make optimal use of facilities, faculties, and other academic and fiscal
11 resources associated with the public postsecondary institutions in the region.

12 B. The legislature finds that these goals will best be accomplished through
13 the following actions:

14 (1) The transfer of Southern University at New Orleans and the University
15 of New Orleans from their current respective management boards to the University
16 of Louisiana System.

17 (2) The consolidation of Southern University at New Orleans and the
18 University of New Orleans into a newly formed university, the University of
19 Louisiana at New Orleans, which shall contain at least two colleges with
20 differentiated admissions criteria, academic focus, and course and program offerings.

21 (3) The establishment of a branch campus of Delgado Community College,
22 located on the campus of the University of Louisiana at New Orleans, to provide
23 developmental education courses, general education courses, and college transfer
24 degree programs.

25 (4) The creation of a shared admissions and student academic and financial
26 aid counseling center, housed on the Delgado Community College branch campus
27 located on the University of Louisiana at New Orleans campus, that will serve both
28 institutions and facilitate student access and the ability to seamlessly transfer from
29 the two-year institution to the four-year institution.

1 University of Louisiana at New Orleans, under the management and supervision of
2 the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System.

3 B. The chancellor, faculty, and administration of each institution and the
4 Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System shall take every action
5 necessary to efficiently and expeditiously comply with all Southern Association for
6 Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, requirements and procedures to
7 ensure that the requested consolidation may be effected immediately upon receipt of
8 approval from the commission and final approval from the Board of Supervisors of
9 the University of Louisiana System as provided by commission policy.

10 C. Immediately upon receipt of approval from the Southern Association for
11 Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, to consolidate institutions, and final
12 approval from the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System as
13 provided in commission policy, Southern University at New Orleans and the
14 University of New Orleans shall cease to exist as separately accredited institutions
15 and shall be consolidated, along with their assets, funds, obligations, liabilities,
16 programs, and functions, into the newly created and properly accredited University
17 of Louisiana at New Orleans.

18 §3244. University of Louisiana at New Orleans; creation; mission

19 A.(1) Pursuant to the authority granted to the legislature by Article VIII,
20 Section 5(D)(3) of the Constitution of Louisiana to create a new of postsecondary
21 education by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house, the
22 University of Louisiana at New Orleans is hereby created and shall be under the
23 management and supervision of the Board of Supervisors for the University of
24 Louisiana System.

25 (2)(a) The university shall consist of at least two colleges with differentiated
26 admission criteria and programs of study designed to serve the needs of all students.
27 There shall be a research-centered college that will offer degree programs critical to
28 the needs of the region, including graduate programs in the fields of science,

1 engineering, and technology, and a college that will primarily offer undergraduate
2 degree programs and courses of study.

3 (b) Students shall be allowed to transfer from one college to another within
4 the university, provided they meet the initial or transfer admissions criteria for the
5 college in which they wish to enroll.

6 (c) The admissions criteria established for each college within the university
7 shall not be less than the minimum admission criteria established in Board of
8 Regents' policy for institutions of like role, scope, and mission.

9 B. The University of Louisiana at New Orleans will enter into an agreement
10 with Delgado Community College to provide developmental education courses,
11 general education courses, and associate transfer degrees through a branch campus
12 located on the campus of the university.

13 C. The University of Louisiana at New Orleans and the Delgado Community
14 College branch campus located on the university's campus shall create a shared
15 admissions and student academic and financial aid counseling and referral center that
16 will serve both institutions and facilitate student access and the ability to seamlessly
17 transfer courses and enrollment from the two-year institution to the four-year
18 institution.

19 §3245. University of Louisiana System; transition responsibilities

20 The Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System shall:

21 (1) Immediately initiate a search for an academic head, create an
22 administrative structure, and employ key administrative staff for the University of
23 Louisiana at New Orleans.

24 (2) Assist the administrative staff of the University of the Louisiana at New
25 Orleans to develop and implement a comprehensive academic and operational plan
26 to facilitate the consolidation of Southern University at New Orleans and the
27 University of New Orleans.

1 (3) Assist Southern University at New Orleans and the University of New
2 Orleans to prepare and submit their joint prospectus for consolidation to the Southern
3 Association for Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges.

4 §3246. Louisiana State University System; Southern University System; transition
5 responsibilities; restrictions

6 A. The Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural
7 and Mechanical College and the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and
8 Agricultural and Mechanical College shall:

9 (1) Continue to exercise their authority to supervise and manage their
10 respective institutions until such time as the Southern Association for Colleges and
11 Schools, Commission on Colleges, grants approval for the requested change in
12 governance and transfer of Southern University at New Orleans and the University
13 of New Orleans to the University of Louisiana System.

14 (2)(a) Work cooperatively and collaboratively with the Board of Supervisors
15 of the University of Louisiana System to ensure that the requested transfer may be
16 effected immediately upon receipt of commission approval for the change in
17 governance.

18 (b) Prior to receipt of such approval, enter into agreements to transfer as
19 many administrative and supervisory functions as possible with respect to Southern
20 University at New Orleans and the University of New Orleans to the University of
21 Louisiana System and the University of Louisiana at New Orleans, without adversely
22 impacting the current accreditation status of Southern University at New Orleans and
23 the University of New Orleans.

24 (3) Upon receipt of such approval, immediately transfer all assets, funds,
25 facilities, property, obligations, liabilities, programs, and functions relative to
26 Southern University at New Orleans and the University of New Orleans to the
27 University of Louisiana System.

1 B. The Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural
2 and Mechanical College and the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and
3 Agricultural and Mechanical College shall not:

4 (1) Interfere with, or impede in any way, the processes to transfer Southern
5 University at New Orleans and the University of New Orleans to the University of
6 Louisiana System and for the ultimate consolidation of the two institutions into the
7 University of Louisiana at New Orleans.

8 (2) Sell, transfer, or otherwise remove any asset or thing of value, moveable
9 or immoveable, tangible or intangible, attributable to or owned by Southern
10 University at New Orleans or the University of New Orleans on the effective date of
11 this Part.

12 (3) Incur, transfer or assign any debt or other responsibility or obligation to
13 Southern University at New Orleans or the University of New Orleans that is not
14 properly attributable to either institution on the effective date of this Part.

15 (4) Disproportionately reduce or reallocate the level of funding that would
16 otherwise be allocated to Southern University at New Orleans or the University of
17 New Orleans pursuant to the postsecondary education funding formula.

18 §3247. Louisiana Community and Technical College System; responsibilities

19 The Board of Supervisors for Community and Technical Colleges shall:

20 (1) Work cooperatively and collaboratively with the Board of Regents and
21 the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System to establish a
22 branch campus of Delgado Community College, located on the campus of the
23 University of Louisiana at New Orleans, to provide developmental education
24 courses, general education courses, and college transfer degree programs.

25 (2) Secure all necessary approval from the Board of Regents and the
26 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, to establish
27 and attain the proper accreditation status for such branch campus.

1 (3) Enter into an agreement with the University of Louisiana at New Orleans
2 to establish and operate a shared admissions and student academic and financial aid
3 counseling and referral center that will serve students enrolled in both institutions.

4 §3248. Board of Regents; transition responsibilities

5 The Board of Regents shall:

6 (1) Provide oversight, guidance, and support to all postsecondary
7 management boards, systems, and institutions throughout the processes to transfer
8 Southern University at New Orleans and the University of New Orleans to the
9 University of Louisiana System and the ultimate consolidation of these two
10 institutions into the University of Louisiana at New Orleans.

11 (2) Provide oversight, guidance, and support in the establishment of a branch
12 campus of Delgado Community College to be located on the campus of the
13 University of Louisiana at New Orleans.

14 §3249. Students; continuation of enrollment; courses of study; diplomas

15 A. Every student enrolled in, and in good standing with, Southern University
16 at New Orleans or the University of New Orleans at the time of the transfer of these
17 institutions to the University of Louisiana System and the time consolidation of these
18 institutions into the University of Louisiana at New Orleans, shall be allowed to
19 continue their enrollment and complete their prescribed course of study, provided
20 they remain in good standing with the institution in which they are enrolled.

21 B. Students who complete their degree requirements and graduate prior to
22 the consolidation of Southern University at New Orleans and the University of New
23 Orleans shall receive a diploma awarded by and in the name of the institution from
24 which they graduate. Students who complete their degree requirements and graduate
25 subsequent to the consolidation of the two institutions shall receive a diploma
26 awarded by and in the name of the University of Louisiana at New Orleans.

27 §3250. New Orleans Postsecondary Education Advisory Committee

28 A. The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System shall
29 appoint an advisory committee to provide advice and input relative to the creation

1 of a comprehensive postsecondary education delivery system for the New Orleans
2 region pursuant to this Part.

3 B. The committee shall meet only as directed by the Board of Supervisors
4 for the University of Louisiana System and shall have no power or authority other
5 than to serve in an advisory capacity as established by the board.

6 C. The committee shall be composed of representatives of Southern
7 University at New Orleans, the University of New Orleans, the Louisiana State
8 University System and the Southern University System, the mayor of New Orleans
9 or his designee, the parish presidents of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans,
10 Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, and St. Tammany or their designees, the
11 governor, or his designee, and representatives of the regional business community
12 and other community stakeholders, as determined by the Board of Supervisors for
13 the University of Louisiana System.

14 D. Members shall serve without compensation.

15 E. The committee shall terminate on the date the consolidation of Southern
16 University at New Orleans and University of New Orleans into the University of
17 Louisiana at New Orleans is effected.

18 §3251. Reporting requirements

19 The Board of Regents shall submit written reports to the Senate Committee
20 on Education and the House Committee on Education regarding the implementation
21 of this Part on the following dates:

22 (1) December 1, 2011.

23 (2) July 1, 2012.

24 (3) December 1, 2012

25 (4) July 1, 2013.

26 (5) At such other times as specified by the committees.

27 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
28 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
29 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

- 1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Tucker

HB No. 537

Abstract: Provides for merger of SUNO and UNO.

Proposed law provides for the creation of a comprehensive, integrated postsecondary education delivery system for the New Orleans region.

States legislative intent that such postsecondary education delivery system will:

1. Provide a world class educational environment that will meet the academic needs and interests of every student, while providing each student with the support, assistance, and guidance necessary to attain his or her educational goals and aspirations.
2. Ensure that academically unprepared students receive the educational resources they need to succeed academically.
3. Raise the educational attainment of the population, improve the quality of life, and contribute to the economic well being of the New Orleans region.
4. Make optimal use of facilities, faculties, and other academic and fiscal resources associated with the public postsecondary institutions in the region.

States legislative finding that these goals shall be best accomplished through:

1. The transfer of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) and the University of New Orleans (UNO) from their current respective management boards to the University of Louisiana System.
2. The consolidation of SUNO and UNO into a newly formed university, the University of Louisiana at New Orleans (ULNO), which shall contain at least two colleges with differentiated admissions criteria, academic focus, and course and program offerings.
3. The establishment of a branch campus of Delgado Community College (Delgado), located on the ULNO campus to provide developmental education courses, general education courses, and college transfer degree programs.
4. The creation of a shared admissions and student academic and financial aid counseling center, housed on the Delgado branch campus on the ULNO campus, that will serve both institutions and facilitate student access and transfer from the 2-year to the 4-year institution.

Provides relative to the transfer of SUNO and UNO to the UL System as follows:

1. Requires the chancellors of SUNO and UNO to submit a letter to the president of the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS), not later than August 1, 2011, stating their intent for a change in governance from their current management board to the Bd. of Supervisors of the UL System.

2. Requires the chancellor, faculty, and administration of both institutions to take every action necessary to efficiently and expeditiously comply with all SACS timelines, requirements, and procedures to ensure that the requested change of governance may be effected immediately upon receipt of commission approval.
3. Transfers SUNO and UNO to the UL System, pursuant to the authority granted to the legislature by the La. constitution to transfer an institution from one board to another by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house. Also transfers the assets, funds, obligations, liabilities, programs, and functions related to each school. Provides that such transfer will become effective immediately upon receipt of SACS approval for the change in governance.

Provides for the consolidation of SUNO and UNO as follows:

1. Requires the chancellors of SUNO and UNO to jointly submit a letter to the SACS president, not later than July 1, 2012, stating their intent to consolidate and become the University of Louisiana at New Orleans, under the management and supervision of the UL System board.
2. Requires the chancellor, faculty, and administration of each institution and the UL System board to take every action necessary to efficiently and expeditiously comply with all SACS requirements and procedures to ensure that the requested consolidation may be effected immediately upon receipt of approval from the commission and final approval from the UL System board.
3. Provides that SUNO and UNO will cease to exist as separately accredited institutions and will be consolidated, along with their assets, funds, obligations, liabilities, programs, and functions, into the newly created and properly accredited University of Louisiana at New Orleans immediately upon receipt of SACS approval and final approval from the UL System board.

Creates the University of Louisiana at New Orleans (ULNO) as follows:

1. Creates the University of Louisiana at New Orleans under the management and supervision of the UL System board, pursuant to the authority granted to the legislature by the La. constitution to create a new of postsecondary education by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house.
2. Provides that ULNO will consist of at least two colleges with differentiated admission criteria and programs of study designed to serve the needs of all students. Provides that there will be a research-centered college that will offer degree programs that are critical to the needs of the region, including graduate programs in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, and a college that will primarily offer undergraduate degree programs and courses of study.
3. Requires that the admissions criteria established for each college within the university shall not be less than the minimum admission criteria established in Board of Regents' policy for institutions of like role, scope, and mission.
4. Requires ULNO to enter into an agreement with Delgado for the provision of developmental education courses, general education courses, and associate transfer degrees through a branch campus located on the ULNO campus.
5. Requires ULNO and Delgado to create a shared admissions and student counseling and referral center that will serve both institutions and facilitate student access and the ability to transfer courses and enrollment from the 2-year to the 4-year institution.

Provides for the responsibilities for the UL System and requires the UL System board to:

1. Immediately initiate a search for an academic head, create an administrative structure, and employ key administrative staff for ULNO.
2. Assist the administrative staff of ULNO to develop and implement a comprehensive academic and operational plan to facilitate the consolidation of SUNO and UNO.
3. Assist SUNO and UNO to prepare and submit their joint prospectus for consolidation to SACS.

Provides for the responsibilities of the LSU and SU System boards. Requires the boards to:

1. Continue to exercise their authority to supervise and manage their respective institutions until such time as SACS grants approval for the requested change in governance and transfer of SUNO and UNO to the UL System.
2. Work cooperatively and collaboratively with the UL System board to ensure that the transfer may be effected immediately upon receipt of SACS approval.
3. Enter into agreements to transfer as many SUNO and UNO administrative and supervisory functions as possible to the UL System and ULNO, prior to receipt of SACS approval, without adversely impacting the current accreditation status of SUNO and UNO.
4. Immediately transfer all assets, funds, facilities, property, obligations, liabilities, programs, and functions relative to SUNO and UNO to the UL System, upon receipt of SACS approval for the transfer.

Provides that the LSU and SU system boards shall not:

1. Interfere with or impede the processes to transfer SUNO and UNO to the UL System and for the ultimate consolidation of the two institutions into ULNO.
2. Sell, transfer, or otherwise remove any asset or thing of value, moveable or immovable, tangible or intangible, attributable to or owned by SUNO or UNO on the effective date of proposed law.
3. Incur, transfer or assign any debt or other responsibility or obligation to SUNO or UNO that is not properly attributable to either institution on the effective date of this Part.
4. Disproportionately reduce or reallocate the level of funding that would otherwise be allocated to SUNO or UNO.

Provides for the responsibilities of the La. Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) and requires the LCTCS board to:

1. Work cooperatively and collaboratively with the Board of Regents (BOR) and the UL System board to establish a branch campus of Delgado on the ULNO campus to provide developmental education courses, general education courses, and college transfer degree programs.
2. Secure all necessary approval from the BOR and SACS to establish and attain the proper accreditation status for such branch campus.

3. Enter into an agreement with ULNO to establish and operate a shared admissions and student academic and financial aid counseling and referral center that will serve students enrolled in both institutions.

Provides for the responsibilities of the Board of Regents and requires the board to:

1. Provide oversight, guidance, and support to all postsecondary management boards, systems, and institutions throughout the processes to transfer SUNO and UNO to the UL System and the ultimate consolidation of these two institutions into the University of Louisiana at New Orleans.
2. Provide oversight, guidance, and support in the establishment of a branch campus of Delgado on the ULNO campus.

Provides with respect to students enrolled in SUNO and UNO at the time of transfer to the UL System and at the time of consolidation of the two institutions into the University of Louisiana at New Orleans as follows:

1. Specifies that every student enrolled in, and in good standing with, SUNO or UNO at the time of the institutions' transfer to the UL System and at the time these institutions are consolidated into the University of Louisiana at New Orleans, be allowed to continue their enrollment and complete their prescribed course of study, provided they remain in good standing with the institution in which they are enrolled.
2. Specifies that students who complete their degree requirements and graduate prior to the consolidation of SUNO and UNO shall receive a diploma awarded by and in the name of the institution from which they graduate.
3. Specifies that students who complete their degree requirements and graduate subsequent to the consolidation of the two institutions shall receive a diploma awarded by and in the name of the University of Louisiana at New Orleans.

Provides for the creation of the New Orleans Postsecondary Education Advisory Committee as follows:

1. Requires the UL System board to appoint an advisory committee to provide advice and input relative to the creation of a comprehensive postsecondary education delivery system for the New Orleans region pursuant to proposed law.
2. Specifies that the committee shall meet only as directed by the UL System board and will have no power or authority other than to serve in an advisory capacity as established by the board.
3. Specifies that the committee be composed of representatives of SUNO, UNO, the LSU System, the SU System, the mayor of New Orleans or his designee, the parish presidents of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, and St. Tammany or their designees, the governor, or his designee, and representatives of the regional business community and other community stakeholders, as determined by the UL System board.
4. Members shall serve without compensation.
5. Terminates the committee on the date the consolidation of SUNO and UNO into the University of Louisiana at New Orleans is effected.

Requires the Board of Regents to submit written reports to the Senate and House committees on education regarding the implementation of proposed law on the following dates:

1. December 1, 2011.
2. July 1, 2012.
3. December 1, 2012
4. July 1, 2013.
5. At such other times as specified by the committees.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3217; adds R.S. 17:3241-3251)