I. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairman Charles Moniotte. Dr. Jenee Slocum called roll and a quorum was present. Stesha Rampersad recorded minutes.


II. **Comments from Charles Moniotte, Chairman**

a. The purpose of this meeting is to hear updates on the implementation progress and effectiveness of WISE, Rapid Response, and Jumpstart.

b. We need to determine what the unified message for education will be during session.

c. Stafford Palmieri from the governor’s office spoke about the budget cuts to higher education. She stated due to the decrease in the price per barrel of oil there was a decrease in the state’s projected budget, but Commissioner Kristy Nichols presented a package of solutions with the budget. Some of the solutions that will affect higher education are:

   - Tuition and Fee flexibility for higher education institutions
   - Expansion of Grad Act autonomies
   - Introducing a tax credit or scholarship for students (the scholarship is intended for students who do not have a tax liability)

III. **Introduction of Dr. Jenee Slocum, new WIC Director**

IV. **Introduction of Dr. Joseph Rallo, Commissioner of the Louisiana Board of Regents**

   a. Dr. Rallo discussed his education and work background, including creating partnerships with business and industry.

   b. Dr. Rallo’s goals for his time as Commissioner:
   
   - Work to develop a single position/voice for higher education in Louisiana.
   - Work toward having significant resources and a sustainable revenue stream.
   - Work with the four public systems to identify solutions to meeting financial needs.
V. Presentations on Workforce Programs Progress and Impact of Proposed Budget
a. University of Louisiana System, Dr. Sandra Woodley
   • Dr. Woodley shared a PowerPoint presentation
   • Dr. Woodley stated amid the budget changes it is difficult to hire faculty because these are not temporary positions and the money is not guaranteed.
   • Dr. Woodley provided a snapshot of where the WISE funding is spent. She stated if they are successful in their plans the gaps in the workforce will be closed in each region of the state.

b. Southern University System, Dr. Ronald Mason
   • He stated the system has used WISE funding to update technology and to refocus the first 36 hours of the curriculum to prep students in the most in-demand areas.

c. Video from Louisiana State University System President Dr. F. King Alexander on higher education budget cut threat.

d. Department of Education, Dave Lefkowith and Ken Bradford
   • A PowerPoint was shown and handouts of the PowerPoint were provided.
   • Ken Bradford spoke about recent accomplishments of the JumpStart program, including the Convention held in January and the upcoming 2nd Annual Super Summer Institute. These programs are helping to prepare principals, teachers, and counselors to teach and train on the various JumpStart pathways.

e. Louisiana Community and Technical College System, David Helveston
   • Tier I economic driver jobs are the focus of LCTCS.
   • All programs at LCTCS have a star rating attached to each.
   • LCTCS will remain workforce focused regardless of budget cuts.
   • WISE funds are being used to update campuses and curriculum to focus on four- and five-star jobs.

VI. Discussion
a. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss WISE funding, implementation, Rapid Response and Jumpstart.

b. The MFP fund for JumpStart will be fully funded but there is no funding budgeted for assessments and severe cuts to the Department of Education.

c. LWC Executive Director, Curt Eysink, commented that the Governor’s proposed budget adheres to statute, which therefore, cannot contain some of the administration’s proposed budget solutions. Those solutions must be approved by the legislature.

VII. Other Business
None

VIII. Public Comments
None

IX. Adjournment
a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.