La GRAD Act: Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas

University of Louisiana System
April 28, 2011
Act 741 – La GRAD Act

• Details the performance objectives and associated performance elements
• Outlines the responsibilities of the campuses, the Board of Regents, and the management boards
• Describes the tuition authority and the other autonomies that may be granted for institutions that participate
• Describes annual review, revocation, and extraordinary circumstances
Performance Agreement

- “Contract” between 3 participating parties
- Further explicates the responsibilities of each party
- Outlines the specifics of tuition authority
- Describes monitoring, revocation, and extraordinary circumstances
- Operationally defines how performance will be measured (Attachments A, B, D)
Responsibilities of the Management Board

- Establish policies to increase grad rates and grad productivity
- Establish nonresident tuition/fee schedules
- Set resident tuition policies in accordance with GRAD Act and BoR policies
- Approve hardship waiver plans
- Report carry forward of funds
- Report extraordinary circumstances
Responsibilities of the Management Board

- Certify initial baselines, annual targets and goals ("capable of meeting performance")
- **Certify annual report** ("progress and validity")
- Initially certify base level autonomies ("capable of successful management")
- Annually certify operational autonomy ("continue to successfully manage")
What Will Be Measured

• Four Performance Objectives (each with 4 elements)
  – Student Success
  – Articulation and Transfer
  – Workforce and Economic Development
  – Institutional Efficiency and Accountability

• “Section 5” Report
Performance Objectives and Elements

- **Student Success**
  - Graduation rate and productivity, retention
  - Degree program completers
  - Partnerships with high schools
  - Passage rates on certification exams/licensure

- **Transfer & Articulation**
  - Success of all transfer students
  - Provide feedback on associate degree transfers
  - Referral agreements
  - Collaboration on LTA degrees
Performance Objectives and Elements

- **Workforce & Economic Development**
  - Eliminate unneeded programs
  - Increase distance learning
  - Research productivity & technology transfer (La Tech and ULL only)

- **Institutional Efficiency and Accountability**
  - Eliminate remedial courses
  - Eliminate associate degrees
  - Nonresident tuition to SREB average
Required Response to Each Element

• Narrative – describe what was done to meet the intent of the element; required bullets (2 pages maximum)

• Measures – numerical progress on the specified required indicators
  – Targeted – 2 points each
  – Tracked – 1 point each
  – Descriptive – 1 point each
Student Success – Element A

- Implement policies established by the institution's management board to achieve cohort graduation rate and graduation productivity goals that are consistent with institutional peers.
  - Narrative (required description)
    - policy/policies adopted by the management board;
    - subsequent policy/policies adopted by the institution;
    - timeline for implementing the policy/policies; and
    - performance of entering freshmen students admitted by exception (4-year universities).
Student Success – Element A

Specified Measures

- 1\textsuperscript{st} to 2\textsuperscript{nd} year retention (Targeted)
- 1\textsuperscript{st} to 3\textsuperscript{rd} year retention (Targeted)
- IPEDS total graduation rate (Targeted)
- Award productivity (Targeted, optional)
- Statewide graduation rate (Targeted, optional)
- % of freshmen admitted on exception (Descriptive)
Scoring – Student Success Element A

• Narrative
  – 4 required bullets – 1 point each

• Quantitative Measures
  – 3 required, targeted measures – 2 points each
  – 1 optional, targeted measure – 2 points
  – 1 required, descriptive measure – 1 point

• Total of 13 points
Articulation and Transfer

• Provide feedback to community colleges and technical college campuses on the performance of associate degree recipients …

• Narrative report should include at a minimum:
  – examples of new/strengthened feedback reports
  – processes in place to identify and remedy student transfer issues

• Measures
  – 1st to 2nd year retention (Descriptive)
  – Number of graduates that began as transfers with associate degrees (Descriptive)
“Section 5” Report

- Number of students
- Number of faculty
- Student-to-instructor ratio in undergraduate classes
- FTE students per FTE faculty
- Number of non-instructional staff in academic units
- Number of non-instructional staff in support areas
- Organizational chart of senior administrators
- Salaries of senior administrators

Submitted to BoR with distribution to Legislative Auditor, the Legislature, and the Governor’s Office
Evaluation Guidelines

• Score each element separately
• Add element scores to get a score for an objective
• 80% or more = Success in an objective
• MUST pass Student Success Objective
• Overall designation = Green, Yellow, Orange, or Red
• Must complete a Scoring Worksheet
Process

• Section 5 – submitted March 15
• Template for Annual Report sent to campuses – March 1
• Campuses submitted 1st drafts – April 1
• Drafts scored, conference calls to discuss – April 2 – 7
• Final drafts returned to ULS – April 15
• Final adjustments & scoring – April 15-19
Some Questions You Might Have

• How were the targets set?
• Were the targets too low? Too high?
• Why are only a few measures “targeted?”
• Why do the targeted measures have a range of + or – 2%?
• Will the institutions be able to change their targets?