APPENDIX B

PROPOSED SEAT-TIME POLICY FOR ACADEMIC CREDIT

CURRENT BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY

(Master Plan for Higher Education, Board of Regents, State of Louisiana, April 1994, p. 99)

Classes should meet for not less than 36 clock hours of instruction. This number of clockhours should be considered an absolute minimum. All class periods must be of reasonable length (1-4 hours). Chronologically, the course should be of such duration and with enough time between classes that students have adequate time to reflect, consider, evaluate, and absorb the ideas, concepts, and the values that constitute the course. Traditionally, in American higher education, the time/credit hours ration has been no less than one week per semester credit hour earned.

PROPOSED NEW BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY

State System institutions have long recognized that college-level learning may be acquired in a variety of settings and can be documented objectively and comprehensively through written or performance examinations and other academically sound procedures. A traditional example used to determine course length has been that three semester hour classes have met for not less than 36 clock hours of instruction. With the growth in recent years in distance education, the introduction of technology in delivering instruction, and the increase in the number of readings/special topic courses and independent study courses, the nature of contact hours has changed and requires greater flexibility. All classes must be of reasonable length and include both content and contact sufficient to maintain high academic quality and standards commensurate with credit hours awarded for a "traditional" three-semester hour lecture class. The basis for such certification of learning is a valid, credible assessment system which reliably determines whether a student possesses clearly identified, standards-based knowledge, skills, and abilities.

This policy was approved by the Board of Regents on January 25, 2001.