

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

March 24, 2000  
Monroe, LA

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met in regular session on Friday, March 24, 2000, at the University of Louisiana at Monroe University Conference Center, University Library 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Monroe, Louisiana.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andre Coudrain at 11:55 a.m. and opened with prayer by Dr. Smith. The following roll call was recorded:

### **PRESENT:**

Mr. Andre G. Coudrain, Chairman  
Dr. Edward B. Anders  
Mrs. Elsie P. Burkhalter  
Mr. Robert C. Davidge  
Mr. T. L. "Teddy" Duhé  
Mr. Tex R. Kilpatrick  
Mr. Gordon A. Pugh  
Mr. TiJean Rodriguez  
Mr. Winfred F. Sibille  
Dr. Eunice Wicker Smith  
Mr. Michael H. Woods  
Mr. David Wright

### **ABSENT:**

Mr. Carl Shetler, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Herman Gesser, Jr.  
Mrs. Carroll W. Suggs

Chairman Coudrain stated that Mr. Shetler, Mr. Gesser, and Mrs. Suggs were granted excused absences for this meeting.

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Chairman Coudrain thanked Mr. Tex Kilpatrick and his wife, Carol, President Lawson Swearingen, and the administrative staff and faculty for their warm hospitality and for hosting the Board meeting and Board activities at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Chairman Coudrain complimented President Swearingen for the development of the University Library.

President Swearingen welcomed the Board and thanked Mr. Coudrain for the expression of appreciation to his staff. He welcomed Mayor-Elect Mr. Melvin Rambin. President Swearingen also noted special thanks to the following university personnel and System staff for the teamwork effort shared in the responsibility of hosting the Board meeting:

Dr. Richard Hood, Executive Assistant in the Office of the President, and the Planning Committee members

Mr. Keith Prince and Ms. Connie Waterman - UL-M Conference Center staff

Mr. Frank McGough, Maintenance Supervisor, and the maintenance staff

Ms. Brenda Domangue, Leader of the UL-M 31 Ambassadors Student Group

Ms. Pat Rugg, Executive Office Coordinator for the Office of the President

Dr. Martha Upshaw, Director of Continuing Education, who coordinated social events

The UL-M Technology Team, including the following members responsible for the PowerPoint presentation: Ms. Georgiann Potts, Director of Public Affairs; Dr. Glenda Rakes, Coordinator Education Leadership and Faculty; and Dr. Beverly Flowers, Assistant Professor

Mrs. Dawn Wilson Muscarello and the University of Louisiana System staff

President Swearingen expressed special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Kilpatrick for the hospitality shared and for the use of their home. He also introduced the following special guests:

Mayor-Elect Mr. Melvin Rambin, a member of the Board of Regents, and a Monroe Community leader

Mr. Jared McGlocklin, Nicholls State University SGA President and student member of the Board of Regents

Mayor-Elect Melvin Rambin welcomed the Board and everyone in attendance to the City of Monroe and the University of Louisiana at Monroe campus. He expressed appreciation to Governor Mike Foster and the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System for their commitment and support to higher education. He also expressed many thanks to the University of Louisiana at Monroe and its contributions to the City of Monroe, and its economy, culture, and the City's quality of life. Mr. Rambin highlighted the following special resources and health care activities on campus that enhance the quality of life in the City of Monroe:

- A. Louisiana Drug, Poison, and Information Center, which receives numerous calls from health care professionals.
- B. Northeast Louisiana Tumor Registry, a resource for scientists conducting cancer research.
- C. Louisiana Institute for Toxicology, a resource center.
- D. The Health Care Delivery Teaching Clinic, which provides care for dental hygiene, communicative disorders, and occupational therapy.

President Swearingen narrated a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the history, nationally recognized academic programs, and accomplishments of the University and the growth and development of the University Library.

Chairman Coudrain thanked President Swearingen for the presentation and for outlining the University accomplishments. He also thanked Mayor-Elect Melvin Rambin.

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On motion of Dr. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Burkhalter, the Board unanimously voted to approve the **February 25, 2000 minutes**.

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#### **REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Dr. Smith, Chairman of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, presented the Committee's report.

On motion of Dr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Sibille, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Academic and Students Affairs Committee and took the following action:

##### **Agenda Item E.1.**

Approved **Nicholls State University's** request to approve a Cooperative Agreement with the University of Plymouth, Plymouth, England.

##### **Agenda Item E.2.**

Approved, subject to concurrence with the Finance Committee, **Southeastern Louisiana University's** request to award scholarship/fee waivers to high school students who are eligible to enroll in Southeastern's Superior High School Junior Program.

On motion of Dr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Sibille, the Board voted unanimously to amend its agenda to include an item of other business and took the following action:

**Agenda Item E.3. – Other Business**

On motion of Dr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Sibille, the Board voted unanimously to approve University of Louisiana at Monroe's request to confer upon Mr. James Arthur Altick an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.) at the 2000 Spring Commencement.

**REPORT OF THE FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Sibille, Vice Chairman of the Facilities Planning Committee, presented the Committee's report.

On motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Facilities Planning Committee and took the following action:

**Agenda Item F.1.**

Approved **Louisiana Tech University's** request to expend \$335,000 of auxiliary funds to replace elevators in Caruthers Hall.

**Agenda Item F.2.**

Approved **University of Louisiana at Monroe's** request to expend \$170,000 of private donations for the construction of a fountain in the Library Plaza.

**Agenda Item F.3.**

Approved **University of Louisiana at Monroe's** request to approve the CONTRACT OF LEASE with Citizen Utilities Company (Louisiana Gas Service Company).

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On motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to amend its agenda to include the two items of other business:

On motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Mr. Davidge, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Facilities Planning Committee and took the following actions:

**Agenda Item F.4.a. – Other Business**

Approved **Louisiana Tech University's** request to amend Capital Outlay for Fiscal Year 2000-01 to include funding for the North Campus Drainage System Repair Emergency Project.

**Agenda Item F.4.b. – Other Business**

Approved **Southeastern Louisiana University's** request to approve an AGREEMENT TO LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE by and between University Facilities, Inc. (as Lessor) and the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System (as Lessee) in connection with Residential Facilities, Phase II.

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Woods, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the Committee's report.

On motion of Mr. Woods, seconded by Dr. Smith, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and took the following actions:

**Agenda Item G.1.**

Approved **Grambling State University's** request to establish the Ben D. Johnson, Sr. LEQSF (8g) Endowed Professorship in Business.

**Agenda Item G.2.**

Approved, in concurrence with the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, **Southeastern Louisiana University's** request to award scholarship/fee waivers to high school students who are eligible to enroll in Southeastern's Superior High School Junior Program.

**Agenda Item G.3.**

Received the **University of Louisiana System's** Report on College Tuition and Required Fee Increases 1992 – 1999.

**Agenda Item G.4.**

Received the Legislative Audit Reports for Fiscal Year 1999 from the following universities:

- A. **McNeese State University**
- B. **Northwestern State University**
- C. **Southeastern Louisiana University**

**Agenda Item G.5.**

Received the report on the System Loss Prevention Audits for Fiscal Year 2000.

Mr. Woods also thanked Ms. Doris Copeland, of the State Office of Risk Management, for presenting a status report on Risk Management Loss Prevention audits.

Mr. Coudrain directed each university that did not pass the Risk Management audit to resubmit an application to be re-audited.

#### **Agenda Item G.6. – Other Business**

Mr. Woods stated that a table of Presidents' Compensation was presented for information purposes, as Mr. Duhé had requested at the February Board meeting.

#### **REPORT OF THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Sibille, Chairman of the Legislation Committee, presented the Committee's report.

#### **Agenda Item H.1.**

Mr. Sibille asked Mrs. Dawn Wilson Muscarello to present an overview of the 2000 Louisiana Special Session and proposed legislation for the upcoming 2000 Louisiana Regular Legislative Session that was presented to the committee.

On motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Mrs. Burkhalter, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Bobby Jindal and/or other System staff to act on behalf of the Board and in the best interest of the University of Louisiana System in negotiations with the Board of Regents and the Legislature.

#### **REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kilpatrick, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, presented the Committee's report.

#### **Agenda Item I.1.**

Mr. Kilpatrick stated that the Committee received a report on Staffing trends at **System Universities** and Employee Productivity Analysis for information only. No action was required by the Board.

## **REPORT OF THE GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Pugh, Chairman of the Grambling State University Advisory Committee, presented the Committee's report.

### **Agenda Item J.1.**

Chairman Pugh presented an updated report on the Grambling State University Advisory Committee's findings. He acknowledged the favorable cooperation and service rendered by the Committee members, members of the System staff, and Grambling State University administration and staff, and the assistance of staff at Louisiana Tech University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe during preparation for the SACS accreditation, the Legislative audit, and the Committee's review of financial procedures at the University.

The Committee concluded that the fiscal years 1998 and 1999 financial problems experienced at the University were compounded by the transition of key financial personnel at a critical time, and by the change in the University's operation software system. The Committee and President Favors agree that the goal for Grambling State University is to be self-sufficient and to meet the same standards as other System Universities.

Chairman Pugh also reported that the Committee recommends the following for adoption by the Board:

- A. That the fiscal operations be outsourced to the CPA firm of Postlethwaite and Netterville. This firm would assist the University with the day-to-day fiscal operations, development of the best accounting and finance practices, and make recommendations to ensure improved operations.
- B. Dr. Charles Teamer will remain as a consultant to work with System Universities, especially Grambling State University. He will analyze the financial procedures, structure, and personnel at Grambling and make recommendation for any actions necessary to achieve a successful financial operation at the University.
- C. He also announced that Grambling State University's President, Steve Favors, would conduct a national search for the position of the Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Finance. The Chief Financial Officer will then help the university hire a permanent controller.

These recommendations should result in Grambling State University's ability to achieve the goal of becoming self-sufficient and meeting all the standards as other System Universities.

On motion of Mrs. Burkhalter, seconded by Mr. Kilpatrick, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following recommendations as presented by the Committee:

- A. The accounting functions at Grambling State University be enhanced by contracting with the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm of Postlethwaite and Netterville to assist with accounting functions and to institute Best Practices procedures at the University. The firm will observe and make recommendations for better fiscal performance.
- B. Dr. Charles Teamer, Consultant, will assist Grambling State University in setting up the proper financial procedures. The Chief Financial Officer will hire a controller. All staff at that time will be reviewed, and the proper staff will be recruited and trained.
- C. Grambling State University will conduct a national search for a Chief Financial Officer or Vice President for Finance.

Chairman Coudrain expressed appreciation to President Favors for the progress and cooperation given to the Grambling State University Advisory Committee and for the progress in the work being completed by the University.

## **REPORT OF SYSTEM OFFICE BUSINESS**

### **Agenda Item K.1.**

On motion of Mr. Duhé, seconded by Mr. Sibille, the Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel actions.

### **Agenda Item K.2. System President's Report**

Mr. Jindal made the following announcements for Board information or consideration:

- A. Mr. Jindal commended Southeastern Louisiana University and Nicholls State University for developing a program to allow advanced high school students to take college level courses for credit. This type of program will increase a student's desire to attend a Louisiana college or university.
- B. Mr. Jindal commended Nicholls State University for developing a program and securing private funds to send honors students overseas to participate in the Cooperative Agreement with the University of Plymouth at Plymouth, England.
- C. Mr. Jindal reported on two Faculty Advisory Council Resolutions submitted for information or consideration by the Board.

The first resolution requested that a faculty representative be included in the implementation of the Board of Regents' DEFE program. The faculty met with Dr. Savoie and the Board of Regents directly to express their comments.



The second resolution requested that the Faculty Advisory Council in the name of the faculty of the University of Louisiana System and in the spirit of all Louisiana faculty, urge the State Employees Group Benefits Program (SEGBP) Board to devise a polling plan that will maximize participation by all higher education employees, with consideration of academic calendars and their impact on availability of faculty at polling times, as well as the logistical convenience of faculty voting.

Mr. Jindal recommended that the Board authorize him to send a letter on the Faculty Advisory Council's behalf.

On motion of Mrs. Burkhalter, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Jindal to send a letter indicating the System concerns to the State Employees Group Benefits Program Board asking that they consult the University of Louisiana System faculty concerning the polling times.

- D. Mr. Jindal announced that the following presentations were received by the Presidents' Council:
1. President Dan Reneau presented Louisiana Tech University's increase in graduation rates and the challenges involved in the process.
  2. President Ray Authement presented University of Louisiana at Lafayette's reduction in remedial education. He explained their process of working with the Community College.
  3. President Donald Ayo at Nicholls State University (and President Randall Webb at Northwestern State University at an earlier meeting) presented actions used to increase retention rates.
- E. Mr. Jindal thanked the Board committees for reviewing the appropriate benchmarking and productivity reports. These reports are prepared to update the Board on the staffing trends within the University of Louisiana System.
- F. Mr. Jindal announced that Second Quarter Financial Reports were reviewed at the February Board meeting and Third Quarter Financial Reports will be reviewed at the April Board meeting. President Swearingen has been asked to present updates to the UL-Monroe budget plan.
- G. Mr. Jindal asked President Webb to make a presentation on the Fort Polk Electronic College partnership program. This College is an outgrowth of the Northwestern State University's strategic planning process to make available electronic online associate degree programs and services. This program particularly targets military students.

## **REPORT OF BOARD CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

### **Agenda Item L.1. Board Chairman's Report**

Chairman Coudrain made the following announcements for information or consideration by the Board:

- A. Chairman Coudrain announced that Mr. Robert C. Davidge will chair an Ad Hoc Committee to review the bond fees and the bond issuance process.
- B. Mr. Sibille was asked to report on the Board of Regents' Board and Committee actions affecting the University of Louisiana System.
  1. Dr. Falcon reported the Board of Regents' Academic Affairs Committee approved the following items affecting the University of Louisiana System:
    - a. New guidelines for centers and institutes as they relate to academic and research units.
    - b. Regents approved the following proposals and Letters of Intent:
      - (1) Nicholls State University's proposal for Bachelor of Science degree program in Manufacturing Technology.
      - (2) Southeastern Louisiana University's Letter of Intent for a Masters of Arts in Organizational Communications and a Masters of Arts in Applied Sociology.
      - (3) University of Louisiana at Monroe's Letter of Intent for a Bachelor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship.
    - c. Staff report was received on the joint Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene agreement between LSU Allied Health Science Center and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
  2. Mr. Douglas Lee presented the Facility planning items that were approved by the Board of Regents' Facility Planning Committee:
    - a. Nicholls State University's property acquisition.
    - b. Louisiana Tech University's property acquisition for the Trenchless Technology project.

- c. Southeastern Louisiana University Capital Outlay emergency projects – Pottle Hall.
  - d. Southeastern Louisiana University’s Utilization Financing.
- 3. Mr. Sibille reported that Mr. Stephen Perry, Chief of Staff for the Office of the Governor, spoke and urged higher education Boards and Commissions to assist the Governor’s office in accomplishing the educational goals for the State. The Board of Regents adopted a Resolution allowing the Commission of Higher Education to act on behalf of the Board on Legislative matters.
- C. Chairman Coudrain welcomed Mr. Wright back after his illness and expressed condolences to Mrs. Burkhalter for the loss of her sister.  
  
Mr. Wright expressed appreciation for the well wishes received during his illness.  
  
Mrs. Burkhalter thanked the System university presidents, their staffs, and the System staff for the many acts of kindness received.
- D. Chairman Coudrain commended the following Universities on their athletic accomplishments:
  - 1. The Louisiana Tech University Lady Techsters (Women’s Basketball) who participated in the NCAA Final Sixteen Women’s Tournament. He congratulated Coach Barmore who will be retiring at the end of this season.
  - 2. University of Louisiana at Lafayette Men’s Basketball team who participated in the NCAA Tournament.
- E. Chairman Coudrain announced that President Favors and the Grambling Family will host the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities. All members are invited to attend the conference.

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On motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Dr. Anders, there being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:15 p.m.