



Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System Minutes - April 24, 2025

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. Mark Romero called to order the meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System at 9:16 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025. The meeting was held in Room 100, "The Louisiana Purchase Room," of the Claiborne Building located at 1201 North Third Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Drew Brown	Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Barry Busada	Mr. Mark Romero
Mr. Steve Davison	Mr. Robert Salim
Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr.	Mr. Joe Salter
Mr. Keith Myers	Mr. Brad Stevens
Dr. John Noble, Jr.	Ms. Julie Stokes
Mr. Dana Peterson	

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Jo'Quishia Lethermon
Mr. Alejandro Perkins
Ms. Kristine Russell

Additionally, President Gallot, System and campus representatives, and Attorneys Brandon DeCuir and Linda Clark were in attendance.

B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Romero asked Mr. Salter to present an invocation and to lead the Pledge of Allegiance afterwards.

C. Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2025 Board Meeting and Ratification of Actions taken at the March 28, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Salim, seconded by Mr. Jackson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2025 Board meeting and ratify the actions taken at the March 28, 2025 Executive Committee meeting.

As a result of the actions taken by the Executive Committee on March 28, Dr. Nick Bruno had been appointed as Acting President of University of Louisiana at Monroe. Mr. Romero welcomed Dr. Bruno. Dr. Bruno thanked the Board for the appointment and said he would work diligently to identify needs and present recommendations for the next steps.

Mr. Drew Brown asked for a point of personal privilege to offer his appreciation to President Gallot and the Board for a fruitful and exciting year as Student member. Mr. Brown was grateful for welcoming him and valuing his input. Mr. Romero indicated that Mr. Brown would be recognized at the May 19 Special Meeting, which would be his final meeting.

Chair Romero asked for a motion to meet as a Committee of the Whole. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board unanimously voted to conduct business as a Committee of the Whole.

D. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Pierre asked Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke to describe the items on the Academic and Student Affairs agenda. Dr. O'Rourke presented Items D.1.-D.3. Upon motion of Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously approved Items D.1.-D.3.

1. Grambling State University's request for approval to award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Alana Ward Robinson at the Spring 2025 Commencement Exercises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request for approval to award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Alana Ward Robinson at the Spring Commencement Exercises.

2. Grambling State University's request for approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request for approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

3. Grambling State University's request for approval to offer a Master of Science in Sustainability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request for approval to offer a Master of Science in Sustainability.

E. Athletic Committee

Dr. Noble, Chair, asked Mr. Bruce Janet to give an overview of the campus requests. Mr. Janet presented Items E.1.-E.12. Upon motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Stokes, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items E.1.-E.12.

1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of the contractual agreement between Ms. Rian "Cami" Hicks, Assistant Volleyball Coach, Louisiana Tech University, and Louisiana Tech University Foundation, effective March 24, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of the contractual agreement between Ms. Rian "Cami" Hicks, Assistant Volleyball Coach, Louisiana Tech University, and Louisiana Tech University Foundation, effective March 24, 2025.*

2. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of contractual agreements between various Assistant Football Coaches, Louisiana Tech University, and Louisiana Tech University Foundation.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of contracts with Assistant Football Coaches: Mr. Luke Olson, Mr. Paul Randolph, and Mr. Nathan Young.*

3. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Bill Armstrong, Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective March 25, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Bill Armstrong, Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective March 25, 2025.*

4. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Ayla Guzzardo, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective April 2, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Ayla Guzzardo, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective April 2, 2025.*

5. Northwestern State University's request for approval of a second contractual amendment with Ms. Anna Nimz, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective March 24, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approved Northwestern State University's request for approval of a second amendment with Ms. Anna Nimz, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective March 24, 2025.*

6. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Jeff Dow, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective April 1, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Jeff Dow, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective April 1, 2025.*

7. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Lee McBride, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, effective January 6, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Lee McBride, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, effective January 6, 2025.*

8. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of contractual agreements between various Assistant Coaches, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the Lion Athletics Association.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of contracts with Mr. Antonio Baker, Mr. Billy D'Ottavio, Mr. Ross Jenkins, Mr. Dustin Landry, Mr. Trey Nunez, Mr. Tom Rinaldi, Mr. Anthony Scelfo, Mr. Alvin Slaughter, and Mr. Lee "Trey" Willie.*

9. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of an amended contract with Mr. James Salgado, Assistant Football Coach/Defensive Coordinator, effective February 27, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of an amended contract with Mr. James Salgado, Assistant Football Coach/Defensive Coordinator, effective February 27, 2025.*

10. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of a Contract for Employment with Mr. Quannas White, Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective April 1, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of a Contract for Employment with Mr. Quannas White, Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective April 1, 2025.*

11. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Molly Fichtner, Head Women's Softball Coach, effective March 31, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Molly Fichtner, Head Women's Softball Coach, effective March 31, 2025.*

12. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Reid Gann, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, effective March 31, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Reid Gann, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, effective March 31, 2025.*

13. Other Business

Mr. Bruce Janet introduced a revision to *Policy and Procedures Memorandum IA-V.3, Intercollegiate Athlete Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)*. The effective date was April 24, 2025, and no Board action was required.

F. Audit Committee

Mr. Dana Peterson asked Mr. Janet to report on the Audit Committee items. Upon motion of Ms. Stokes, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously voted to approve Item F.3.

1. University of Louisiana System's report on internal and external audit activity for the period of February 17, 2025 through April 7, 2025.

This was a report only, and no Board action was required.

2. Discussion of University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Legislative Auditor Management Letter issued March 26, 2025.

University President E. Joseph Savoie, Dr. Jaimie Hebert, and Vice President for Finance and Administration Jerry Luke LeBlanc answered questions posed by the Board. Grants and the status of an Electronic Research Administration (ERA) system were discussed. Mr. Romero asked for a follow-up on these issues.

3. University of Louisiana System's request for approval to restructure the internal audit function across System institutions and to align the System audit charters with the restructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of Louisiana System's request to restructure the internal audit function across System institutions, including the appointment of a System-level Chief Audit Executive, and the consolidation of audit oversight. This approval authorizes the System President to develop and implement the structure, including finalizing personnel assignments and operational details.

Ms. Stokes said that centralizing the audit function is good. Chair Romero thanked Ms. Stokes for her vision concerning this issue.

G. Facilities Planning Committee

Mr. Steve Davison asked Mr. Janet to introduce the items on the agenda. Mr. Janet discussed Items G.1. and G.2. Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items G.1.-G.2.

1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to name a space in Bogard Hall the Shutt-Fox Collaborative Suite.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to name a space in Bogard Hall the Shutt-Fox Collaborative Suite.

2. Nicholls State University's request for approval to lease a section of the Nicholls Farm to Ducks Unlimited, Inc., a non-profit corporation domiciled in Memphis, Tennessee, in accordance with LSA-RS 17:3361.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Nicholls State University's request for approval to lease land in Lafourche Parish totaling approximately 105 acres to Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Nicholls State University has obtained final review from UL System staff, legal counsel, and shall secure all other appropriate approvals from agencies/parties of processes, documents, and administrative requirements prior to execution of documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of Nicholls State University or his or her designee shall be authorized to execute a lease on the above said property in Lafourche Parish on behalf of Nicholls State University.

AND FURTHER, that Nicholls State University will provide System office with copies of all final executed documents for Board files.

H. Finance Committee

Mr. Barry Busada asked Mr. Eddie Meche to discuss the Finance items. Mr. Meche and Ms. Ashley McIntyre reported on Items H.1.-H.5. Upon motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items H.1.-H.5. **Mr. Drew Brown recused himself from voting on Item H.2.**

1. Grambling State University's request for approval to establish the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request for approval to establish the Willie D. Davis College of Business Endowed Professorship.

Mr. Brad Stevens asked whether students would have the opportunity to vote on each fee increase on the referendum. Mr. Drew Brown, Dr. Wade Rousse, Dr. Kedrick Nicholas, Dr. Michael Buckles, and Ms. Ashley Rose came to the table to discuss the campus request. Mr. Brown indicated that the items would each be considered separately.

2. McNeese State University's request for approval to have a student referendum for fee increases.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University's request for approval to have a student referendum for fee increases.*

(Mr. Drew Brown recused himself from voting on this item.)

3. University of Louisiana System's recommendation to approve Campus Housing and Meal Plan Rates, Auxiliary Rates, Energy Surcharge, and Non-Governmental Charges for Academic Year 2025-26.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the institutions' Campus Housing and Meal Plan Rates, Auxiliary Rates, Energy Surcharge, and Non-Governmental Charges for Academic Year 2025-26.*

4. UL System recommends that the Board authorize the System President to negotiate and submit, for approval to the Louisiana Attorney General, a proposed contract for professional legal services with the law firm of Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips LLP.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby recommends that the Board authorize the System President to negotiate and submit, for approval to the Louisiana Attorney General, a proposed contract for professional legal services with the law firm of Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips LLP.*

5. Legal Services Engagement Policy

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby adopts a policy requiring University Presidents to obtain prior Board approval for the engagement of legal services or outside counsel, and authorizes System staff to develop and implement a Policy and Procedures Memorandum (PPM) reflecting this requirement.*

I. Personnel Committee

Chair Salim asked Ms. Kecia Neal to describe the campus requests. Ms. Neal introduced Items I.1. and I.2. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items I.1. and I.2.

1. McNeese State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Nikos Kiritsis as Interim Dean and Professor of the College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics, and Director of IIEC, effective March 1, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University's request to appoint Dr. Nikos Kiritsis as Interim Dean and Professor of the College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics, and Director of IIEC, effective March 1, 2025.*

2. Northwestern State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Aimee Badeaux as Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, effective March 24, 2025.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Northwestern State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Aimee Badeaux as Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, effective March 24, 2025.*

President Genovese and Dr. Greg Handel introduced Dr. Aimee Badeaux. Dr. Badeaux thanked the Board and President Genovese for the appointment. She said that she was grateful for the opportunity to build upon traditional excellence.

J. Legislation Committee

1. Report on 2025 Regular Legislative Session

Mr. Salter asked Mr. Rich Vath, Director of Research & Advancement, to report on the Legislative Session.

Mr. Vath said that the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature began on April 14. President Gallot has already testified at the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees in support of higher education.

He said that a number of legislative instruments are being monitored, including proposed changes to TOPS and ACT eligibility (HB77, HB275, and HB378). Additionally, there are proposed changes to athletic funding and NIL (HB166,

HB168, and SB200). Others that are monitored are House Bills that address capital outlay and deferred maintenance projects (HB335 and HB347). SB215 and others address mental health as well as a House Bill (HB202) regarding addressing mental health crises in students.

Another bill that is being followed is HB37 that is in reference to dual enrollment students and protecting minors on online platforms managed by public/private colleges. HB421 calls for the sunset of DEI programs, offices, and positions. And, HB279 addresses hazing on college campuses.

Lastly, Mr. Vath reported on the ULS Day at the Capitol being set for May 5. He announced that the event will be held from 4-7 p.m. at the Capitol Park Museum. The nine institutions will showcase their academic excellence with displays and demonstrations. He encouraged the Board to attend.

K. System President's Business

1. Personnel Actions and Summer Pay Plans

President Gallot stated that the Personnel Actions and Summer Pay Plans had been reviewed by staff and are recommended for approval.

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Personnel Actions and Summer Plans.

2. Update on the University of Louisiana at Monroe Presidential Search

President Gallot asked Dr. Erica Calais to provide an update on the ULM search process. She indicated that the Search Committee had selected three semifinalists for interview on the campus the following week. The semifinalists chosen included Dr. Jonathan Ambrose, Mr. Chris Broadwater, and Dr. Carrie Castille. From these semifinalists, at least two finalists would be selected for interview at a Special Board Meeting on May 19.

3. System President's Report

McNeese Basketball

President Gallot congratulated McNeese State University's men's basketball team for making it to the playoffs. Dr. Wade Rousse commended the coach for his ability to attract and develop young players.

Academic Honors

President Gallot reported that System institutions participated in the March 26 Academic Honors Day event, at which approximately 1,500 students attended. Academic Honors Day is an annual event that brings together high school juniors and seniors to provide them opportunities to engage with university recruiters and explore potential scholarships.

For Our Future Conference

The 8th annual For Our Future Conference was held in Baton Rouge in March 26-28. Participation exceeded 450 faculty and staff from System institutions. This year programming focused on teaching, research, service, and talent development.

Academic Summit

President Gallot stated that the yearly Academic Summit was held at Nicholls on April 10-11. The Summit featured undergraduate research, service-learning presentations, and displays of visual and performing arts. The two days highlighted the accomplishments of dedicated students.

Alumni Pathways Study

President Gallot said that the System had launched a study concerning economic impact and graduates' employment outcomes. The result of the study is that collectively the System institutions' impact is \$13.6 billion. UL System Pell-eligible graduates on average earn between \$60,000 to \$80,000. Additionally, seventy-five percent of TOPS recipients remain in the state.

The initiative, Alumni Pathways, tracks graduate outcomes, including how they contribute to communities and the state. Partnerships are strengthened and encouraged and top employers are hiring graduates. The data illustrates the power of education and the relationship with Louisiana's workforce development and success.

Spring Commencement Ceremonies

President Gallot said that it is time for Spring Commencements, and he invited the Board members to participate in as many as possible.

L. Board Chair's Business

1. Board Chair's Report

Mr. Romero reminded Board Members to complete their Annual Personal Financial Disclosure statements. These statements must be submitted to the Board of Ethics by May 15.

Chair Romero said that a Policy and Procedures Memorandum (PPM) and revised card regarding comments and testimony offered at Board meetings was included in their materials. This does not require a vote.

Chair Romero indicated that the next meeting of the Board is a Special Meeting in Baton Rouge on May 19. Additionally, the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for June 26 on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University.

M. Other Business

There was no other business to come before the Board.

N. Adjournment

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:45 a.m.