

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM  
April 23, 2020**

**A. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met virtually on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 10:08 a.m. via Zoom technologies.

**PRESENT**

Mr. James Carter*	Mr. Shawn Murphy
Dr. Jimmy Clarke	Mr. Alejandro "Al" Perkins*
Dr. John Condos	Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Ms. Lola Dunahoe	Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. Thomas Kitchen*	Mr. Mark Romero
Ms. Rachel Lautigar*	Ms. Kristine Russell
Ms. Mildred "Mimi" Methvin	Mr. Joe Salter

*\*Arrived subsequent to roll call*

**ABSENT**

Mr. Edward Crawford III**	Dr. Pamela Egan
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*\*\*Mr. Crawford viewed the meeting via Youtube*

Also available on the Zoom medium were the following: System President Jim Henderson, System staff, administrators and faculty representatives from System campuses, Attorneys Linda Clark and Brandon DeCuir, and others.

**B. Invocation**

Board Member Joe Salter opened the meeting with an invocation.

**C. Certification of Inability to Operate due to Lack of Quorum**

Because of the inability to physically meet for the Board meeting, it was necessary to approve a Certification of Inability to Operate due to Lack of Quorum.

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the Certification of Inability to Operate due to Lack of Quorum. The following members voted aye: Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

**D. Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2020 Board Meeting**

Upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System unanimously approved the minutes of the February 28, 2020 Board Meeting by roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

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Upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board unanimously voted to suspend the rules and dispense with Committee deliberations to allow the Board to consider all items on the agenda. Upon roll call vote, the following members voted aye: Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

E. **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Chair Dunahoe asked Dr. Jeannine Kahn, System Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to present all the items under consideration.

After Dr. Kahn's description of Items E.1.-E.6., upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Methvin, the items were unanimously approved by roll call vote. The following members voted aye: Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

E.1. **Grambling State University's request for approval to enter into a Course and Service Agreement with StraighterLine, Inc.**

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request to enter into a Course and Service Agreement with StraighterLine, Inc.***

E.2. **Nicholls State University's request for approval to offer the following Graduate Certificates: Educational Technology Facilitator and Educational Technology Leader.**

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Nicholls State University's request to offer the following Graduate Certificates: Educational Technology Facilitator and Educational Technology Leader.***

E.3. **Nicholls State University's request for approval of a Letter of Intent to offer a Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Leadership.**

***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 of a Letter of Intent to offer a Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Leadership.***

E.4. **Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a Letter of Intent to Develop a New Academic Program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre.**

***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 Letter of Intent to Develop a New Academic Program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre.***

- E.5. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a Letter of Intent to Develop a New Academic Program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant.

***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 Letter of Intent to Develop a New Academic Program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy Assistant.*

- E.6. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request on behalf of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) for approval of an Agreement between VCOM and the University of Louisiana System.

***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 on behalf of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) for approval of an Agreement between VCOM and the University of Louisiana System.*

- E.7. COVID-19 Guidelines

Dr. Kahn reported that, in response to the emergency of the pandemic, guidelines have been developed and established for the nine institutions. The guidelines are designed to (1) mitigate the adverse consequences for students in the area of academics and (2) prevent adverse employment or evaluative actions for faculty.

- E.8. Policy and Procedures Memorandum (PPM) M-23, Mental Health

Ms. Erica Calais, System Vice President for Student Affairs and Governance, reported on a newly developed Policy and Procedures Memorandum. The purpose of PPM M-23, Mental Health is to lend guidance to student affairs professionals as they support students.

Ms. Calais said that mental health affects all students and that poor mental health can hinder academic success. She emphasized that the University of Louisiana System and its member institutions have made mental health a priority.

F. **Athletic Committee**

Committee Chair Murphy asked Mr. Bruce Janet, System Director of Internal and External Audits, to describe the items for consideration.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve Items F.1. and F.2. The following members voted aye: Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

- F.1. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Kacie Cryer, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective April 15, 2020.

***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. Kacie Cryer, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective April 15, 2020.*

- F.2. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a revised Athletic Home Game Complimentary Ticket Policy.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Monroe's revised Athletic Home Game Complimentary Ticket Policy.*

- F.3. COVID-19's Impact on Athletics, Scholarships, and Events

Mr. Marcus Jones, System Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, updated the Board on the resulting impact of the coronavirus outbreak for campuses. He stated that there will be reduction in NCAA revenues as well as potential cuts, increased cost to returning seniors, decreased student fees collected, and potential loss of game guarantees.

Other areas to be considered are reducing summer school scholarships, limiting athletic scholarship hours, a hiring freeze on unfilled staff positions, utilization of NCAA special assistance funding, reducing recruiting budgets, reducing travel expenses including modes of transportation, and general reduction in budget.

Also providing comments were Mr. Greg Burke, Director of Athletics-Northwestern State University, who indicated that leadership will be key going forward. Louisiana Tech University's Director of Athletics Tommy McClelland also spoke about "doing our part" by looking at cost and efficiency methods and reminding the Board that athletics play a vital role in the life of a university.

G. **Facilities Planning Committee**

Committee Chair Perkins asked Mr. Janet to present the items listed on the agenda of the Facilities Planning Committee.

Upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Carter, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve Items G.1. through G.5. The following members voted aye: Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

- G.1. Nicholls State University's request for approval to sell the Theodore Louis Duhé Building located at 235 Civic Center Boulevard, Houma, Louisiana through legislative act to the START Corporation, a 501(c)3 non-profit.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana system hereby approves Nicholls State University's request to sell the Theodore Louis Duhé Building located at 235 Civic Center Boulevard, Houma, Louisiana through legislative act to the START Corporation, a local 501(c)3 non-profit.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that Nicholls State University shall obtain 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 and his or her designee be authorized to contact a local legislator to submit a bill on the University's behalf to sell the Duhé Building.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the President of Nicholls State University and his or her designee are hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said sale by the University of Louisiana System on behalf of and for the use of Nicholls State University.

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

- G.2. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval to enter into a Ground Lease Agreement with the Lions Athletic Association to replace the artificial turf on the football field at Strawberry Stadium, pursuant to La. R.S. 17:3361.

***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 to enter into a lease agreement with the Lions Athletic Association to replace the artificial turf on the football field at Strawberry Stadium.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that Southeastern Louisiana University shall obtain final review from UL System staff and legal counsel to the Board, 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 Southeastern Louisiana University and/or his designee are hereby authorized and directed to execute the act of donation described herein and any and all documents necessary in connection with the acceptance of the property donation described herein.

***AND FURTHER***, that Southeastern Louisiana University will provide the System office with copies of all final executed documents for Board files.

- G.3. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to demolish two Billeaud Hall Greenhouse buildings as a part of the new seating park/plaza for students.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request to demolish the two Billeaud Hall Greenhouse buildings.

***AND FURTHER***, that ULS staff and legal counsel ensure that all documents conform to statutory and administrative requirements.

- G.4. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to name the ULM Child Development Center the *Emily Williamson Laboratory School*.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to name the ULM Child Development Center the "Emily Williamson Laboratory School."

- G.5. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to name the Financial Aid Suite inside Sandel Hall "*Dr. Charles R. McDonald Financial Aid Suite*."

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to name the Financial Aid Suite inside of Sandel Hall "*Dr. Charles R. McDonald Financial Aid Suite*."

#### H. **Finance Committee**

Mr. Kitchen asked staff to present the campus requests. Dr. Edwin Litolff, Mr. Charles Wendt, and Mr. Bruce Janet introduced the items.

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve Items H.1. to H.6. The following voted aye: Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Lautigar, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

- H.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to increase the contract tuition rate for students enrolled at Barksdale Air Force Base effective Summer Quarter 2020.

***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 increase the contract tuition rate for students enrolled at Barksdale Air Force Base effective Summer Quarter 2020.

- H.2. Northwestern State University's request for approval to establish a Nurse Anesthetist Fee.

***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 establish a Nurse Anesthetist Fee.

- H.3. University of Louisiana System's request for approval to establish LEQSF (8g) Endowed Professorships/Endowed Superior Graduate Scholarships/First Generation Scholarships as follows:

***Grambling State University***

Dr. Adrian and Mrs. Gilonda Butler Endowed Professorship in Cyber Security  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Delta Iota Endowed Student Scholarship  
Ruby Billups Standard of Excellence Endowed Scholarship  
Lonnie B. Smith Endowed Scholarship  
The Ruston Alumni Chapter's Family of Coach James Wicks Duncan Sr. Endowed Scholarship

***Louisiana Tech University***

Delbert and Shelia Chumley Endowed Professorship in College of Business  
Ray and Dorothy Young Family Endowed Professorship AgScience  
Ray and Dorothy Young Endowed Professorship in AgScience  
Rick and Lisa Shirley Endowed Professorship

***University of Louisiana at Lafayette***

Drs. Chuck and Sue Lein/BORSF Endowed Professorship in Music Business  
(name change from Drs. Chuck and Sue Lein/BORSF Endowed Professorship in Management)

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the requests from System institutions to establish the LEQSF (8g) Endowed Professorships/Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships/First Generation Scholarships noted above.

- H.4. University of New Orleans' request for approval to refund Series 2014 Bonds, University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation, Inc. – Student Housing Project.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of New Orleans' request for approval of the form and authorization to execute a Supplemental Ground Lease Agreement and a Supplemental Facilities Lease, each between the Board, acting on behalf of the University, and UNO Research and Technology Foundation, Inc., to refund the Series 2014 Bonds described herein.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the University of New Orleans shall obtain final review from UL System staff and legal counsel to the Board, 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 the University of Louisiana System, and his or her designee, and the President of the University of New Orleans, and his or her designee, are hereby authorized and directed to execute the leases described herein and any and all documents necessary in connection with the issuance of the bonds described herein.

***AND FURTHER**, that the University of New Orleans will provide the System office with copies of all final executed documents for the Board's files.*

- H.5. 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 2020-21.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of Louisiana System's recommendation for Campus Housing and Meal Plan Rates, Auxiliary Rates, Energy Surcharge, and Non-Governmental Charges for Academic Year 2020-2021.*

- H.6. University of Louisiana System's report on internal and external audit activity for the period of February 24 to April 19, 2020.

Mr. Janet discussed the audit activity for the period described. He also gave a recap of the 2019 Office of Louisiana Legislative Auditor recommendations for the nine campuses and answered questions about two campuses that had findings. He stated that the System office had a clean opinion with no findings. No action was required by the Board.

- H.7. Update on Financial Impacts and CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Ms. Cami Geisman, System Vice President for External Affairs, detailed the timeline of responses to COVID-19 by the University of Louisiana System, including distributing guidelines, discussions with University Presidents, updating the Legislature, distributing academic and faculty guidelines, and providing guidance regarding distribution of student grant funds.

Dr. Edwin Litolff, System Vice President for Business and Finance, and Mr. Charles Wendt, System Director of Accounting and Financial Analysis, discussed the challenges faced by the System and its campuses. They stated that enrollment and associated tuition will be key factors as we move ahead. They presented a budget summary, the breakdown of a possible CARES Act distribution, scenarios for reduction in state funds, and projected loss of athletic revenues.

Stated significant challenges to the campus operating funds include continuing to provide services to students, developing new instruction methods, loss of student fees collected, and meeting debt service requirements and covenants.

I. **Personnel Committee**

Mr. Robinson asked Dr. Litolff to present the campus request.

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Kitchen, the Board voted by roll call to approve Item I.1. The following members voted aye: Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Lautigar, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.



- I.1. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to appoint Dr. Donald D. Simpson as Dean of the College of Health Sciences effective July 1, 2020.

***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 to appoint Dr. Donald D. Simpson as Dean of the College of Health Sciences effective July 1, 2020.*

Dr. Nick Bruno, Dr. Ruiz, and Mr. Camile Currier were present via Zoom to discuss Dr. Simpson's accomplishments. Dr. Simpson was unable to be present.

J. **Legislation Committee**

Mr. Salter, Chair, asked Ms. Cami Geisman to give a report concerning the upcoming Legislative Session.

- J.1. Update on 2020 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

Ms. Geisman stated that it is projected that the Legislature will be back in Session in mid-May. However, adjournment must take place no later than June 1 so, because of this limited amount of time, multiple special sessions can be expected. Ms. Geisman said that faculty reinvestment will be a System priority as well as developing a working relationship with especially the new legislators.

K. **System President's Business**

- K.1. Personnel Actions

President Henderson said that System staff had reviewed all personnel actions from the campuses and recommends approval.

*Upon motion of Ms. Methvin, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, the Board voted by roll call to approve the System personnel actions.*

The following members voted aye: Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Dr. Condos, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Lautigar, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

- K.2. System President's Report

***COVID-19***

Dr. Henderson commended all those people from various walks of life who have stepped up to the plate in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. He also noted that the human cost is quite visible during this time. He cited one such example: Michael Marceaux, who had graduated in 2018 in the Northwestern nursing program. Mr. Marceaux had been working as an emergency room nurse at a Shreveport hospital before passing away from the coronavirus.

### ***ULM Presidential Search***

Dr. Henderson stated that the University of Louisiana at Monroe Presidential Search Committee met on April 22 via Zoom. At that meeting, the Committee selected eighteen candidates for consideration. It was also decided that the next meeting will be May 18, at which time semifinalists will be chosen. On-campus in-person interviews are being scheduled for the week of August 17, and a Special Board Meeting will be scheduled for August 27 to interview finalists and select a president.

### ***Digital Divide***

Dr. Claire Norris, Associate Vice President for Inclusion, Diversity and Effectiveness, gave a brief report about the digital divide faced by students, particularly displayed during the current pandemic. She noted that more than 95% of students across the UL System have actively engaged in their learning management system (LMS) since our institutions moved to remote learning.

#### **K.3. Revision to Policy and Procedures Memorandum (PPM) M-21, For Our Future Award Board Scholarships**

Dr. Henderson informed Board members that the Policy and Procedures Memorandum regarding the *For Our Future Award* had been revised. The change will add part-time students who meet the criteria to those eligible to receive an award. This will increase the number of students to be assisted.

### ***Retool Your School***

Dr. Henderson congratulated Grambling State University for being one of 10 winners of the Retool Your School campus improvement grant program. This past year's competition offered by Home Depot received applications from 54 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As one of the winners, Grambling State University will receive \$50,000.

Grambling Dean of Students Gourjoine Wade thanked the students and supporters who voted for Grambling. Dr. Wade stated that one-half million votes had been cast for the campus.

#### **L. Board Chair's Business**

##### **L.1. Board Chair's Report**

### ***Compete LA Graduates***

Mr. Romero asked Board members to reach out to those six Compete LA students who will be graduating this semester. He stated that Ms. Katie Barras will provide the Board with contact information.

Also, Mr. Romero said that the staff is working on ways to engage with other Compete LA students by encouraging them. He said that the communications team will be in contact with interested Board members to provide them with opportunities to contact current Compete LA students.

***Ad Hoc Committee on Post Pandemic Operations***

Mr. Romero stated that he was appointing an Ad Hoc Committee on Post Pandemic Operations. This Committee will be a combination of members of the Executive Committee and Chairs of all Committees. The members will include James Carter, Lola Dunahoe, Pamela Egan, Tom Kitchen, Shawn Murphy, Al Perkins, Elizabeth Pierre, Virgil Robinson, Mark Romero, and Joe Salter. Chair Romero said that the Committee will meet to address issues that arise as institutions move to normalize operations in the Fall. This will ensure that the appropriate protocols are established.

***Personal Financial Disclosure Statements***

Mr. Romero also reminded Board members that their required annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statements are due May 15.

M. **Other Business**

Mr. Romero again thanked the ULM Presidential Search Committee for continuing its work. He also indicated that it will be necessary for the Board to appoint an Interim President as the adjusted timeline dictates that at this time. He said he will update the Board on the next steps.

Mr. Romero reminded Board members that the next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 25.

N. **Adjournment**

Upon motion of Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Carter, at 12:52 p.m., the Board voted to adjourn.