

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
October 22, 2020**

A. Call to Order/Roll Call/Certification

On Thursday, October 22, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with an option to participate virtually. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Romero at 1:06 p.m. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT
(In-Person)**

Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Mark Romero

Mr. Joe Salter

**PRESENT
(Zoom)**

Ms. Olivia Bailey
Mr. James Carter
Dr. Jimmy Clarke
Mr. Edward Crawford
Ms. Lola Dunahoe

Dr. Pamela Egan
Mr. Thomas Kitchen
Ms. Mildred “Mimi” Methvin
Mr. Shawn Murphy
Mr. Virgil Robinson

ABSENT

Dr. John Condos
Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins

Ms. Kristine Russell

Also onsite or on the call were System President Jim Henderson, System staff, University Presidents, and Attorneys Brandon DeCuir and Linda Clark.

Upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Pierre, 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: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

B. Invocation

Mr. Joe Salter opened the meeting with an invocation.

C. **Approval of Minutes of September 3 Special Board Meeting and September 3-4 Regular Board Meeting**

Upon motion of Mr. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the September 3 Special Meeting and the September 3-4 Regular Board Meeting. The following roll call vote was recorded. Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted to dispense with Committee deliberations and conduct business as a Committee of the Whole. The following members voted aye: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter.

D. **Report of Grievance Committee**

Dr. Egan, Committee Chair, reported that the Grievance Committee had met earlier to consider the grievance of Dr. Quoc-Nam Tran, faculty member at Southeastern Louisiana University. She said that the Committee was recommending that the decision of the campus be upheld.

Upon motion of Dr. Egan, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted to affirm Southeastern Louisiana University's decision concerning the grievance of Dr. Quoc-Nam Tran.

The following members voted aye: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

E. **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Ms. Dunahoe asked Dr. Jeannine Kahn, System Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to present the agenda items.

Dr. Kahn described Items E.1.-E.4. and, upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Dr. Egan, the items were unanimously approved. The following members voted aye by roll call vote: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

E.1. **Northwestern State University's request for approval to offer an Undergraduate Certificate in Remote Systems Science and Technology.**

***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 offer an Undergraduate Certificate in Remote Systems Science and Technology.*

- E.2. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Science and Technology.

***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 offer a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Science and Technology.*

- E.3. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to offer a Ph.D. in Pharmacology.

***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 offer a Ph.D. in Pharmacology.*

- E.4. University of New Orleans' request to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. Harry Shearer at the Fall 2020 Commencement Exercises.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of New Orleans' request to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. Harry Shearer at the Fall 2020 Commencement Exercises.*

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 Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items F.1.-F.3. The following members voted aye by roll call vote: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

- F.1. Nicholls State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. James Austin Claunch, Head Basketball Coach, effective October 28, 2020.

***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 contract with Mr. James Austin Claunch, Head Basketball Coach, effective October 28, 2020.*

- F.2. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Theo Sliman, Head Men's Golf Coach, 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 Lafayette's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Theo Sliman, Head Men's Golf Coach, effective July 1, 2020.*

- F.3. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of an amendment to the contract with Mr. Timothy Leger, Assistant Football Coach, 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 Lafayette's request for approval of an amendment to the contract with Mr. Timothy Leger, Assistant Football Coach, effective July 1, 2020.*

G. Facilities Planning Committee

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Mr. Romero Mr. Janet to present the Facilities Planning Committee items.

Upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board unanimously voted to approve items G.1.-G.4. The following Board members voted aye: Ms. Bailey, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter.

- G.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to name a new wing in the College of Business the "Cox Family Atrium."

***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 new wing in the College of Business the "Cox Family Atrium."*

- G.2. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of a Ground Lease with Ragin Cajun Facilities, Inc. to construct a Photovoltaic Applied Research & Testing Laboratory (PART Lab), as authorized by La. R.S. 17:3361.

***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 for approval of a Ground Lease with Ragin Cajun Facilities, Inc. to construct a Photovoltaic Applied Research & Testing Laboratory (PART Lab), as authorized by La. R.S. 17:3361.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette shall develop a Ground Lease between the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System and the Ragin Cajun Facilities, Inc. The President of the University or his designee shall be authorized to execute the Ground Lease contingent on approvals from UL System staff and legal counsel.*

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

- G.3. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to demolish the Robert's House Apartment building.

***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 Robert's House Apartment building.*

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

- G.4. University of New Orleans' request for approval to enter into a Lease Agreement with Hynes Charter School Corporation and Friends of Hynes, both not-for-profit corporations, pursuant to the authority vested in La. R.S. 17:3361.

***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 to enter into a Lease Agreement with Hynes Charter School Corporation and Friends of Hynes, both not-for-profit corporations, to proceed with execution of a lease agreement pursuant to the authority vested in La. R.S. 17:3361.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that University of New Orleans 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 University of New Orleans or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said lease.*

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

H. Finance Committee

Mr. Kitchen asked staff to present the campus requests. Mr. Charles Wendt, System Director of Accounting and Financial Analysis, discussed H.1. and H.2., and Mr. Bruce Janet introduced the items H.3. and H.4.

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items H.1.-H.4., with the following roll call vote: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter.

- H.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to enter into an Affiliation Agreement with the Louisiana Tech Applied Research Corporation to provide applied research and contracting services for large contracts as well as support and facilities for classified contracts.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request to execute an Affiliation Agreement with the Louisiana Tech Applied Research Corporation, subject to review and approval of Board staff and counsel.*

- H.2. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a resolution granting authority for the issuance of Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System Revenue Bonds not to exceed \$8 million (University of New Orleans Project).

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby authorizes the issuance of not to exceed \$8,000,000 Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System Revenue Bonds (University of New Orleans Project), in one or more series, for the purposes of financing the Project.*

***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 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.3. University of Louisiana System's request for acceptance of revised Internal Audit Charters for (a) Grambling State University, (b) Louisiana Tech University, (c) Nicholls State University, (d) Northwestern State University, (e) Southeastern Louisiana University, (f) University of Louisiana at Monroe, (g) University of Louisiana System, and (h) University of New Orleans.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana System's request for acceptance of revised Internal Audit Charters for (a) Grambling State University, (b) Louisiana Tech University, (c) Nicholls State University, (d) Northwestern State University, (e) Southeastern Louisiana University, (f) University of Louisiana at Monroe, (g) University of Louisiana System, and (h) University of New Orleans.*

- H.4. University of Louisiana System's request for acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Financial and Compliance Representation Letter for the University of Louisiana System.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby accepts the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Financial and Compliance Representation Letter for the University of Louisiana System.*

- H.5. University of Louisiana System's report on internal and external audit activity for the period of August 24 to October 18, 2020.

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

H.6. University of Louisiana System's discussion of Fiscal Year 2019-20 fourth quarter financial reports and ongoing assurances.

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

I. **Personnel Committee**

Ms. Methvin asked Mr. Marcus Jones, System Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, to present the campus requests.

Upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items I.1.-I.2. below.

I.1. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to appoint Dr. Linda Nichols as Dean of the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration effective August 15, 2020.

***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 to appoint Dr. Linda Nichols as Dean of the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration effective August 15, 2020.*

I.2. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to appoint Dr. Valerie S. Fields as Vice President for Student Affairs effective October 26, 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 for approval to appoint Dr. Valerie S. Fields as Vice President for Student Affairs effective October 26, 2020.*

Dr. Jaimie Hebert, Provost of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, introduced Dr. Linda Nichols as the new Dean of the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration.

President Ron Berry introduced Dr. Valerie Fields as the new Vice President for Student Affairs at University of Louisiana at Monroe.

J. **Legislation Committee**

Chair Joe Salter asked Ms. Cami Geisman, System Vice President for Marketing and Communication, to report to the Committee.

J.1. Update of 2020 Second Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature

Ms. Geisman reported on the bills of interest to the higher education community. She referred to SB 30, HB 40, SB 32, SB 44, and SB 45.

SB 30 Provides regarding purchase of telecommunications and video equipment by certain educational entities.

HB 40 Provides relative to qualifications for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarships.

SB 32 Grants certain operational autonomies to certain public postsecondary education institutions.

SB 44 Constitutional amendment to authorize the governor to appoint persons who reside out-of-state as certain at-large members of public postsecondary education boards of supervisors.

SB 45 Provides for the “Lod Cook Act,” which authorizes the governor to appoint persons who reside out-of-state at certain at-large members of the public postsecondary boards of supervisors.

Ms. Geisman said that the Legislative Session was scheduled to conclude no later than 6:00 p.m. on October 27.

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 Mr. Salter, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board voted by roll call to approve the System personnel actions.

The following members voted aye: Ms. Bailey, Dr. Clarke, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. There were no opposing votes.

K.2. **System President’s Report**

McNeese Update

President Daryl Burckel, McNeese State University, provided an update to the Board concerning the status of recovery efforts from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Also, it was reported that the McNeese Foundation has set up a hurricane relief fund to aid the campus community. In addition, Dr. Henderson said that the other universities have continued to provide needed support to McNeese.

SAC Initiative/Title IX Compliance

Ms. Erica Calais, System Vice President for Student Affairs, informed the Board about a Student Advisory Council (SAC) project to help the McNeese community in view of the recent storms. She said that she was encouraged by the level of concern that students from all nine campuses have shown to those affected as well as their willingness to help.

In addition, Ms. Calais reported that, in response to the change in Title IX requirements, all System institutions had revised their sexual misconduct policies and published them on their campus websites.

Update on COVID-19

Dr. Henderson reported on continuing efforts by the campuses to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. He commended the universities for remaining vigilant in enforcing guidelines and stated that a partnership with the National Guard to test on or near campuses was invaluable.

Data Dashboard

Dr. Henderson asked Dr. Claire Norris to give the Board an update about her recent work with campus Institutional Research professionals. Dr. Norris stated that she has been collaborating with them to create dashboards that are tools to provide information that will assist with decision making in the future. She encouraged the Board to visit the data dashboard.

Compete LA

Dr. Henderson said that the Compete LA initiative has been continuing to advance. He stated that the program had been featured in *Forbes* in an October 8 article titled “We Want You Back: How the University of Louisiana System Will Reengage Learners,” after announcing a new feature, Compete LA Academy. He also commended the director, Ms. Katie Barras, for her management of the Compete LA program.

Free Speech

President Henderson said that free expression is essential to freedom and that the System is committed to free speech among students, faculty, staff, and visitors per Board policy. Freedom of speech also includes peaceful and orderly protests and/or demonstrations, but does not allow for disruption to campus operations or danger to others.

L. Board Chair’s Business

L1. Board Chair’s Report

Nominating Committee

Mr. Romero stated that he was appointing Mr. Al Perkins, Ms. Kristine Russell, and Mr. Joe Salter as Chair to the Nominating Committee. He said that the Committee will meet prior to the next Board meeting to consider 2021 officers and be prepared to submit a recommendation to the Board at the December meeting.

Training - Ethics/Preventing Sexual Harassment

Chair Romero said that in-person Ethics training will not be available this year for Board members. Because of that, he advised them to respond to correspondence from Mr. Bruce

Janet concerning annual ethics and preventing sexual harassment training options. Both of these trainings must be completed by December 31 of each year.

M. **Evaluation of Campus Presidents (Nicholls State University and University of New Orleans)**

Mr. Romero stated that each institution President is evaluated on a periodic basis. He said that he Board would evaluate two Presidents at the current meeting; the first evaluation would be for Dr. Jay Clune and the second would be for Dr. John Nicklow. Mr. Romero asked for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters per Louisiana R.S. 42:17.

At 3:01 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board voted by roll call to enter Executive Session to meet with Dr. Clune and Dr. Nicklow individually. The following vote was recorded: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. None was in opposition.

At 3:40 p.m., upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Ms. Bailey, the Board voted by roll call to reconvene in Open Session. The following vote was recorded: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. None was in opposition.

N. **The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System may enter executive session pursuant to La Revised Statute 42:16 to discuss pending litigation.**

Mr. Romero indicated that the Board would meet with Mr. Brandon DeCuir, Attorney, to receive an update on pending litigation.

At 3:43 p.m., upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, the Board voted by roll call to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation per Louisiana R.S. 42:16. The following vote was recorded: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. None was in opposition.

At 4:25 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board voted by roll call to reconvene in Open Session. The following vote was recorded: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, and Mr. Salter. None was in opposition.

O. **Other Business**

Mr. Romero indicated that the next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 3. There was no other business to come before the Board.

P. **Adjournment**

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Ms. Pierre, at 4:26 p.m., the Board voted to adjourn.