

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM  
December 7, 2023**

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

On Thursday, December 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met in Room 100, The Louisiana Purchase Room, of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by Chair Pierre at 10:20 a.m.

The roll was called.

**PRESENT**

Mr. Barry Busada  
Dr. Jimmy Clarke  
Mr. Steve Davison  
Ms. Lola Dunahoe  
Ms. Jo Lethermon  
Mr. Dana Peterson  
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre

Mr. Virgil Robinson  
Mr. Mark Romero  
Ms. Kristine Russell  
Mr. Joe Salter  
Mr. Brad Stevens  
Ms. Julie Stokes  
Ms. Bailey Willis

**ABSENT**

Dr. John Condos

Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins

A quorum was established. Also present were System President Jim Henderson, System staff, University Presidents, and Attorneys Linda Clark and Brandon DeCuir.

**B. Invocation**

Mr. Joe Salter opened the meeting with an invocation.

Ms. Pierre asked for a motion to meet as a Committee of the Whole. On motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board unanimously approved a motion to conduct business as a Committee of the Whole.

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Russell, the Board unanimously voted to move Item J.2. to Board Chair’s Business Item L.4.

**C. Approval of October 9, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes; October 25, 2023 Special Board Meeting Minutes; and October 26, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.**

Upon motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Stokes, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 9, October 25, and October 26 Meeting Minutes.

D. **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Ms. Lola Dunahoe asked Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke, UL System Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to present the items under consideration.

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Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke began her report by stating that it had been a privilege to serve University of New Orleans, her alma mater, during the transition period prior to the new President's arrival, and she thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to serve in this way. She also stated two major goals she had made for herself while at the University: To prepare the campus during the transitional period to welcome its new leader, Dr. Kathy Johnson; and to gain insight about the University that could be utilized when she returns to the System Office.

Dr. O'Rourke particularly thanked the Presidents' office staff, leadership cabinet, deans, department chairs, faculty, and student leaders for their welcoming attitude, guidance, professionalism, frankness, and transparency. Lastly, she stated her appreciation to Dr. Vickie Gentry and colleagues who had served in the System Office during her absence.

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Dr. O'Rourke discussed the Academic listed on the agenda. Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board unanimously approved Items D.1.-D.4.

D.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of its revised Mission Statement.

***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 its revised Mission Statement.*

D.2. Northwestern State University's request for approval to offer a Master of Social Work.

***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 a Master of Social Work.*

D.3. University of New Orleans' request for approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience.

***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 offer a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience.*

D.4. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Delgado Community College.

***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 Memorandum of Understanding with Delgado Community College.*

E. **Athletic Committee**

Mr. Stevens, Vice Chair, asked Mr. Bruce Janet, System Executive Director for Compliance and Risk Management, to present the items. After discussion, upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board voted to approve Items E.1.-E.2.

- E.1. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Andrew Fitzgerald, Head Women's Soccer Coach, effective July 1, 2024.

***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. Andrew Fitzgerald, Head Women's Soccer Coach, effective July 1, 2024.*

- E.2. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Evan Bush, Assistant Baseball Coach, effective November 1, 2023.

***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. Evan Bush, Assistant Baseball Coach, effective November 1, 2023.*

F. **Audit Committee**

Ms. Stokes asked Ms. Jennifer Oberthier, System Chief Audit Executive and Chief Compliance Officer, to give her report.

- F.1. University of Louisiana System's report on internal and external audit activity for the period of October 23, 2023 to December 4, 2023.

This is a report only and no action by the Board is necessary.

G. **Facilities Planning Committee**

Mr. Busada asked Mr. Janet to present the items. Mr. Janet described Items G.1.-G.4. Upon motion of Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following items:

- G.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to enter into a Ground Lease with the Louisiana Tech University Foundation for the purpose of making repairs and improvements to the facility located at 1500 Bulldog Drive, 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 Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to enter into a Ground Lease with the Louisiana Tech Foundation for the purpose of making repairs and improvements to the facility located at 1500 Bulldog Drive, as authorized by La. R.S. 17:3361.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that Louisiana Tech 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 Louisiana Tech University or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said Ground Lease and subsequent donation of the improvements.

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

- G.2. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to advertise and auction for the sale of approximately 535 acres of forest land in southern Arkansas, in accordance with Policy and Procedures Memorandum FP-VI.IV.-1a, Section V, Part E, Sale of Immovable Property.

***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 advertise and auction for the sale of approximately 535 acres of forest land in southern Arkansas, in accordance with Policy and Procedures Memorandum FP-VI.IV.-1a, Section V, Part E. Sale of Immovable Property.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that Louisiana Tech 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 Louisiana Tech University or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said auction and sale.

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

- G.3. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to advertise and auction for the sale of 13.5 acres of land in Lincoln Parish, in accordance with Policy and Procedures Memorandum FP-VI.IV.-1a, Section V, Part E, Sale of Immovable Property.

***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 advertise and auction for the sale of 13.5 acres of land in Lincoln Parish, in accordance with Policy and Procedures Memorandum FP-VI.IV.-1a, Section V, Part E, Sale of Immovable Property.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that Louisiana Tech 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.

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

- G.4. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval to extend a current Ground Lease with the Southeastern Louisiana University Foundation to renovate "The Inn" on Southeastern's campus to March 1, 2024, 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 Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval to extend a current Ground Lease with the Southeastern Louisiana University Foundation to renovate "The Inn" on Southeastern's campus to March 1, 2024, as authorized by La. R.S. 17:3361.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Southeastern Louisiana 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 Southeastern Louisiana University or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said Ground Lease and subsequent donation of the improvements.*

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

H. **Finance Committee**

Mr. Mark Romero asked Ms. Ashley McIntyre to present the campus requests. Upon motion of Dr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Item H.1.

- H.1. University of Louisiana System's request for approval to establish LEQSF (8g) Endowed Professorships and Graduate Scholarships as follows:

***Louisiana Tech University***

- a. The Ida Grey Graham Endowed Professorship in Studio Art
- b. The Lois Rogers McClendon & Enos C. McClendon, Jr. Endowed Professorship

***University of Louisiana at Lafayette***

- c. Senator Armand Brinkhaus/BORSF Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarship for the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center
- d. Marsha J. Kramer/BORSF Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarship in Computer Science

***University of Louisiana at Monroe***

- e. Carole E. Kilpatrick Endowed Professorship in Music
- f. Thomas H. and Mayme P. Scott SGS in Physical Therapy
- g. T.D. "Doc" Murphy SGS in Pharmacy

***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 LEQSF (8) Endowed Professorships and the Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships noted above.*

H.2. University of Louisiana System's report of Fiscal Year 2023-24 first quarter financial reports and ongoing assurances.

Ms. McIntyre presented the report, and no Board action is necessary.

Mr. Virgil Robinson asked about campus plans to address the athletic deficits. Dr. Henderson agreed that this is a timely and important issue.

I. Personnel Committee

Mr. Dana Peterson asked Ms. Kecia Neal, System Business Operations Director, to describe the campus request. Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board voted unanimously to approve Item I.1.

I.1. Northwestern State University's request for approval to appoint Mr. Rodney Wilson as Chief Financial Officer effective January 3, 2024.

***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 Mr. Rodney Wilson as Chief Financial Officer effective January 3, 2024.*

J. System President's Business

J.1. Personnel Actions

President Henderson said that System staff had reviewed the personnel action requests and recommends approval.

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Ms. Lethermon, the Board unanimously voted to approve the System personnel actions.

RFL Beyond Handshakes

President Henderson reported that the Reginald F. Lewis (RFL) Scholars participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beyond Handshake event offered in conjunction with the Bayou Classic weekend. This opportunity gave the Scholars the ability to interact with and learn from business leaders and policymakers. Among the activities were a networking lunch and speed mentoring exercise. Dr. Henderson was proud to announce that the first of the RFL Scholars to receive a diploma is Mr. Earnest Wyatt from University of Louisiana at Monroe.

*Power Based Violence Report*

Dr. Erica Calais, System Vice President for Student Services, Safety, and Resilience, gave an update. She reminded the Board that they had received via email the annual report regarding Power Based Violence. She reiterated that the campuses are diligently working to achieve 100% reporting compliance as well as provide training opportunities. Dr. Calais also said that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Title IX Summit was held on the Southeastern Louisiana University campus on November 1-2, which was well-attended and which offered valuable information and thoughtful sessions.

*For Our Future Conference*

President Henderson reported that the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual For Our Future Conference is scheduled for February 25-27 in New Orleans. A pre-conference session on Sunday, February 25, will feature a discussion between Congressman Julia Letlow and Mrs. Gayle Benson, titled Leading Women, to explore women's leadership in higher education and beyond. The remainder of the Conference will focus on three tracks: Enhance, Develop, Advance.

J.2. Appointment of Interim President of Grambling State University

*See L.4. for this item.*

J.3. Policy and Procedures Memorandum FS-III.XXIII.-1 Parental Leave

Dr. Henderson said that a Policy and Procedures Memorandum (PPM) regarding Parental Leave had been disseminated to the Board for review. The effect of the new policy is to allow eligible faculty and staff to utilize six weeks of parental leave without using the annual, sick, or compensatory leave that they have accrued. In addition, it is anticipated that this policy could have a positive impact on hiring and retention. The policy is effective January 1, 2024.

J.4. Louisiana Tech University Presentation

Dr. Henderson congratulated Dr. Leslie Guice, retiring President of Louisiana Tech University, for his 45 years of service to the state and to the institution and for serving with distinction as the 14<sup>th</sup> President.

Dr. Henderson recommended that Dr. Guice be awarded the title of President Emeritus of Louisiana Tech University. Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves a recommendation to award the title of President Emeritus of Louisiana Tech University to Dr. Leslie K. Guice.

Dr. Guice thanked President Henderson for recommending him for the emeritus honor. Additionally, he expressed appreciation to his wife Kathy and the Louisiana Tech faculty and staff for their dedication to the University.

K. **Presidential Evaluations**

Dr. Henderson said that annual presidential evaluations of campus Presidents had been completed. Two Presidents had participated in the 360 evaluations (Nicholls State University and Northwestern State University). To review and discuss this year's evaluations, it was necessary to meet in Executive Session.

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Romero, the Board voted to meet in Executive Session at 11:09 a.m. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Mr. Busada, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Davison, Ms. Dunahoe, Ms. Lethermon, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salter, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Stokes, Ms. Willis

Nays: None

Absent: Dr. Condos, Mr. Perkins

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At 12:26 p.m., upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board unanimously voted to reconvene in Open Session.

Mr. Davison made a motion to accept the presidential evaluations, seconded by Ms. Lethermon. The Board approved the recommendation.

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Prior to moving on to Board Chair's Business, Dr. Henderson took the opportunity to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Pierre for her two terms as Chair of the Board. He commended her for her steady leadership under trying times, including natural disasters and campus tragedies, as well as five successful presidential appointments. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Pierre was presented with a token of appreciation to commemorate her service. She thanked him and the Board for the kind words and the support she had received.

L. **Board Chair's Business**

L.2. **Report of Nominating Committee and Election of 2024 Board Officers**

Ms. Pierre indicated that she had attended the Nominating Committee earlier that morning, along with Mr. Romero and Ms. Russell. Ms. Pierre reported that the Committee nominated Dr. Jimmy Clarke as Chair and Mr. Brad Stevens as Vice Chair of the Board for 2024.

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Ms. Stokes, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the following resolution:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby recommends approval of Dr. Jimmy Clarke as 2024 Chair of the Board and Mr. Brad Stevens as Vice Chair of the Board.***



The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Mr. Busada, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Davison, Ms. Dunahoe, Ms. Lethermon, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salter, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Stokes, Ms. Willis

Nays: None

Absent: Dr. Condos, Mr. Perkins

The motion passed.

Ms. Pierre congratulated the new Board officers. She indicated that they would be given their oaths at the January 4 meeting. Additionally, Dr. Clarke selected Mr. Dana Peterson as Parliamentarian for 2024.

Dr. Clarke and Mr. Stevens thanked the Board for their support and both were honored and excited to serve in the coming year.

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Ms. Pierre reminded the Board Members that the 2024 calendar dates had been distributed. Also, she advised them to complete Ethics Training and Preventing Sexual Harassment for Individuals by December 15 as these are required.

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Upon motion of Mr. Mark Romero, seconded by Mr. Stevens, it was recommended that Items L.3. and L.4. be tabled. There were no objections.

L.3. Discussion and deliberation regarding University of Louisiana System President transition, and/or related actions.

L.4. Appointment of Interim President of Grambling State University

M.-N. **Other Business/Adjournment**

There being no other business, upon motion of Mr. Salter, and a unanimous second, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:35 p.m.