

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
October 24, 2024**

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

On Thursday, October 24, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met in the Cecil J. Picard Center, Rockhold Rooms B, C, D on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Romero at 11:08 a.m.

The roll was called.

PRESENT

Mr. Drew Brown*
Mr. Barry Busada
Dr. Jimmy Clarke
Mr. Steve Davison
Dr. Jo Lethermon
Dr. John Noble, Jr.
Mr. Dana Peterson
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre

Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. Mark Romero
Ms. Kristine Russell
Mr. Robert Salim
Mr. Joe Salter
Mr. Brad Stevens
Ms. Julie Stokes

**arrived at 11:30 a.m.*

ABSENT

Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins

A quorum was established. Also present were System President Rick Gallot, System staff, University Presidents, and Attorney Brandon DeCuir.

B. **Invocation**

After a few moments of silence in memory of Mrs. Lola Dunahoe, Mr. Joe Salter opened the meeting with an invocation.

C. **Administration of Oath of Office to newly appointed Board Member, Mr. Robert Salim.**

Chair Romero asked Mr. Edwin Dunahoe and family to share a few words about Mr. Robert Salim. Mr. Dunahoe stated that he had known Mr. Salim for many years. He was honored to support him as a member of the Board.

Mr. Romero requested that Mr. Dunahoe administer the Oath of Office to Mr. Salim.

D. **Resolution in Memory of Mrs. Lola Walker Dunahoe**

After being sworn in, Mr. Salim made the motion to approve a resolution in memory of Mrs. Lola Walker Dunahoe, which was read by President Gallot. The motion received a unanimous second and was approved by the Board. Mr. Dunahoe and his sons Jason and Jared received a framed version of the resolution and thanked the Board for honoring her memory.

E. **Welcome by Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, President-University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

Dr. Savoie welcomed the Board, and he gave a presentation highlighting the campus.

F. **Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2024 Meeting**

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 22, 2024 Board Meeting.

Mr. Romero requested a motion to meet as a Committee of the Whole. On motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board unanimously approved a motion to conduct business as a Committee of the Whole.

G. **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Dr. Clarke asked Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke to present the items under consideration.

Dr. O'Rourke introduced Academic items G.1 and G.2, and Item G.3. was described by Dr. Erica Calais. Upon motion of Ms. Russell, seconded by Dr. Lethermon, the Board unanimously approved Items G.1.-G.3.

G.1. **Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to offer a Master of Science in Cognitive Science.**

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request to offer a Master of Science in Cognitive Science.*

G.2. **Nicholls State University's request for approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation.**

***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 a Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation.*

G.3. **Revision to Free Speech Policy, M-22**

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the Revision to Policy and Procedures Memorandum, Free Speech, M-22.*

H. **Athletic Committee**

Dr. Noble asked Mr. Bruce Janet, System Executive Director for Compliance and Risk Management, to present the agenda. Upon motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Russell, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items H.1.-H.12.

- H.1. Grambling State University's request for approval of a contract addendum with Mr. Justin Wagar, Head Soccer Coach, effective October 1, 2024.

***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 of a contract addendum with Mr. Justin Wagar, Head Soccer Coach, effective October 1, 2024.*

- H.2. Grambling State University's request for approval of a contract addendum with Ms. Nakeya Hall, Head Softball Coach, effective October 1, 2024.

***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 of a contract addendum with Ms. Nakeya Hall, Head Softball Coach, effective October 1, 2024.*

- H.3. Grambling State University's request for approval of a contract addendum with Ms. Paige Phillips, Head Volleyball Coach, effective October 1, 2024.

***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 of a contract addendum with Ms. Paige Phillips, Head Volleyball Coach, effective October 1, 2024.*

- H.4. Grambling State University's request for approval of a contract addendum with Mr. David C. Pierre, Head Baseball Coach, effective September 1, 2024.

***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 of a contract addendum with Mr. David C. Pierre, Head Baseball Coach, effective September 1, 2024.*

- H.5. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of contractual agreements between various Assistant Coaches, Louisiana Tech University, and the Louisiana Tech University Foundation, Inc.

***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 the following Assistant Coaches: Mr. Josh Ashley, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach; Ms. Olivia Grayson, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach; Mr. Caleb Livingston, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach; Mr. Joseph Blue, Assistant Track & Field Coach; and Ms. Carlotta Romito, Assistant Women's Tennis Coach.*

- H.6. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract amendment with Mr. Frank William Wade, Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective March 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 amendment with Mr. Frank William Wade, Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective March 1, 2024.*

- H.7. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Alyson Habetz, Head Softball Coach, effective July 11, 2024.

***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 Ms. Alyson Habetz, Head Softball Coach, effective July 11, 2024.*

Ms. Habetz was introduced to the Board. She thanked the Board for her appointment and said she was excited to back in Louisiana.

- H.8. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Baylee Young, Beach Volleyball Head Coach, effective July 29, 2024.

***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 of employment for Ms. Baylee Young, Beach Volleyball Head Coach, effective July 29, 2024.*

- H.9. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Bryant Vincent, Head Football Coach, effective December 6, 2023.

***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. Bryant Vincent, Head Football Coach, effective December 6, 2023.*

- H.10. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a contract with Mr. Benjamin Hibbert, Head Men's and Women's Cross-Country/Track & Field Coach, effective October 1, 2024.

***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 a contract with Mr. Benjamin Hibbert, Head Men's and Women's Cross-Country/Track & Field Coach, effective October 1, 2024.*

- H.11. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a contract with Mr. Jeff Lorio, Head Men's Golf Coach, effective September 1, 2024.

***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 a contract with Mr. Jeff Lorio, Head Golf Coach, effective September 1, 2024.*

- H.12. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a contract amendment with Mr. Tim Duncan, Vice President of Athletics and Recreation, effective September 1, 2024.

***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 a contract amendment with Mr. Tim Duncan, Vice President of Athletics and Recreation, effective September 1, 2024.*

I. **Audit Committee**

Ms. Stokes asked Ms. Jennifer Oberthier, System Chief Audit Executive and Chief Compliance Officer, to discuss the agenda item.

I.1. University of Louisiana System’s report on internal and external audit activity for the period of August 14, 2024 to October 14, 2024.

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

Ms. Stokes thanked Ms. Oberthier for preparing the report and commended her for her thoroughness.

J. **Facilities Planning Committee**

Mr. Dana Peterson asked Mr. Janet to present Items J.1.-J.7. Upon motion of Mr. Salim, seconded by Dr. Clarke, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following items:

J.1. Grambling State University’s request for approval to amend the Facilities and Ground Lease/Leaseback Agreement with the Grambling University Foundation for the purpose of continuing improvements, replacing the scoreboards, and making additional technology improvements for the Eddie Robinson Memorial Stadium football field and the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center, 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 Grambling State University’s request to amend the Facilities and Ground Lease/Leaseback Agreement with the Grambling University Foundation for the purpose of continuing improvements, replacing the scoreboards, and making additional technology improvements for the Eddie Robinson Memorial Stadium football field and the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center, pursuant to La. R.S. 17:3361.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Grambling 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.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the President of Grambling State University and his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute the Ground Lease/Leaseback Agreement.*

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

J.2. Louisiana Tech University’s request for approval to name a classroom in Bogard Hall the “John Calhoun Mechanical Engineering Innovation Lab.”

***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 classroom in Bogard Hall the “John Calhoun Mechanical Engineering Innovation Lab.”*

- J.3. Louisiana Tech University’s request for approval to name a classroom in use by the Emergent Learning Research Institute in Woodard Hall as the “Higginbotham Create Studio.”

***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 classroom in use by the Emergent Learning Research Institute located in Woodard Hall to the “Higginbotham Create Studio.”*

- J.4. McNeese State University’s request for approval to name the Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development (SEED) Center the “Henning SEED Center.”

***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 name the Southwest Louisiana Entrepreneurial and Economic Development (SEED) Center the “Henning SEED Center.”*

- J.5. Nicholls State University’s request for approval to amend its Five-Year Capital Outlay submission to increase the cost of their new Coastal Center.

***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 amend its Five-Year Capital Outlay submission to increase the cost of their new Coastal Center.*

- J.6. Northwestern State University’s request for approval to name the Caspari Hall Third Floor Conference Room the “Jerry Pierce Conference Room.”

***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 name the Caspari Hall Third Floor Conference Room the “Jerry Pierce Conference Room.”*

- J.7. University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for approval to enter into a Farm Lease with T & B Farms LLC for 35 acres of farmland at the University’s Cade Research Facility, 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 University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for approval to enter into a Farm Lease with T & B Farms LLC for 35 acres of farmland at the University’s Cade Research Facility, as authorized by La. R.S. 17:3361.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that University of Louisiana at Lafayette shall obtain final review from UL System staff and legal counsel, and shall secure all 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 at Lafayette and/or his designee are hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said lease.

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

- J.8. University of New Orleans' request for approval to sell the Goldring Hall to the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Inc., on terms and conditions acceptable to the Board and for the sale price no less than the appraised value. The Sale would be in Accordance with the University of Louisiana System Immovable Property Guidelines Section V.(E.)(2.) Sale to Specific Buyer and in accordance with Act 485 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

There was discussion about this item and, upon motion of Dr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that President Gallot be authorized to execute documents for the sale of Goldring Hall to Ogden Museum of Southern Art (OMSA), Inc., subject to the following: (1) Terms and conditions pursuant to Act 57 of the 2021 Legislative Session and Act 485 of the 2024 Legislative Session; and (2) Authorize and direct Board Counsel to seek an Attorney General's Opinion on compliance with Acts, State Constitution, and Louisiana law for the passage of said sale to OMSA.

K. **Finance Committee**

Mr. Barry Busada asked Mr. Eddie Meche to present the campus requests. Upon motion of Dr. Noble, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board voted to approve Items K.1.

- K.1. Nicholls State University's request for approval to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Nicholls State University Foundation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Nicholls State University's request to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Nicholls State University Foundation.

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 Dr. John J. Clune, President of Nicholls State University, is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute this agreement.

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

- K.2. University of Louisiana System’s financial status of alternatively financed projects for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Ms. Ashley McIntyre gave the report. No Board action was necessary.

- K.3. University of Louisiana System’s report of Fiscal Year 2023-24 fourth quarter financial reports and ongoing assurances.

Ms. McIntyre gave the report. No Board action was necessary.

L. **Personnel Committee**

Mr. Davison asked Ms. Kecia Neal, System Business Operations Director, to describe the campus requests. Upon motion of Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items L.1.-L.9.

- L.1. Louisiana Tech University’s request for approval to appoint Dr. Richard A. Crawford as Senior Vice President of Student Advancement and Chief Operating Officer effective September 1, 2024.

***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 appoint Dr. Richard A. Crawford as Senior Vice President of Student Advancement and Chief Operating Officer effective September 1, 2024.*

- L.2. Louisiana Tech University’s request for approval to appoint Dr. Ramu Ramachandran as Interim Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School effective September 1, 2024.

***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 appoint Dr. Ramu Ramachandran as Interim Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School effective September 1, 2024.*

- L.3. Nicholls State University’s request for approval to appoint Mr. Terry Braud, Jr. as Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration effective September 1, 2024.

***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 appoint Mr. Terry Braud, Jr. as Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration effective September 1, 2024.*

- L.4. Nicholls State University’s request for approval to appoint Dr. Michele Theriot as Interim Dean for the College of Liberal Arts effective September 1, 2024.

***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 appoint Dr. Michele Theriot as Interim Dean for the College of Liberal Arts effective September 1, 2024.*

- L.5. Northwestern State University’s request for approval to appoint Dr. William Drake Owens as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff effective August 5, 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 Dr. William Drake Owens as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff effective August 5, 2024.*

- L.6. Southeastern Louisiana University’s request for approval to appoint Dr. Patrick J. Moyer as the Interim Dean of Science and Technology effective June 29, 2024.

***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 appoint Dr. Patrick J. Moyer as the Interim Dean of Science and Technology effective June 29, 2024.*

- L.7. Southeastern Louisiana University’s request for approval to appoint Dr. Daniel McCarthy as the Interim Dean of Research and Innovation effective June 29, 2024.

***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 appoint Dr. Daniel McCarthy as the Interim Dean of Research and Innovation effective June 29, 2024.*

- L.8. University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for approval to appoint Dr. Tracy L. Cross as the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development effective August 1, 2024.

***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. Tracy L. Cross as the Dean of the College of Education and Human Development effective August 1, 2024.*

- L.9. **University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s** request for approval to appoint Dr. Ani Kokobobo as the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts effective August 1, 2024.

***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. Ani Kokobobo as the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts effective August 1, 2024.*

After Dr. Kathy Johnson, UNO President, made some comments about Item L.10., upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Board unanimously approved the following item.

- L.10. **University of New Orleans’** request for approval to waive the requirement of a national search for the positions of Vice President of Research and Vice President for Finance and Administration.

***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 waive the requirement of a national search for the positions of Vice President of Research and Vice President for Finance and Administration.*

Upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Board unanimously approved the following item.

- L.11. University of New Orleans' request for approval to appoint Dr. Edwin H. Litolff III as Vice President for Finance and Administration effective November 1, 2024.

***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 appoint Dr. Edwin H. Litolff III as Vice President for Finance and Administration effective November 1, 2024.*

Louisiana Tech University – Dr. Jim Henderson introduced Dr. Crawford as Senior Vice President of Student Advancement and Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Crawford has worked at the University for 30 years and said it has been a blessing to him and a great place to work.

Nicholls State University – President Clune introduced Mr. Terry Braud, Jr. as Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration. Mr. Braud thanked the Board for approving his position.

Northwestern State University – President Genovese introduced Dr. William Drake Owens as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff. Dr. Owens indicated his appreciation to be given the opportunity to serve in this position, and thanked the Board and President Genovese for the support.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette – Dr. Savoie introduced Dr. Lisa Broussard as the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, who had been approved at the August meeting. Dr. Broussard acknowledged her husband Chris. She thanked the Board for approving her appointment. In addition, Dr. Savoie introduced Dr. Kokobobo, who indicated her excitement and gratitude in joining the University. Lastly, Dr. Savoie introduced Dr. Tracy Cross, the new Dean of the College of Education and Human Development. Dr. Cross indicated that it was an honor to be UL-Lafayette.

M. **System President's Business**

- M.1. Personnel Actions

President Gallot said that System staff had reviewed the personnel actions and recommends approval.

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

M.2. System President's Report

President Gallot noted that the 2025 calendar of meetings as well as updated contact sheet and standing committee list were included in Board Member folders for their reference.

K16 Solutions, Inc. Update

Dr. Norris and Dr. Tom Hoover gave the Board an update on the K16 Solutions DataX program. Dr. Hoover reported that this is an innovative platform piloted by the UL System to streamline data integration and enhance data-driven decision-making across campuses. By automating data consolidation and analysis, DataX gives the institutions ability to better understand their impact, improve processes, and align strategies with their educational missions.

Title IX and Power-Based Violence Reporting/Training

Dr. Erica Calais said that a report summarizing the data on Title IX and Power-Based Violence cases across the nine institutions will be shared soon. She also mentioned that campuses are actively implementing responsible employee training for all staff members. Specialized training sessions focusing on best practices for administrators in student support roles are scheduled for the following week.

Collegiate Recovery Program

Dr. Calais reported that Northwestern and UL-Lafayette have been awarded funding from the Board of Regents to establish collegiate recovery programs. These programs offer peer support, academic resources, and opportunities for personal and academic growth.

Save the Dates

The dates of the *For Our Future 2025 Conference* were given as March 27-28. The event will be held in Baton Rouge, with specific details forthcoming.

In addition, the next Board meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024 in Baton Rouge.

President Gallot congratulated Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke for having been awarded UNO's Inaugural Educational Administration Program's Distinguished Alumni Award.

N. **Board Chair's Business**

N.1. Board Chair's Report

Chair Romero thanked Mr. Bruce Janet and Mr. Greg Thibodeaux for scheduling and conducting the live Ethics Session prior to the meeting.

Healthcare Work Group

Mr. Romero reported that he asked that a work group be assembled and charged with identifying innovative ways for the institutions to address health professional shortages. The group is composed of healthcare leaders, faculty, University administrators, key

stakeholders, and Board members. Mr. Romero thanked Dr. Jo Lethermon and Dr. John Noble, Jr. for agreeing to serve on this group and he looks forward to its progress.

Comments

Chair Romero voiced his agreement with the policy revision concerning Free Speech that had been approved in Academic and Student Affairs. He said he was pleased with the proactive approach that aligns with Governor Jeff Landry's recent Executive Order regarding free expression.

Additionally, Mr. Romero reminded the Board that in 2007 the System had committed to recruit and develop high quality administrators, staff, and faculty from all demographic, experiential, and cultural backgrounds. He said that the System continues to honor this commitment, while also utilizing a merit-based approach. Additionally, student admission criteria is based on high school GPA, grades in core curriculum, and standardized test scores. Almost without exception, all who meet the objective criteria will be admitted as students. Chair Romero said that increasing the educational level of all Louisianans is essential to the quality of life in the state.

Act 641

President Gallot stated that the System is on track to comply with Act 641 requirements. He said this will continue to be monitored.

O. **Other Business**

Chair Romero again thanked Dr. Savoie for hosting the Board meeting.

P. **Adjournment**

There being no other business, upon motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted to adjourn at 1:25 p.m.