

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
December 5, 2024**

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

On Thursday, December 5, 2024, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met in Room 100, Louisiana Purchase Room, of the Claiborne Conference Center at 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mark Romero at 12:15 p.m.

The roll was called.

PRESENT

Mr. Drew Brown	Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. Barry Busada	Mr. Mark Romero
Dr. Jimmy Clarke	Ms. Kristine Russell
Mr. Steve Davison	Mr. Robert Salim*
Dr. John Noble, Jr.	Mr. Joe Salter
Mr. Dana Peterson	Mr. Brad Stevens
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre	Ms. Julie Stokes

**arrived after roll call*

ABSENT

Dr. Jo Lethermon
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/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Joe Salter opened the meeting with an invocation, after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. Presentation regarding Southeastern Louisiana University’s Housing Program for Veterans

Dr. William Wainwright, Campus President, introduced a presentation to highlight an impactful program on Southeastern’s campus. Captain Emily Anthony, Director of the Office of Military & Veteran Success, and Captain Steven Honore, Assistant Professor of Military Science Louisiana Army National Guard, represented the veteran community during the presentation.

Mr. Romero asked for a motion to take an agenda item out of order. Upon motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board voted to consider the following item out of order:

M.2. **Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Board Vice Chair for 2025**

Ms. Russell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, gave the report and stated that the Committee had met earlier in the morning. The recommendation was to elect Mr. Brad Stevens as Vice Chair of the Board for 2025. Upon motion of Dr. Noble, seconded by Dr. Clarke, the Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Brad Stevens as Vice Chair for 2025.

In addition, Mr. Romero stated that he had selected Ms. Russell to the position of Parliamentarian.

D. **Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2024 Meeting**

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Dr. Noble, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 24, 2024 Board Meeting.

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

E. **Report of Grievance Committee**

Mr. Romero asked Ms. Pierre to give the report of the Grievance Committee. Ms. Pierre said that the Committee had met earlier in the morning and considered two grievances.

E.1. **Dr. Peter Gratton, Faculty, Southeastern Louisiana University**

Ms. Pierre said that the Grievance Committee's recommendation was to uphold the decision of Southeastern Louisiana University and to deny the grievance filed by Dr. Peter Gratton.

Upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously voted to uphold the decision of Southeastern Louisiana University and deny the grievance filed by Dr. Peter Gratton.

E.2. **Mr. Milind Koduri, Student, Southeastern Louisiana University**

Ms. Pierre reported that the Grievance Committee recommended that the grievance of Mr. Milind Koduri be returned to Southeastern Louisiana University to rehear the matter.

Upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board unanimously voted to return the grievance of Mr. Milind Koduri to Southeastern Louisiana University.

F. **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Mr. Romero asked Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke to describe Agenda Items F.1.-F.4. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items F.1.-F.4.

- F.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Scientific Visual Communication.

***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 Bachelor of Science in Scientific Visual Communication.*

- F.2. Nicholls State University's request for approval to name The William Dewitt Hunter Academic Excellence Program for Bridge to Independence.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Nicholls State University's request to name The William Dewitt Hunter Academic Excellence Program for Bridge to Independence.*

- F.3. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to offer a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Social and Public Policy.

***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 offer a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Social and Public Policy.*

- F.4. Proposed revision to Board Rule, Chapter III, Faculty and Staff, Section XV. Termination.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves proposed revisions to Board Rule, Chapter III, Faculty and Staff, Section XV. Termination.*

- F.5. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a restructuring plan.

Dr. Kathy Johnson, UNO President, discussed the rationale for the need for a restructuring plan. Board Members had comments and concerns. In addition, there was one public comment for information only from Dr. Christopher Summa, Faculty Senate Secretary representing the UNO Faculty Senate.

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Peterson, the following amended resolution was approved:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of New Orleans' request for approval of a restructuring plan including but not limited to the consolidation of two colleges and to allow for further discussion as to how that restructuring will take place.*

G. **Athletic Committee**

Dr. Noble, Committee Chair, asked Mr. Bruce Janet, System Executive Director for Compliance and Risk Management, to present the agenda. Upon motion of Mr. Salim, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items G.1.-G.4.

- G.1. 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 contractual agreements with the following Assistant Coaches: Mr. Chris Harwick, Associate Head Soccer Coach, and Ms. Stephanie Starr, Assistant Soccer Coach.*

- G.2. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract addendum with Mr. Brendon Gilroy, Head Track and Field/Cross Country Coach, effective November 6, 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 addendum with Mr. Brendon Gilroy, Head Track and Field/Cross Country Club, effective November 6, 2024.*

- G.3. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Kyle Vagher, Director of Sports Performance/Strength Coach, effective November 1, 2024.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System here by approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Kyle Vagher, Director of Sports Performance/Strength Coach, effective November 1, 2024.*

- G.4. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of contractual agreements between various Assistant Coaches, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the Lion Athletics Association.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of contracts with the following Assistant Coaches: Mr. Jack Hartley, Assistant Women's Soccer Coach; Mr. Spencer Goodwin, Assistant Baseball Coach; Mr. Kibwe' Johnson, Assistant Track and Field Coach; and Ms. Amy Grabiec, Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach.*

H. **Audit Committee**

Ms. Stokes asked Mr. Janet to discuss the agenda items. Upon motion of Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items H.1. and H.2.

- H.1. University of Louisiana's request for approval of the revised Internal Audit Charters for the University of Louisiana System's nine institutions and the University of Louisiana System Office.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Internal Audit Charters for the University of Louisiana System's nine universities and the University of Louisiana System Office.*

- H.2. University of Louisiana System’s request for approval of the revised Audit Committee Charter for the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the revised Audit Committee Charter for the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.*

- H.3. University of Louisiana System’s report on internal and external audit activity for the period of October 14 to November 14, 2024.

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

I. **Facilities Planning Committee**

Mr. Dana Peterson asked Mr. Janet to present Items I.1.-I.5. Upon motion of Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items I.1.-I.4. below.

- I.1. Louisiana Tech University’s request for approval to amend its Five-Year Capital Outlay submission to increase funding for the Central Steam Generator – Switch Gear Project.

***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 amend its Five-Year Capital Outlay submission to increase funding for the Central Steam Generator – Switch Gear Project.*

- I.2. Nicholls State University’s request for approval to name Room 142 in O. Cleveland Hill Hall, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, the “H. Allen Thomas Independent Learning Lab.”

***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 name Room 142 in O. Cleveland Hill Hall, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, the “H. Allen Thomason Independent Learning Lab.”*

- I.3. Nicholls State University’s request for approval to name the three meeting and desk spaces in the Bayou Region Incubator.

***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 name “The St. Mary Parish Mint”; “The Charles Garber Sr. Workspace; and “The Charles Garber Jr. Workspace” in the Bayou Region Incubator.*

- I.4. University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for authorization to enter into an Act of Donation for the acquisition of property from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation.

***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 authorization to enter into an Act of Donation for the acquisition of properties from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette 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 the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and/or his designee are hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute the acquisition of the Foundation Properties at such times as deemed appropriate to facilitate the Act of Donation.

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

After much discussion about Item I.5., on motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Brown, the Board approved removing I.5. from the Consent Agenda and being considered on its own.

- I.5. University of New Orleans' request for approval to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement ("CEA") and related transactional documents, including but not limited to a mortgage, with the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Inc. for the transfer of the Goldring Hall to the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Inc., on terms and conditions acceptable to the Board and for consideration of money and/or services with a stated value not being less than the appraised value. The CEA is in accordance with Article VII Section 14(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and Act 485 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Upon motion of Dr. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted to approve the following recommendation. **Mr. Brad Stevens opposed the recommendation.**

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 Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and related documents providing for the transfer of the property to the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 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 the University of New Orleans and/or his designee are hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute this transaction.

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

J. **Finance Committee**

Mr. Barry Busada asked Mr. Eddie Meche to present the campus requests. Upon motion of Mr. Salim, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted to approve Items J.1. and J.2.

- J.1. Northwestern State University's request for approval to conduct a student referendum for a Student Self-Assessed 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 allow a student referendum for a \$5 self-assessed fee increase.

- J.2. University of Louisiana System's request for approval to establish LEQSF (8g) Endowed Professorships and Endowed Chairs as follows:

Louisiana Tech University

- a. Willis Knighton Health Endowed Professorship in the Memory of William Jefferson College in the College of Business
- b. Dr. Otto Wasmer Eminent Scholar Chair in Microbiology

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

- a. Duhon Family/BORSF Endowed Chair in Librarianship
- b. Rosemary Saucier Laborde/BORSF Endowed Chair in the College of Nursing
- c. McElligott/BORSF Endowed Eminent Scholar Chair for the Center of Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- d. Dr. Anne Bienvenu Broussard/BORSF Endowed Professorship in Nursing
- e. Juno and Alice Guedry/BORSF Endowed Professorship in Engineering-HVAC Focus
- f. Dr. Charles Perniciaro/BORSF Endowed Professorship in Biology

University of Louisiana at Monroe

- a. Sharon Griffith Turrentine Super Endowed Chair in Visual and Performing Arts

- J.3. University of Louisiana System's report of Fiscal Year 2024-25 first quarter financial reports and ongoing assurances.

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

K. **Personnel Committee**

Mr. Davison asked Ms. Kecia Neal, System Business Operations Director, to describe the campus requests. Upon motion of Dr. Noble, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items K.1. and K.2.

- K.1. McNeese State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Michael Buckles as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs effective November 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 to appoint Dr. Michael Buckles as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs effective November 1, 2024.

- K.2. Northwestern State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Neeru Deep as Dean of the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development effective December 23, 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. Neeru Deep as Dean of the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development effective December 23, 2024.

Northwestern State University President Genovese introduced Dr. Deep. Dr. Deep expressed thanks to President Genovese and the campus community.

L. **System President's Business**

- L.1. Personnel Actions

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

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

- L.2. System President's Report

President Gallot said that there was one additional item for Board approval. The request was for approval of the Settlement Agreement in the matter of Louisiana Tech University Foundation, Inc., et al. v. Lincoln Builders of Ruston, Inc., No. C-62530, 3rd Judicial Court for the Parish of Lincoln, State of Louisiana. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Clarke, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Settlement Agreement.

M. **Board Chair's Business**

- M.1. Board Chair's Report

Healthworks Task Force

Mr. Romero reminded Board Members that at the October meeting he had announced the creation of a Healthworks Task Force. Mr. Romero reported that the task force had held its first meeting earlier in the week and is beginning its work to maximize the number of healthcare workers in the state and country.

N. **Other Business**

Mr. Romero thanked the Board and System Staff for their service during the past year and said he looked forward to a successful 2025 as we work together on behalf of the students and the state.

He reminded the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2025 in the Claiborne Building.

O. **Adjournment**

There being no other business, upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board voted to adjourn at 2:22 p.m.