

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
April 25, 2024**

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

On Thursday, April 25, 2024, 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 Clarke at 10:15 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The roll was called.

PRESENT

Mr. Barry Busada	Mr. Mark Romero
Dr. Jimmy Clarke	Mr. Joe Salter
Ms. Lola Dunahoe	Mr. Brad Stevens
Ms. JoQuishia “Jo” Lethermon	Ms. Julie Stokes
Dr. John Noble, Jr.	Ms. Bailey Willis
Mr. Virgil Robinson	

ABSENT

Mr. Steve Davison	Mr. Dana Peterson
Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins	Ms. Kristine Russell
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre	

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

C. Invocation

Mr. Joe Salter opened the meeting with an invocation.

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

D. Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2024 Regular and Special Meetings

Upon motion of Dr. Noble, Jr., seconded by Ms. Lethermon, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 22 Regular and Special Meetings.

E. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

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

Dr. O'Rourke discussed the Academic items listed on the agenda. Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board unanimously approved Items E.1.-E.2.

Mr. Terry Braud, Dr. Sue Westbrook (Nicholls) and Mr. Greg Stock, CEO, Thibodaux Regional Health System commented on Item E.1.

- E.1. Nicholls State University's request for approval to rename the College of Nursing the "Thibodaux Regional Health System School of Nursing at Nicholls State University."

***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 College of Nursing the "Thibodaux Regional Health System School of Nursing at Nicholls State University."*

- E.2. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with CHRIST (Deemed to be a University), in Bengaluru, India.

***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 to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with CHRIST (Deemed to be a University) in Bengaluru, India.*

F. **Athletic Committee**

Vice Chair Brad Stevens asked Mr. Bruce Janet, System Executive Director for Compliance and Risk Management, to present the items. Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Ms. Willis, the Board voted to approve Items F.1.-F.6.

- F.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Ryan Ivey, Vice President and Director of Athletics, effective March 11, 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 of a contract with Mr. Ryan Ivey, Vice President and Director of Athletics, effective March 11, 2024.*

- F.2. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract amendment with Mrs. Brooke Stoehr, Head Women'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 Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract amendment with Mrs. Brooke Stoehr, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective March 1, 2024.*

- F.3. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of contractual agreements between various Associate/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 Associate/Assistant Coaches: Aja Ochie, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach; Ronneka Robertson, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach; Van Kyle Roane, Associate Men's Basketball Coach; Cody McCoy, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach; and Andrew Riley, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach.*

- F.4. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of contractual agreements between various Assistant Coaches, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the Lions Athletic 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 Billy D'Ottavio, Anthony Scelfo, Andrew Hopp, Ross Jenkins, Dustin Landry, Thomas Rinaldi, Antonio Baker, Alvin Slaughter and Trey Nunez.*

- F.5. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of the amendments to the contracts of Mr. Michael Desormeaux, Head Football Coach, and Dr. Bryan Maggard, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, effective April 25, 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 the amendments to the contracts of Mr. Michael Desormeaux, Head Football Coach, and Dr. Bryan Maggard, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, effective April 25, 2024.*

- F.6. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of contracts of employment with Assistant Football Coaches: Mr. George Barlow, Mr. James Salgado, Mr. Steven Farmer, and Mr. Timothy Scott Stoker.

***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 contracts of employment with Assistant Football Coaches: Mr. George Barlow, Mr. James Salgado, Mr. Steven Farmer, and Mr. Timothy Scott Stoker.*

G. **Audit Committee**

Chair Julie Stokes asked Ms. Jennifer Oberthier, System Chief Audit Executive and Chief Compliance Officer, to update the Board.

- G.1. University of Louisiana System's report on internal and external audit activity for the period of February 13, 2024 through April 12, 2024.

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

H. **Facilities Planning Committee**

Mr. Busada asked Mr. Janet to present Items H.1.-H.7. Upon motion of Dr. Noble, seconded by Mr. Romero, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following items:

- H.1. Louisiana Tech University’s request for permission to extend the existing facility lease with Caddo Parish School District for the Louisiana Tech University Shreveport Center, 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 Louisiana Tech University’s request for permission to extend the existing facility lease with Caddo Parish School District for the Louisiana Tech University Shreveport Center, pursuant to the authority vested in La. R.S. 17:3361.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the President of the University and his or her designee shall be authorized to execute the lease contingent of approvals from UL System staff and legal counsel.*

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

- H.2. Louisiana Tech University’s request for approval to name the University Communications Suite on the 12th floor of Wyly Tower the “Crockett Oaks-Smith University Communications Suite.”

***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 the University Communications Suite on the 12th floor of Wyly Tower, the “Crockett Oaks-Smith University Communications Suite.”*

- H.3. Nicholls State University’s request for approval to name the boardroom meeting room, located in the Bayou Region Incubator, the “FACT DESIGN Boardroom.”

***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 boardroom meeting room, located in the Bayou Region Incubator, the “FACT DESIGN Boardroom.”*

- H.4. University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for authorization to enter into an Act of Donation for the acquisition of several properties 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 several 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 Property 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.*

- H.5. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request to exchange a parcel of land owned by the University in exchange for property owned by Glenn C. Murphree and Cheryl Madonna Murphree.

***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 continue the process to exchange a parcel of land owned by the University in exchange for property owned by Glenn C. Murphree and Cheryl Madonna Murphree.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University will prepare the necessary documents, and that University staff, UL System staff, and legal counsel shall assure that all documents conform to statutory 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 exchange.*

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

- H.6. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to demolish the Emily Williamson Child Development Center located at 702 Cole Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana 71209 on the campus of the University.

***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 to demolish the Emily Williamson Child Development Center located at 702 Cole Avenue on the campus of the University.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of the University of Louisiana at Monroe and his or her designee are hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said demolition.*

***AND FURTHER**, that the University will provide the System office with copies of approvals and recovery activities.*

- H.7. University of Louisiana at Monroe’s request for approval to name one of the ULM Sports Medicine Training Rooms the “Dr. Thomas H. Fields, Jr. Sports Medicine Training Room”; name the ULM Speech-Language Pathology Clinic the “Carol Nichols Ray Speech-Language Pathology Clinic”; and name the ULM Audiology Clinic the “Faye O. Haddox Audiology Clinic.”

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 name one of the ULM Sports Medicine Training Rooms the “Dr. Thomas H. Fields, Jr. Sports Medicine Training Room”; name the ULM Speech-Language Pathology Clinic the “Carol Nichols Ray Speech-Language Pathology Clinic”; and name the ULM Audiology Clinic the “Faye O. Haddox Audiology Clinic.”

I. **Finance Committee**

Mr. Mark Romero asked Mr. Eddie Meche and Ms. Ashley McIntyre to present the campus requests. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items I.1.-I.7.

Dr. E. Joseph Savoie gave some clarification on Item I.1.

- I.1. University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for approval of an amended Affiliation Agreement with 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 approval to amend its affiliation agreement with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, President of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute this agreement.

AND FURTHER, that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will provide the UL System Office with copies of all final executed documents for UL System and Board Files.

- I.2. **University of New Orleans’** request for approval of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Christwood, a Louisiana non-profit corporation.

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 Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Christwood, a Louisiana non-profit corporation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that University of New Orleans shall obtain final review and approvals from UL System Staff, legal counsel, and shall secure all other appropriate approvals from agencies/parties of processes, documents, and administrative requirements prior to the execution of documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. Kathy Johnson, President of the University of New Orleans, is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute this agreement.

AND FURTHER, the University of New Orleans will provide the UL System Office with copies of all final executed documents for UL System and Board Files.

I.3. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a lease with AT&T.

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 lease with AT&T.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that University of New Orleans shall obtain final review and approval from UL System Staff, legal counsel, and shall secure all other appropriate approvals from agencies/parties of processes, documents, and administrative requirements prior to the execution of documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. Kathy Johnson, President of University of New Orleans, is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute this agreement.

AND FURTHER, that University of New Orleans will provide the UL System Office with copies of all final executed documents for UL System and Board Files.

I.4. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a lease with T-Mobile Central, LLC.

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 lease with T-Mobile Central, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that University of New Orleans shall obtain final review and approval from UL System Staff, legal counsel, and shall secure all other appropriate approvals from agencies/parties of processes, documents, and administrative requirements prior to the execution of documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. Kathy Johnson, President of University of New Orleans, is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute this agreement.

AND FURTHER, that University of New Orleans will provide the UL System Office with copies of all final executed documents for UL System and Board Files.

I.5. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a lease with Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless.

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 lease with Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that University of New Orleans shall obtain final review and approval from UL System Staff, legal counsel, and shall secure all other appropriate approvals from agencies/parties of processes, documents, and administrative requirements prior to the execution of documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Dr. Kathy Johnson, President of University of New Orleans, is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute this agreement.

AND FURTHER, that University of New Orleans will provide the UL System Office with copies of all final executed documents for UL System and Board Files.

I.6. University of Louisiana System's request for approval to establish LEQSF (8g) Endowed Professorships and Endowed First Generation Scholarships.

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 (8g) Endowed Professorship and Endowed First Generation Scholarships as follows:

Grambling State University

- *AKA-HBCU Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *Hunt Forest Products, LLC Endowed Scholarship*
- *Joel L. Fletcher, Jr. and Ralph W.E. Jones Sr. Scholarship*
- *Modestine Gill Knighton and Beaver Knighton Scholarship Fund*
- *Rick Gallot Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *Diageo North America, Inc. Endowed Scholarship Fund*
- *Annie McConnell Brown Endowed Scholarship*
- *Dr. Neari F. Warner Endowed Student Scholarship*
- *Miechelle O. Willis Endowed Student Athletic Scholarship*
- *The Councilman Joe Shyne Endowed Professorship for Nursing Practice of the College of Professional Studies*

Nicholls State University

- *Jeanne P. Murphy Professorship in the College of Education & Behavioral Sciences in the Bridge to Independence Program*

Mr. Eddie Meche reported that, as of fiscal year ended 6/30/23, three Endowed Professorships, nine Superior Graduate Scholarships, and three Endowed Chairs have been submitted by campuses for matching funds but not yet matched by the Board of Regents. He also indicated that the Board of Regents has matched 962 Professorships, 179 First Generation Scholarships, 54 Graduate Scholarships, and 70 Endowed Chairs.

- I.7. University of Louisiana System’s recommendation to approve Campus Housing and Meal Plan Rates, Auxiliary Rates, Energy Surcharge, and Non-Governmental Charges for Academic Year 2024-25.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of Louisiana System’s recommendation for Campus Housing and Meal Plan Rates, Auxiliary Rates, Energy Surcharge, and Non-Governmental Charges for Academic Year 2024-25 for the nine System institutions.*

J. Personnel Committee

Ms. Dunahoe asked Ms. Kecia Neal, System Business Operations Director, to describe the campus requests. Upon motion of Ms. Lethermon, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items J.1.-J.3.

- J.1. Northwestern State University’s request for approval to continue the appointment of Dr. Neeru Deep as Interim Dean of the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development effective July 1, 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 continue the appointment of Dr. Neeru Deep as Interim Dean of the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development effective July 1, 2024.*

- J.2. University of Louisiana at Monroe’s request for approval to appoint Dr. Wendy B. Bailes as Dean of the College of Health Sciences effective April 1, 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 to appoint Dr. Wendy Bailes as Dean of the College of Health Sciences effective April 1, 2024.*

- J.3. University of New Orleans’ request for approval to appoint Dr. Randall Langston as Vice President for Enrollment Management effective May 8, 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. Randall Langston as Vice President for Enrollment Management effective May 8, 2024.*

K. **System President's Business**

K.1. **Personnel Actions**

President Gallot said that System staff had reviewed the personnel action requests and summer school pay plans and recommends approval.

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Ms. Willis, the Board unanimously voted to approve the System personnel actions and summer school pay plans.

K.2. **System President's Report**

McNeese Search Update

System President Gallot remarked that the McNeese State Presidential Search Committee had interviewed semifinalists on McNeese's campus. As a result of those interviews, the Search Committee had recommended two finalists to the Board for consideration at the 1:00 p.m. Special Meeting, Dr. Andy Benoit, Jr. and Dr. Wade Rousse.

He further congratulated Dr. Daryl Burckel for his exemplary service as President of McNeese for the past several years. He commended Dr. Burckel for successfully overcoming many challenges during his tenure. Mr. Romero praised him for his leadership skills and determination.

President Gallot also officially welcomed Dr. Martin Lemelle to his first Board meeting as President of Grambling State University.

Academic Summit

President Gallot reported that this year's Academic Summit was held on April 11-12 on Louisiana Tech University's campus. He said he attended the showcase of student academic achievements and was proud of the many accomplishments. He thanked Dr. Erica Calais for her leadership in coordinating this annual event.

Legislative Update

System President Gallot reported on significant legislation pertaining to higher education issues that is being monitored:

HB 862 – Representative Jason Hughes, to authorize public postsecondary education management boards to establish and increase student tuition and mandatory fees;

HB 940 – Representative Christopher Turner, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance deferred maintenance projects included in the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program;

SB 486 – Senator Alan Seabaugh, to prohibit unlawful discrimination and unlawful classification on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, or sex on colleges campuses;

SB 462 – Senator Valarie Hodges, to provide for gubernatorial appointments; and

HB 800 – Representative Beau Beaulieu, to provide for calling a limited constitutional convention.

President Gallot thanked Rich Vath, System Director of Research and Advancement, for tracking these and other bills of significance to the System.

Maritime Reception

President Gallot said that a reception at the City Club had recently been held to highlight the progress of the Universities of Louisiana Maritime Academy initiative. The Academy's four-year degree program will be housed at Nicholls State University. In addition, collaboration and strategic partnerships will be required to provide resources and opportunities.

Commencements

President Gallot encouraged Board Members to register to attend at least one of the campus commencements via the link that had been emailed.

L. **Board Chair's Business**

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

Student Member

Dr. Clarke thanked Ms. Bailey Willis for her service this past year as Student Member. He acknowledged her dedication as she served on search committees, participated in commencement exercises, and attended various other events hosted by the System and universities. In recognition, Ms. Willis was presented a token of appreciation.

Ms. Willis thanked the Board for welcoming her and mentoring her along her journey. During the year, she said she learned to appreciate the unique qualities of each university and the connection among them and the Board.

Recognition

Chair Clarke stated that the March 22 Board Development in Alexandria had been productive and informative, with a focus on budget and capital outlay. He thanked the Board for attending, as well as participation by System staff and Board of Regents staff, Matthew LaBruyere and Chris Herring.

He recognized System staff for coordinating the Maritime Reception at City Club as well as the McNeese Search Committee Meetings and other events.

Dr. Clarke reported that Board Member Kristine Russell and he had toured the Bayou Region Incubator (BRI) at Nicholls. The purpose of the BRI is "to motivate, grow, and support a diverse, sustainable and inclusive economy in the Bayou Region of South Louisiana."

Lastly, Dr. Clarke congratulated Jo'Quishia "Jo" Lethermon for successfully defending her dissertation at Georgetown University. She thanked the Board for supporting her as she achieved this educational milestone.

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

Dr. Clarke announced that the next meeting will be in Baton Rouge on Thursday, June 13. He reminded the Board that this year's Management and Leadership Institute (M&LI) class will make its presentation that day as well. He thanked Dr. Caprice Ieyoub for her leadership as she directs this Institute.

There being no other business, upon motion of Ms. Willis, and seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.