

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
January 16, 2025**

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

On Thursday, January 16, 2025, 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 10:11 a.m.

The roll was called.

PRESENT

Mr. Barry Busada	Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Steve Davison	Mr. Mark Romero
Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr.	Ms. Kristine Russell
Dr. Jo'Quishia "Jo" Lethermon	Mr. Robert Salim
Mr. Keith Myers	Mr. Joe Salter
Mr. Alejandro "Al" Perkins	Mr. Brad Stevens
Mr. Dana Peterson	Ms. Julie Stokes

ABSENT

Mr. Drew Brown	Dr. John Noble, Jr.
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A quorum was established. Also present were System President Rick Gallot, System staff, University Presidents, and Attorney Brandon DeCuir.

B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

After observing a moment of silence in memory of a former Board Chair, D. Wayne Parker, Mr. Joe Salter opened the meeting with an invocation. Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Administration of Oath of Office to 2025 Vice Chair, Reappointed Board Members, and New Board Members

Mr. Romero stated that there were several Oaths to be administered, and he thanked Governor Jeff Landry for the appointments. Two new Board members had been recently appointed by the Governor: Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr. and Mr. Keith Myers. In addition, five members had been reappointed for another term: Dr. Jo Lethermon, Dr. John Noble, Jr., Mr. Mark Romero, Ms. Kristine Russell, and Mr. Joe Salter. In addition, Mr. Brad Stevens had been elected as 2025 Vice Chair at the December meeting and Chair Romero had selected Ms. Russell as Parliamentarian.

At the request of Mr. Romero, the following Board members were administered the Oath of Office by President Rick Gallot:

Vice Chair

Brad Stevens – 1st District

Reappointed Members

Jo'Quishia "Jo" Lethermon – 6th District
Mark Romero – 3rd District
Kristine Russell – 3rd District and Parliamentarian
Joe Salter – 4th District

New Members

Lee Jackson, Jr. – 2nd District
Keith Myers – At Large

Additionally, since Dr. Noble was absent, he will receive his Oath at a future meeting.

D. **Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2024 Meeting**

Upon motion of Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 5, 2024 Board Meeting.

E. **University of New Orleans' request for approval of Furlough Plan for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024-25.**

Mr. Romero asked Dr. Kathy Johnson and Dr. Edwin Litolff to give the Board an explanation of the request. Dr. Litolff described the current financial status of the University. There was considerable comment from Board members.

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Lethermon, the Board unanimously voted to approve University of New Orleans' request for approval of Furlough Plan for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Mr. Romero stated that he is directing previous System President Jim Henderson and current System President Rick Gallot to work together to research this issue and report back to the Board.

F. **Presidential Evaluations (Executive Session Required)**

At 10:49 a.m., upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted to convene in Executive Session to meet with four Presidents and discuss four Evaluations: Dr. Jay Clune, Dr. William Wainwright, Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, and Dr. Ron Berry.

A roll call vote was taken:

Yeas: Mr. Barry Busada, Mr. Steve Davison, Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr., Dr. Jo Lethermon, Mr. Keith Myers, Mr. Al Perkins, Mr. Dana Peterson, Ms. Elizabeth Pierre, Mr. Mark Romero, Ms. Kristine Russell, Mr. Robert Salim, Mr. Joe Salter, Mr. Brad Stevens, Ms. Julie Stokes

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Drew Brown, Dr. John Noble, Jr.

At 1:05 p.m, upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously voted to reconvene in Open Session.

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously voted to accept President Gallot's recommendations of the presidential evaluations for Dr. Jay Clune, Dr. William Wainwright, Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, and Dr. Ron Berry and authorize Chair Romero and System President Gallot to issue necessary adjustments to their appointments consistent with their evaluations.

G. **System President's Report**

President Gallot asked Mr. Romero for a motion to consider a personnel action that was included in Board member folders. Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board unanimously voted to approve a personnel action.

He again welcomed and congratulated the newly appointed and reappointed members. He indicated his eagerness to work together in order to advance higher education initiatives and enhance the quality of life in Louisiana.

Washington, D.C.

President Gallot reported that he will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in the upcoming week for Washington Mardi Gras activities as well as to meet with legislators. He also stated that a Louisiana delegation of student leaders, along with Dr. Calais who is the System Advisor to the Student Advisory Council, will engage with legislators in Washington.

For Our Future Conference

President Gallot reminded the Board that the 2025 For Our Future Conference will be held in Baton Rouge on March 26-28. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Stephen Moret, CEO of Strada Education Foundation. He encouraged all to register and make plans to attend.

Board Orientation/Development

President Gallot reminded the members that after the meeting, an Orientation Session was scheduled for all members. He said that it is slated for the System Office. He further mentioned that Board Development sessions will be held throughout the upcoming year.

H. **Board Chair's Report**

Mr. Romero indicated that the 2025 Committee assignments had been made and a copy of the listing was included in their folders.

Chair Romero said that next Regular Board Meeting will be Thursday, February 27, in Baton Rouge.

I. **Other Business/Adjournment**

There being no other business, upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board voted to adjourn at 1:10 p.m.