



## **Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System Special Meeting Minutes – July 30, 2025**

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

Mr. Mark Romero called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System at 1:06 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, in Room 100 of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

#### **Board Members Present:**

Mr. Barry Busada	Mr. Dana Peterson
Mr. Steve Davison	Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr.	Mr. Mark Romero
Mr. Keith Myers	Mr. Robert Salim
Ms. Maria Nechaeva	Mr. Joe Salter
Dr. John Noble, Jr.	Ms. Julie Stokes
Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins*	

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Dr. Jo Lethermon  
Ms. Kristine Russell  
Mr. Brad Stevens

Along with the Board members, System President Gallot, System and campus representatives, and Attorneys Brandon DeCuir and Linda Clark were in attendance.

### **B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Romero asked Dr. Rick Gallot, System President, to give the invocation, followed by Mr. Lee Jackson leading in the Pledge to the U.S. flag.

Before considering the items included on the agenda, Mr. Romero said he wanted to give a few recognitions.

First, Mr. Romero reported that President Gallot had successfully defended his dissertation on July 29, exhibiting years of commitment to growth, scholarship, and leadership. Mr. Romero voiced congratulations, on behalf of the entire Board. Dr. Gallot thanked the Board for supporting and encouraging him.

Mr. Robert Salim asked for a point of personal privilege. Mr. Salim presented Mr. Joe Salter with a framed collection of noteworthy accomplishments of his career, including being State Representative, Speaker of the House, teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, honored member of the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame, and many accolades. Additionally, Dr. Gallot read aloud a Commendation from Governor Jeff Landry.

Lastly, upon motion of Mr. Salim and a unanimous second, the Board voted to approve a resolution commending Mr. Salter.

Mr. Romero reported that Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, President of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has announced his retirement effective August 1, 2025. Dr. Savoie has served in higher education leadership for a total of more than 50 years, including Commissioner of Higher Education. He praised Dr. Savoie for his longevity and his legacy of policies and opportunities for students across the state.

Upon motion of Mr. Robert Salim, and a unanimous second, the Board voted to approve the following:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby confers the title of President Emeritus upon Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, effective August 1, 2025.

Dr. Savoie said it was an honor and a privilege to be given this award.

Mr. Eddie Meche and Dr. Lemelle were available to report on Items C. and D. Upon motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board unanimously voted to approve Item C.

- C. Grambling State University's request for approval to enter an affiliation agreement with Grambling Research and Resource Foundation, Inc.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request to formalize this strategic relationship and enable Grambling Research and Resource Foundation, Inc. to support and advance Grambling State University's broader initiatives with transparency, agility, and integrity.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that prior to execution of final documents Grambling State University shall: (a) Provide evidence to UL System staff and legal counsel from agencies/parties with transaction process oversight that all transactional and administrative requirements have been satisfied; (b) Obtain final review and approval from UL System staff; and (c) Obtain approval from legal counsel that all necessary actions and approvals have been obtained and that documents are in appropriate order for execution.

***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 for an affiliation agreement with Grambling Research and Resource Foundation, Inc.

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

Upon motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Dr. Noble, the Board unanimously approved Item D.

- D. Grambling State University's request for approval to enter a CEA with Grambling Research and Resource Foundation, Southern University System, and Southern University System Foundation for matters related to the Bayou Classic.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request to enter into a new Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Southern University and A&M College and Southern University System Foundation for Bayou Classic (retroactive to July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2028).

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that prior to execution of final documents Grambling State University shall: (a) Provide evidence to UL System staff and legal counsel from agencies/parties with transaction process oversight that all transactional and administrative requirements have been satisfied; (b) Obtain final review and approval from UL System staff; and (c) Obtain approval from legal counsel that all necessary actions and approvals have been obtained and that documents are in appropriate order for execution.

***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 for an affiliation agreement with Grambling Research and Resource Foundation, Inc.

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

- E. Louisiana Tech University's report regarding the University's transition to the Sun Belt Conference.

Louisiana Tech University President Jim Henderson and Mr. Ryan Ivey, Vice President/Director of Athletics, gave a brief presentation concerning the University's transition to the Sun Belt Conference. Some of the stated rationale was the lessened travel time and associated costs, which are benefits to the student-athletes as well as taxpayers.

Mr. Davison said that he appreciated UL-Lafayette and UL-Monroe for advocating for the move.

Upon motion of Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board endorsed Louisiana Tech University's transition to the Sun Belt Conference.

F. System President's Business (Executive Session may be required)\*

1. Personnel Actions - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Dr. Gallot stated that, because of Dr. Savoie's resignation, it was recommended that Dr. Jaimie Hebert be appointed as Interim President of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Also, it was recommended that a search be waived and Dr. Edwin Litolff III be appointed Vice President for Finance.

Upon motion of Mr. Romero, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board unanimously voted to accept Dr. Savoie's resignation, to appoint Dr. Jaimie Hebert as Interim President of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and to waive a search and appoint Dr. Edwin Litolff III as Vice President for Finance.

Dr. Hebert said he is honored by the interim appointment and has confidence in the University's transformative power. He also indicated his belief that the community benefits greatly from the institution's presence.

Dr. Litolff thanked the Board for the appointment and said he is excited to join the team.

2. Update on pending litigation and proposed litigation

Dr. Gallot asked that the Board receive an update on pending and proposed litigation. At 1:50 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Dr. Noble, the Board voted to convene in Executive Session to discuss litigation issues.

The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Mr. Busada, Mr. Davison, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Myers, Ms. Nechaeva, Dr. Noble, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Romero, Mr. Salter, Ms. Stokes

Nays: None

Absent: Dr. Lethermon, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salim, Mr. Stevens

Upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Dr. Noble, the Board reconvened in Open Session at 2:30 p.m.

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Upon motion of Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Jackson, the Board authorized legal counsel to file suit, if necessary, on behalf of Grambling State University for the recovery of any assets held with Grambling University Foundation and any related matters pursuant to the termination of the affiliation agreement.

G. Other Business

Mr. Romero reminded Board members that the next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, August 28, in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge.

H. Adjournment

Upon motion of Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted to adjourn at 2:35 p.m.