



**Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System
Minutes – December 11, 2025**

A. Call to Order

At 10:00 a.m., the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System convened in The Coastal Center on the campus of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana.

B. Roll Call

Chair Romero asked for a roll call. The following was recorded:

Board Members Present:

Mr. Barry Busada, Mr. Steve Davison, Mr. Ronald Hogan, Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr., Ms. Maria Nechaeva, Dr. John Noble, Jr.*, Mr. Dana Peterson, Ms. Elizabeth Pierre, Mr. Mark Romero, Ms. Kristine Russell, Mr. Robert Salim, Mr. Brad Stevens, Ms. Julie Stokes

**Dr. Noble arrived at 11:45 a.m.*

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Jo Lethermon, Mr. Keith Myers, Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins

Additionally, System President Rick Gallot, System Staff, University Representatives, interested citizens, and Legal Counsel Brandon DeCuir and Linda Clark were present.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Romero requested that Dr. Gallot give an opening invocation, with Ms. Russell leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. Welcome by President Jay Clune, Nicholls State University

Dr. Jay Clune, President of Nicholls State University, welcomed the Board to the campus and the beautiful Coastal Center. Dr. Clune highlighted The Coastal Center, the Bridge to Independence, and the John Folse Culinary Institute.

E. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2025 Board Meeting

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Russell, the minutes of the October 23, 2025 Board Meeting were unanimously approved. Additionally, upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board unanimously voted to conduct business as a Committee of the Whole.

F. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Ms. Pierre asked that Dr. Katie Dawson discuss the campus requests. Dr. Dawson described Items F.1.-F.3. Upon motion of Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Jackson, the Board unanimously approved Items F.1., F.2., and F.3.

1. Nicholls State University's request for approval to award an Honorary Doctor of Laws to Mr. Robert L. "Bret" Allain II at the Spring 2026 Commencement Exercises.

***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 award an Honorary Doctor of Laws to Mr. Robert L. "Bret" Allain II at the Spring 2026 Commencement Exercises.*

2. Nicholls State University's request for approval to name the Honors Program the Robert E. "Bob" Miller Honors Program 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 Honors Program the Robert E. "Bob" Miller Honors Program at Nicholls State University.*

Mr. Robert Miller was also in attendance at the meeting.

3. University of New Orleans' request for approval to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. Ivan Neville at the Spring 2026 Commencement Exercises.

***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 award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. Ivan Neville at the Spring 2026 Commencement Exercises.*

G. Athletic Committee

Mr. Davison asked Mr. Bruce Janet to present the Athletic items for consideration. Mr. Janet described Items G.1.-G.4. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously approved Items G.1.-G.4.

1. Northwestern State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Kevin Bostian as Vice President/Director of Athletics effective February 7, 2026.

***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 of a contract with Mr. Kevin Bostian as Vice President/Director of Athletics effective February 7, 2026.*

2. Northwestern State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Marcos Morelli as Head Women's Tennis Coach effective September 16, 2025.

***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 of a contract with Mr. Marcos Morelli as Head Women's Tennis Coach effective September 16, 2025.*

3. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Nathan Gillespie as Women's Soccer Head Coach effective January 1, 2026.

***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 a contract with Mr. Nathan Gillespie as Women's Soccer Head Coach effective January 1, 2026.*

4. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of a second amendment to the contract of Dr. Bryan Maggard, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, effective December 11, 2025.

***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 second amendment to the contract of Dr. Bryant Maggard, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, effective December 11, 2025.*

H. Audit Committee

Ms. Stokes asked Mr. Fernando Cordova to describe the Audit items. Mr. Cordova reported on Items H.1. and H.2., with no action necessary. He described Item H.3., which required Board action. Upon motion of Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously approved Item H.3.

1. University of Louisiana System's report on internal and external audit activity for the period of October 3, 2025 to November 20, 2025.

This is a report only.

2. University of Louisiana System’s report on the proposed Policy and Procedures Memorandum regarding the detection, reporting, and investigation of incidents of financial irregularity.

This is a report only.

3. University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for approval to remove Mr. Jeremy Guillory as the Director of Internal Audit effective December 15, 2025.

***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 remove Mr. Jeremy Guillory as the Director of Internal Audit effective December 15, 2025.*

I. Facilities Planning Committee

Mr. Steve Davison asked Mr. Bruce Janet to describe the Facilities request. After Mr. Janet discussed Item I.1., upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously approved Item I.1.

1. McNeese State University’s request for approval to name the McNeese State University student union building the “Leslie and Elizabeth Richard Student Union.”

***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 McNeese State University student union building the “Leslie and Elizabeth Richard Student Union.”*

J. Finance Committee

Mr. Busada asked Mr. Eddie Meche and Ms. Ashley McIntyre to present the Finance items. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously approved Items J.1.-J.7. Item J.8. was a report only.

1. Grambling State University’s request for initial approval from the Board to address a student housing shortage and solicit off-campus housing partnerships in preparation for Fall 2026.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University’s request to initiate a formal procurement process to identify and engage qualified apartment complexes or housing providers on an as needed basis capable of meeting student housing needs in preparation for Fall 2026.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 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 to manage student housing.

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

2. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval for the execution of leases between the Board, on behalf of the University, and Innovative Student Facilities, Inc., a private 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, 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 Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of the form and authorization to execute one or more Ground Leases and Facilities Leases, each between the Board, acting on behalf of the University, and Innovative Student Facilities, Inc., to finance the Project described herein, as authorized by La. R.S. 17:3361.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Louisiana Tech University 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 Louisiana Tech University and his or her designee, are hereby authorized and directed to execute the leases described herein and any and all documents necessary in connection with the issuance of the bonds described herein.

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

3. McNeese State University's request for approval to allow for a student referendum to increase student self-assessed fees.

***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 allow for a student referendum to increase five current student self-assessed fees.*

4. Nicholls State University's request to approve a contract amendment for professional legal services with Sun Sovereign LLC, dba Ware Immigration.

***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 of the contract amendment with Sun Sovereign LLC, dba Ware Immigration, to increase the maximum fee from \$15,000 to \$45,000 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.*

5. Northwestern State University's request for approval of a Sponsorship Agreement with Coca-Cola Bottling Company United – Gulf Coast, LLC.

***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 enter into a Sponsorship Agreement with Coca-Cola Bottling Company United – Gulf Coast, LLC.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Northwestern State University shall obtain final review from UL System staff and legal counsel to the Board, 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 Northwestern State University and/or his designee are hereby authorized and directed to execute agreement described herein and any and all documents necessary in connection with the acceptance of the Sponsorship Agreement.*

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

6. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval to allow for a student referendum to increase current student self-assessed fees.

***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 allow for a student referendum to increase current student self-assessed fees.*

7. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to amend the existing lease agreement with Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, LLC to extend the term from March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2031.

***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 amend the University's existing lease agreement with Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, LLC, in order to extend the term of the agreement from March 1, 2026, through February 28, 2031.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that University of Louisiana at Monroe 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 University of Louisiana at Monroe and her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute the lease amendment.*

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

8. University of Louisiana System's discussion of Fiscal Year 2025-26 first quarter financial reports and ongoing assurances.

This is a report only.

K. Personnel Committee

Mr. Salim asked Ms. Tonyetta Jackson to present the Personnel Committee items. Ms. Jackson described Items K.1.-K.5. Upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Board unanimously approved Items K.1.-K.5.

1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Leland Weiss as Dean of the Graduate School effective January 1, 2026.

***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. Leland Weiss as Dean of the Graduate School effective January 1, 2026.*

2. McNeese State University's request for approval to appoint Ms. Morgan Turpin as the Dean of the College of Business effective November 1, 2025.

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 Ms. Morgan Turpin as the Dean of the College of Business effective November 1, 2025.

3. Northwestern State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Scott Wysong as Dean of the College of Business and Technology effective January 5, 2026.

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. Scott Wysong as Dean of the College of Business and Technology effective January 5, 2026.

4. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval to appoint Ms. Malayne Sharp as Interim Vice President for University Advancement effective October 27, 2025.

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 Ms. Malayne Sharp as Interim Vice President for University Advancement effective October 27, 2025.

5. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to appoint Dr. Brian Bolton as Interim Dean of the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration effective September 26, 2025.

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. Brian Bolton as the Interim Dean of the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration effective September 26, 2025.

6. Other Business

Louisiana Tech University - Dr. Donna Thomas introduced Dr. Leland Weiss.
McNeese State University - Dr. Kedrick Nicholas introduced Ms. Morgan Turpin.
Northwestern State University - President Genovese introduced Dr. Scott Wysong.
Southeastern Louisiana University - Dr. Wainwright introduced Ms. Malayne Sharp.

- L. System President's Business

Dr. Gallot said that Personnel Actions and Pay Plans had been reviewed by System Staff, who recommend approval.

1. Personnel Actions and Pay Plans

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board unanimously approved the campus Personnel Actions and Pay Plans.

2. System President's Report

Highlight - CompeteLA

Dr. Gallot highlighted a graduate of the CompeteLA program, and reported that in its first six years, the program has supported more than 650 graduates. He also commended the coaches, who guide the students through their persisting until graduation.

Louisiana Maritime Academy

President Gallot welcomed retired United States Coast Guard Captain Brad Clare as the new Executive Director for the Louisiana Maritime Academy. Dr. Gallot said that the curriculum design team and advisory council are finalizing the draft of the four-year program. Mr. Jackson gave Captain Clare a high commendation and said that, under his lead, the Academy will move in the right direction.

Dr. Gallot also thanked Captain Kelly Denning, who had worked to build up the Academy from the beginning. He said she will remain closely connected to the initiative.

Captain Clare was given the opportunity to speak and he said that he is excited to work on this important program.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

President Gallot said that Governor Landry had issued an Executive Order regarding AI and its use by state entities. The Order directed agency heads to develop a policy by December 15, 2025. To comply with this Order, the UL System developed a policy, which had been shared with the Board Members. Mr. Romero asked for a motion and a second to approve the policy. Upon motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Policy on Responsible, Ethical, and Secure Use of Artificial Intelligence (PPM).

3. Presidential Evaluations (Executive Session will be required.)

Dr. Gallot indicated that the Board would meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning Presidential Evaluations. Mr. Romero asked for a motion. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board voted by roll call vote to enter Executive Session at 11:38 a.m. to meet with the Presidents.

Yeas: Mr. Busada, Mr. Davison, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Nechaeva, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salim, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Stokes

Nays: None

Absent: Dr. Lethermon, Mr. Myers, Dr. Noble, Mr. Perkins

At 2:52 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Stokes, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene in Open Session.

Chair Romero said that, while in Executive Session, no motions had been made and no votes had been taken. He asked if any Board Member had a motion. Mr. Davison made the following motion:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby affirms the Presidential Evaluations and authorizes the System President to finalize any contractual agreements with the Presidents.*

Mr. Salim seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the motion.

M. Board Chair's Business

1. Board Chair's Report

Mr. Romero reminded the Board to complete annual required trainings.

2. Update on University of Louisiana at Lafayette Presidential Search

Chair Romero indicated that the timeline for the ULL Presidential Search had been provided to them and that members of the Committee will be listed on the UL System website. He also said that the inaugural meeting and forum will be held on January 14 on the campus.

3. Update on McNeese State University Presidential Search

Mr. Romero said that next steps for the Presidential Search for McNeese State University will be announced at the February 26 meeting.

4. Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Board Vice Chair for 2026

Mr. Romero asked the Chair of the Nominating Committee to give a report. Ms. Pierre said that the Committee had met and recommends that Ms. Kristine Russell be the 2026 Vice Chair. Mr. Stevens seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Board. Mr. Romero said that he selected Mr. Steve Davison as Parliamentarian for 2026. Further, Mr. Romero expressed appreciation for Mr. Stevens as the 2025 Vice Chair.

N. Other Business

Dr. John Noble asked for a moment to speak. He said that, as many knew, he has been battling cancer again for the past several months as well as other health challenges. Dr. Noble said he is returning to the work of the Board. He received a standing ovation for his words.

O. Adjournment

Chair Romero reminded the Board that the next regular meeting will be in Baton Rouge on January 22. At 2:59 p.m. Ms. Stokes made a motion to adjourn, with Mr. Busada's second. The Board adjourned.