



DRAFT MINUTES

**Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System
Special Board Meeting
November 13, 2025 9:00 AM
Abdalla Hall, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
635 Cajundome Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70506**

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System was called to order by Mr. Mark Romero, Chair, in Abdalla Hall, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Conference Center, 635 Cajundome Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70506, at 9:06 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2025. The following roll call was recorded:

Present:

Mr. Barry Busada	Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Steve Davison	Mr. Mark Romero
Dr. Jo Lethermon	Ms. Kristine Russell
Mr. Keith Myers	Mr. Robert Salim
Ms. Maria Nechaeva	Ms. Julie Stokes
Mr. Dana Peterson	

Absent:

Mr. Ronald Hogan	Mr. Al Perkins
Mr. Lee Jackson	Mr. Brad Stevens
Dr. John Noble, Jr.	

Also in attendance were System President Rick Gallot, System Staff, campus administrators, and members of the press. Legal Counsel, Mr. Brandon DeCuir and Ms. Linda Clark were present.

B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Romero asked Father Nicholas Ware, Parish Vicar, Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Church, to open the meeting with prayer. He also asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Al Perkins' father, who had just passed away.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Luebbert, Louisiana Army National Guard.

Mr. Romero expressed his appreciation to the campus for hosting the meeting. He asked for a motion to amend the agenda to remove Item D. Ms. Pierre made the motion, Mr. Busada seconded it, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

C. University of Louisiana at Lafayette Presidential Search (Executive Session pursuant to Louisiana R.S. 42:17 may be required.)

Mr. Romero indicated that the Board would meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues related to the Presidential Search. Upon motion of Ms. Stokes, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board voted by roll call vote to enter Executive Session at 9:12 a.m.:

Yeas: Mr. Busada, Mr. Davison, Dr. Lethermon, Mr. Myers, Ms. Nechaeva, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salim, Ms. Stokes

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Hogan, Mr. Jackson, Dr. Noble, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Stevens

Upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:15 a.m. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

Dr. Gallot thanked Dr. Jaimie Hebert for his leadership over the past three months as Interim President at University of Louisiana at Lafayette and asked him for comments. Dr. Hebert said it had been an honor to serve in the position. Dr. Hebert first made a request to the Board that he be allowed to return to the Provost position and then he endorsed Dr. Ramesh Kolluru as Interim President. Dr. Hebert said that Dr. Kolluru has the expertise to continue the fiscal stability and understand the importance of research.

Mr. Romero asked for a motion to accept Dr. Hebert's request to return to the Provost position. Upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board approved the motion to return Dr. Jaimie Hebert to the position of Provost of University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Secondly, upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Jackson, the Board approved the motion to appoint Dr. Ramesh Kolluru as Interim President.

Dr. Kolluru took the opportunity to say that he is fully committed to lead the university in the interim. He mentioned instituting a plan of SAI, Service, Accountability, and

Innovation. He particularly mentioned Dr. Hebert and Dr. Edwin Litolff for their work to position the university with fiscal stability and transparency.

- D. University of Louisiana at Lafayette, rescission of President Emeritus and related matters contained in appointment letter dated August 14, 2025 (Executive Session pursuant to Louisiana R.S. 42:17 may be required.)

This item was removed from the agenda.

- E. Appointment of Interim President of McNeese State University (Executive Session pursuant to Louisiana R.S. 42:17 may be required.)

Mr. Romero said that Dr. Wade Rouse, President of McNeese State University, recently accepted the position as LSU System President. Mr. Romero said that Dr. Rouse is well-suited for the position and congratulated him for the accomplishment. Because of Dr. Rouse's departure, the appointment of an interim president is necessary for McNeese. Dr. Wade Rouse had recommended Dr. Kedrick Nicholas to serve in this position, and Dr. Gallot agreed.

Mr. Romero asked for a motion and a second. Upon motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Kedrick Nicholas as Interim President of McNeese State University, effective November 17, 2025.

Dr. Nicholas thanked his wife, Tabitha (who was present) and sons, his parents, Dr. April Broussard, Dr. Michael Buckles, and Dr. Wade Rouse for their encouragement and support. He also stated his appreciation for the Board, Mr. Romero, and Dr. Gallot.

- F. Discussion and Consideration of Pending Litigation Conference-USA vs BOS/LTU (Executive Session pursuant to Louisiana R.S. 42:17 may be required.)

Mr. Romero said that the Board would meet in Executive Session to discuss pending litigation pursuant to R.S. 42:17. Upon motion of Dr. Lethermon, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board voted by roll call vote to enter Executive Session at 10:43 a.m.

Yeas: Mr. Busada, Mr. Davison, Mr. Jackson, Dr. Lethermon, Mr. Myers, Ms. Nechaeva, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salim, Ms. Stokes

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Hogan, Dr. Noble, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Stevens

Upon motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:38 a.m. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

Upon motion of Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously voted to authorize Board counsel to take all necessary action in defense of the pending suit and to initiate any claims or actions on behalf of the Board.

- G. Resolution authorizing the System President and staff to conduct preliminary due diligence on the feasibility, cost, and benefits of transforming the University of Louisiana System into a full vertically integrated university system.

Dr. Gallot briefly described the resolution regarding integration of systemwide operations that was being considered. Mr. Romero thanked President Gallot for working to develop this resolution. Ms. Stokes commented that efficiency and financial oversight are important.

Upon motion of Busada, seconded by Mr. Jackson, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of the resolution.

- H. Other Business/Adjournment

Upon motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:48 a.m.