



DRAFT MINUTES
Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System
Special Board Meeting
February 26, 2026

A. Call to Order

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System convened at 10:06 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2026 in the Elizabeth and Leslie Richard Student Union Ballroom at McNeese State University. The meeting was called to order by Mark Romero, Chair.

B. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Steve Davison
Mr. Ronald Hogan
Dr. Jo Lethermon
Mr. Keith Myers
Ms. Maria Nechaeva
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Mark Romero
Ms. Kristine Russell
Mr. Robert Salim
Mr. Bard Stevens

Absent

Mr. Barry Busada
Mr. Lee Jackson
Dr. John Noble
Mr. Al Perkins
Mr. Dana Peterson
Ms. Julie Stokes

Also in attendance were System President Rick Gallot, Campus Representatives, System Staff, and Legal Counsel Brandon DeCuir.

C. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Dr. Rick Gallot, followed by the Pledge to the U.S. Flag led by Supervisor Russell.

D. Welcome by Dr. Kedrick Nicholas, Interim President, McNeese State University

Dr. Kedrick Nicholas provided opening remarks and welcomed the Board of Supervisors along with other stakeholders to McNeese's campus.

E. Approval of December 11, 2025 Regular and January 22, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Upon motion of Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Davison the Board unanimously approved the minutes of December 11, 2025 and January 22, 2026 regular meetings.

Additionally, upon motion of Mr. Davison, seconded by Dr. Lethermon, the Board unanimously voted to conduct business as a Committee of the Whole.

F. Athletic Committee

Mr. Myers asked Mr. Bruce Janet to report on the items, and he described the Athletic items. Upon motion of Mr. Salim, seconded by Mr. Hogan, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items F.1.-F.11.

1. Grambling State University's request for approval of a second contractual amendment with Dr. Trayvean Scott, Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics, effective January 1, 2026.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request for approval of a second contractual amendment with Dr. Trayvean Scott, Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics, effective January 1, 2026.*

2. Grambling State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Robert L. "Mickey" Joseph, Head Football Coach, effective January 1, 2026.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Robert L. "Mickey" Joseph, Head Football Coach, effective January 1, 2026.*

3. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of the first contractual amendment with Mr. Ryan Ivey, Vice President and Director of Athletics, effective March 11, 2026.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System does hereby approve Louisiana Tech University's*

request for approval of the first contractual amendment with Mr. Ryan Ivey, Vice President and Director of Athletics, effective March 11, 2026.

4. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contractual amendment with Mr. Sonny Cumbie, Head Football Coach, effective February 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 of a contractual amendment with Mr. Sonny Cumbie, Head Football Coach, effective February 1, 2026.*

5. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Matt Lodge, Head Coach for Women's Soccer, effective December 1, 2025.

***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. Matt Lodge, Women's Soccer Head Coach, effective December 1, 2025.*

6. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of the contractual agreements with Assistant Soccer Coaches Ms. Stephanie Starr (effective December 1, 2025) and Mr. Greg Palmer (effective January 22, 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 of contracts with Assistant Soccer Coaches, Ms. Stephanie Starr, effective December 1, 2025, and Mr. Greg Palmer, effective January 22, 2026.*

7. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of contracts with Assistant Volleyball Coaches Ms. Abby Pollart and Ms. Rian Hicks, 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 of contracts with Assistant Volleyball Coaches Ms. Abby Pollart and Ms. Rian Hicks, effective January 1, 2026.*

8. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Alexis Cable, Head Soccer Coach, effective December 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 of a contract with Ms. Alexis Cable, Head Soccer Coach, effective December 1, 2025.*

9. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Tayler Gray, Head Indoor Volleyball Coach, effective December 15, 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 of a contract with Ms. Tayler Gray, Head Indoor Volleyball Coach, effective December 15, 2025.*

10. McNeese State University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. James E. Landreneau, Head Women's Softball Coach, effective July 1, 2026.

***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 of a contract with Mr. James E. Landreneau, Head Women's Softball Coach, effective July 1, 2026.*

11. Northwestern State University's request for approval of a contractual amendment with Mr. Ian Brophy, Head Women's Soccer Coach, effective January 2, 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 contractual amendment with Mr. Ian Brophy, Head Women's Soccer Coach, effective January 2, 2026.*

G. Audit Committee

Ms. Pierre asked Mr. Fernando Cordova to report on the items, and he described the Audit items. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Nechaeva, the Board unanimously voted to approve Item G.1.

1. University of Louisiana System's request for approval of the Revised System Board Operations and Campus Annual Internal Audit Plans for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the Revised System Board Operations and Campus Annual Internal Audit Plans for Fiscal Year 2025-26.*

2. University of Louisiana System's report on internal and external audit activity for the period of November 21, 2025 to February 5, 2026.

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

H. Facilities Planning Committee

Mr. Davison, Chair, asked Mr. Bruce Janet to report on the items, and he described the Facilities items. Upon motion of Mr. Myers, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items H.1. - H.7.

1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to sell approximately 30 acres of land located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, to the Caddo Parish School Board, subject to legislative approval and in accordance with applicable state law governing the transfer of state-owned immovable property.

***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 sell approximately 30 acres of land located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, to the Caddo Parish School Board, subject to legislative approval and in accordance with applicable state law governing the transfer of state-owned immovable property.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Louisiana Tech University shall obtain all required approvals from the Louisiana Legislature and any other appropriate agencies or parties prior to execution of transfer documents.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the President of Louisiana Tech University or his or her designee is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer.*

***AND FURTHER,** that Louisiana Tech University shall provide the System Office with copies of all final executed documents for Board files.*

2. Nicholls State University's request for approval to enter into a land lease with the Nicholls State University Foundation, pursuant to La. R.S. 17:3361.

***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 enter into a land lease with the Nicholls State University Foundation, pursuant to La. R.S. 17:3361.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Nicholls State University 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 prior to execution of documents.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of Nicholls State University or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said lease.

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

3. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to name two structures.

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 to name "Antoun Clubhouse" and "Our Lady of Lourdes Health Sciences Education Center."

4. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to sell the fraternity house building and all fixtures located at Lot 4, Fraternity Row, City and Parish of Lafayette, to Eta Nu Alumni Association, in accordance with PPM FP-VI.IV.-1a, Section V, Part E, Sale of Immovable Property.

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 sell the fraternity house building and all fixtures located at Lot 4, Fraternity Row, City and Parish of Lafayette, Louisiana to Eta Nu Alumni Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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 Interim President of University of Louisiana at Lafayette or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said sale.

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

5. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to advertise and auction for of sale various properties, in accordance with Policy and Procedures Memorandum FP-VI.IV.-1a, Section V, Part E, Sale of Immovable Property.

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 advertise and auction for sale the various properties, in accordance with Policy and Procedures Memorandum FP-VI.IV.-1a, Section V, Part E, Sale of Immovable Property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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 Interim President of University of Louisiana at Lafayette or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said auctions and sales.

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

6. University of Louisiana Monroe's request for approval to accept donation of the Laboratory Facility for the ULM School of Construction Management from University of Louisiana Monroe Facilities, Inc.

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 to accept donation of the Laboratory Facility for the ULM School of Construction Management from University of Louisiana Monroe Facilities, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ULS staff and legal counsel ensure that all documents conform to statutory and administrative requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of University of Louisiana Monroe or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to sign any and all documents related to the donation.

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

7. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to enter into a Ground and Facilities Lease Agreement with the ULM Facilities Inc. to construct a new Emily Williamson Child Development 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 the University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to enter into a Ground and Facilities Lease Agreement with the ULM Facilities Inc. to construct a new Emily Williamson Child Development Center, pursuant to the authority vested in La. R.S. 17:3361.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 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 prior to execution of documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the University of Louisiana at Monroe or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said lease by the University of Louisiana System on behalf of and for the use of the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

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

I. Finance Committee

Mr. Hogan headed the Finance Committee and asked Mr. Eddie Meche and Ms. Ashley McIntyre to present the items. Upon motion of Ms. Pierre, and seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items I.1.-I.3.

1. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to allow for a student referendum to reallocate the L'Acadien Yearbook student self-assessed fee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana's request for approval to allow for a student referendum to re-allocate the L'Acadien Yearbook fee. Approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System on 2/26/26

2. University of New Orleans's request for approval to amend its meal services contract with Chartwells to allow unused and forfeited Privateer Bucks to be returned to UNO.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System does hereby approve the University of New Orleans's request to amend its meal services contract with Chartwells to allow unused and forfeited Privateer Bucks to be returned to UNO.

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 amendment.

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

AND FURTHER, that UL System staff and legal counsel ensure that all documents conform to statutory and administrative requirements.

3. University of Louisiana System's request for approval to establish LEQSF (8g) Endowed Professorships, Endowed First Generation Scholarships, Graduate Scholarships and Endowed Chairs as follows.

Louisiana Tech University

- D. Cameron and Marietta Murchison Endowed Professorship for the College of Liberal Arts, School of History and Social Sciences

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

- Flora Levy Professorship in English II
- Thelma & Jamie Guilbeau Professorship in History Instruction VI
- Thelma & Jamie Guilbeau Professorship in History Instruction VII

University of New Orleans

- Bill and Joanne Chauvin Endowed First-Generation Scholarship
- Philip J. Gunn & Jeanne M. Turner Endowed First-Generation Academic Scholarship #3
- Godfred and Isabel Singer Memorial Scholarship I in Sciences

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 Professorships, Endowed First Generation Scholarships, Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships, and Endowed Chair noted above.

J. Personnel Committee

Mr. Robert Salim, Chair, asked Ms. Tonyetta Jackson to report on the items, and she described the Personnel items. Upon motion of Ms. Lethermon, seconded by Ms. Necheava, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items J.1.-J.5. Dr. Kedrick Nicholas introduced Dr. Jan Robichaux and Dr. Rene Malveaux.

1. McNeese State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Jan Robichaux as Interim Dean of Burton College of Education effective January 1, 2026.

***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 Dr. Jan Robichaux as Interim Dean of Burton College of Education effective January 1, 2026.*

2. McNeese State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Rene Malveaux as Interim Dean of Student Success effective January 5, 2026.

***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 Dr. Rene Malveaux as Interim Dean of Student Success effective January 5, 2026.*

3. Nicholls State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Kimberly Reynolds as Dean of the College of Education & Behavioral Sciences, effective January 3, 2026.

***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 appoint Dr. Kimberly Reynolds as Dean of the College of Education & Behavioral Sciences effective January 3, 2026.*

4. Nicholls State University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Michele Theriot as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts effective January 3, 2026.

***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 appoint Dr. Michele Theriot as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts effective January 3, 2026.*

5. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to appoint Dr. Andy Benoit as Vice President for Student Success effective March 2, 2026.

***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. Andy Benoit as Vice President for Student Success effective March 2, 2026.*

K. System President's Business

1. Personnel Actions

President Gallot reported that campus Personnel Actions had been reviewed by System staff and recommends approval. Upon motion of Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board unanimously voted to approve the campus Personnel Actions.

2. System President's Report

UL Lafayette Presidential Search

Dr. Gallot shared that three semifinalists were interviewed this week. Dr. Ramesh Kolluru has been selected as the sole finalist and will interview with the Board tomorrow, February 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge. He noted that the search is nearing its conclusion with the selection of the university's seventh president.

Washington, D.C. Student Delegation

Dr. Gallot shared that despite weather delays, Dr. Calais and a delegation of students traveled to Washington, D.C., where they met with Louisiana's congressional delegation and federal officials to discuss higher education priorities. He said the students represented their institutions and the System exceptionally well.

Academic Honors Day – March 11

Dr. Gallot highlighted the upcoming Academic Honors Day on March 11 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. He shared that this annual event will recognize Louisiana's highest-achieving high school students and celebrate academic excellence as they prepare for their next steps in higher education.

UL System Day at the Capitol – March 24

Dr. Gallot announced that UL System Day at the Capitol will be held on March 24. He said the event will showcase university achievements and celebrate the accomplishments of faculty, staff, and students, while also recognizing the support of state policymakers.

Academic Summit – April 16–17

Dr. Gallot shared information about the Academic Summit, which will be hosted by Southeastern Louisiana University on April 16–17. He noted that the Summit will highlight academic excellence, research, and creative activity across System institutions and promote collaboration and idea sharing.

3. Litigation Updates

Chair Romero informed the Board that they would adjourn into executive session to discuss matters related to pending litigation. A motion was made by Ms. Russell and seconded by Mr. Stevens to go into executive session. The Board adjourned to executive session at 11:07 a.m.

Mr. Stevens made the following motion to authorize system counsel to compromise and settle *Renne v. Board of Supervisors and UNO* up to \$50,000 inclusive of cost. Ms. Pierre seconded the motion.

L. Board Chair's Business

1. Board Chair's Report

Annual Financial Disclosure Statements

Chairman Romero reminded Board members who served during the 2025 calendar year to submit their Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statements to the Louisiana Board of Ethics in May. Carol will distribute the necessary forms and instructions soon and is available to answer any questions.

McNeese Presidential Search Update

He also noted that preparations are underway for the McNeese State University presidential search, with additional details to be shared once the process and timeline are finalized.

2. Other Business

Chair Romero had no other business to report.

M. Other Business

Mr. Romero reminded the Board of the Special Board meeting scheduled for the next day, Friday, February 27, 2026 to finalize the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Presidential Search process.

N. Adjournment

At 12:23 p.m., upon motion of Ms. Nechaeva, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.