



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System**  
**Special Board Meeting**  
**February 27, 2026**

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met for a Special Meeting on Friday, February 27, 2026 at 10:40 a.m. The meeting was held in the Louisiana Purchase Room of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge. Chair Mark Romero called the meeting to order.

Present

Mr. Ronald Hogan  
Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr.  
Mr. Keith Myers  
Ms. Maria Nechaeva  
Mr. Dana Peterson  
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre  
Mr. Mark Romero  
Ms. Kristine Russell  
Mr. Robert Salim  
Ms. Julie Stokes

Absent

Mr. Barry Busada  
Mr. Steve Davison  
Dr. Jo Lethermon  
Dr. John Noble, Jr.  
Mr. Alejandro "Al" Perkins  
Mr. Brad Stevens

Also present were the following: System President Rick Gallot, System staff, and Attorneys Brandon DeCuir and Linda Clark.

B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Rick Gallot gave an invocation, and Ms. Maria Nechaeva led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Report of University of Louisiana at Lafayette Presidential Search Committee

UL System President Rick Gallot reported that a Presidential Search Committee was appointed in December and held its initial meeting on January 14 on the UL Lafayette campus. On February 19, the Committee met in Baton Rouge to review applications and determine semifinalists. The three semifinalists selected were:

- Dr. Hitesh Kathuria
- Dr. Ramesh Kolluru
- Dr. Richard Ludwick

President Gallot stated that the semifinalists visited UL Lafayette earlier in the week and participated in interviews and meetings. After discussion, the Committee unanimously recommended Dr. Kolluru as the finalist for interview by the Board.

President Gallot thanked the University for the hospitality extended to all while on campus. Secondly, he expressed appreciation to all who had given their time and talent to serve on the Search Committee.

D. Overview of Interview Procedures

Board Chair Romero asked for comments from the public. Dr. Erica Calais indicated that there were no requests to speak.

Chair Romero outlined the interview procedures, including an opening statement by the finalist, followed by Board questions.

E. Candidate Interview – Dr. Ramesh Kolluru

Mr. Romero welcomed Dr. Kolluru and asked Board members to introduce themselves. Dr. Kolluru introduced himself and his family to the Board and provided introductory remarks.

Questions were posed regarding student retention, graduation rates, building strong relationships to advance the mission of the University, shared governance, academic excellence, priorities and leadership style, and progress in the midst of budgetary constraints.

F. Deliberations\*

Mr. Romero indicated that the Board would not convene into executive session. Chair Romero asked for comments from the Board. Mr. Myers made the following motion:

“I move that we appoint Dr. Ramesh Kolluru as President of University of Louisiana at Lafayette and authorize University of Louisiana System President Rick Gallot and Board Chair Mark Romero to negotiate the terms of appointment and execute an offer of employment on behalf of the Board.”

Ms. Maria Nechaeva seconded the motion. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Mr. Ronald Hogan, Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr., Mr. Keith Myers, Ms. Maria Nechaeva, Mr. Dana Peterson, Ms. Elizabeth Pierre, Mr. Mark Romero, Ms. Kristine Russell, Mr. Robert Salim, and Ms. Julie Stokes.

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Barry Busada, Mr. Steve Davison, Dr. Jo Lethermon, Dr. John Noble, Jr., Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins, and Mr. Brad Stevens

The motion passed unanimously.

G. Introduction of President of University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Chair Romero congratulated the new President and invited him to give remarks.

Dr. Kolluru thanked the Board, and said he was grateful for being selected and looked forward to working with the System, with the Board, the campus, and the community.

H. Other Business

Chair Romero announced that the next Board meeting will take place on April 23 on University of Louisiana Monroe’s campus and thanked Dr. Castille for agreeing to host. He asked if there were any other comments from the Board.

I. Adjournment

Upon unanimous motion, the Board voted to adjourn at 11:37 a.m.