



## **Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System Minutes – October 23, 2025**

### 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 Room 100, Claiborne Conference Center, 1201 North Third Street in Baton Rouge, at 10:08 a.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025. The following roll call was recorded:

**Present:**

Mr. Barry Busada	Mr. Dana Peterson
Mr. Steve Davison	Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Ronald Hogan	Mr. Mark Romero
Mr. Lee Jackson, Jr.	Mr. Robert Salim
Mr. Keith Myers	Mr. Brad Stevens
Ms. Maria Nechaeva	Ms. Julie Stokes

**Absent:**

Dr. Jo Lethermon	Mr. Al Perkins
Dr. John Noble, Jr.	Ms. Kristine Russell

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 President Rick Gallot to present an invocation and observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. Margarita Perez, Dean of Students, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, who had just passed away. Mr. Romero also asked that Dr. John Noble be remembered in prayer. Dr. Gallot further asked for a remembrance of Captain Louis M. “Toby” Wattigney, valued University of Louisiana Maritime Academy Advisory Council member. Afterwards, Ms. Maria Nechaeva led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### C. Administration of Oath of Office to Mr. Ronald E. Hogan, new Board Member.

Chair Romero welcomed the newest Board member, Mr. Ronald E. Hogan, who had recently been appointed by Governor Landry to serve Mr. Salter’s unexpired term. Mr. Hogan will represent the 4th Congressional District. Dr. Gallot administered the Oath of

Office to Mr. Hogan. Mr. Hogan said that it was an honor to be selected to serve on the Board. He also indicated that he regarded it as a calling from the Lord.

D. Approval of Minutes of August 28, 2025 Board Meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board unanimously voted to approve the August 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes. In addition, upon motion of Ms. Stokes, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously voted to meet as a Committee of the Whole.

E. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Ms. Pierre asked Dr. Jeannine O'Rourke to present the items for the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Dr. O'Rourke described the items. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Davison, Items E.1. through E.5. were unanimously approved.

1. Grambling State University's request for approval to name the College of Business the "Thomas and Joyce Moorehead College of Business and Entrepreneurship" and to authorize Dr. Lemelle to approve the final version of any related terms.

***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 to name the College of Business the "Thomas and Joyce Moorehead College of Business and Entrepreneurship" and to authorize Dr. Lemelle to approve the final version of any related terms.*

President Martin Lemelle and Dr. Derrick Warren, Dean of the College of Business, gave comments about this request.

2. Grambling State University's request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina Central University.

***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 Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina Central University.*

3. Grambling State University's request for approval to confer the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Elizabeth G. Pierre at the Fall 2025 Commencement Exercises.

***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 to confer the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Elizabeth G. Pierre at the Fall 2025 Commencement Exercises.

4. McNeese State University's request, on behalf of the Intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science in Nursing and its member institutions, for approval to offer a Post-Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University's request, upon behalf of the Intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science in Nursing and its member institutions, for approval to offer a Post-Master's Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner.

Dr. Ann Warner, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions (McNeese State University), gave a presentation regarding the history, purpose, and structure of the Intercollegiate Consortium. Also available for questions were Dr. Lisa Broussard, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (University of Louisiana at Lafayette); Dr. Lucie Agosta, Associate Professor in the School of Nursing (Southeastern Louisiana University); and Dr. Raquel Engolio, Dean of the College of Nursing (Nicholls State University).

5. Northwestern State University's request for approval to establish the Louisiana Center for Agricultural Resources and Technology.

***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 establish the Louisiana Center for Agricultural Resources and Technology.

Dr. Greg Handel, Provost, and Dr. Francene Lemoine, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, gave an overview and rationale for this request.

F. Athletic Committee

Mr. Steve Davison asked Mr. Bruce Janet to present the items for the Athletic Committee. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Pierre, Items F.1. through F.6. were unanimously approved.

1. Grambling State University's request for approval of a contract addendum to extend the contract with Ms. Courtney Simmons, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective May 1, 2025.

***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 addendum to extend the contract with Ms. Courtney Simmons, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective May 1, 2025.

2. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a revised Athletic Complimentary Ticket Policy.

***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 revised Athletic Complimentary Ticket Policy.

3. Nicholls State University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Stefanie Slekis, Head Cross Country and Track and Field Coach, effective September 1, 2025.

***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 a contract with Ms. Stefanie Slekis, Head Cross Country and Track and Field Coach, effective September 1, 2025.

4. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Michael Rheams, Head Track and Field Coach, effective October 1, 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 of a contract with Mr. Michael Rheams, Head Track and Field Coach, effective October 1, 2025.

5. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Paul Burkhalter, Assistant Football Coach, effective October 23, 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 contract with Mr. Paul Burkhalter, Assistant Football Coach, effective October 23, 2025.

6. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a contract with Mr. Clayton O'Callaghan, Head Coach-Men's & Women's Cross Country/Track and Field, effective September 1, 2025.

***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 of a contract with Mr. Clayton O'Callaghan, Head Coach-Men's & Women's Cross Country/Track and Field, effective September 1, 2025.

G. Audit Committee

Ms. Stokes asked Mr. Fernando Cordova to present the Audit Committee items. Mr. Cordova gave a report and, upon motion of Mr. Myers, seconded by Mr. Busada, Item G.2. was unanimously approved.

1. University of Louisiana System's report on internal and external audit activity for the period of August 8 through October 2, 2025.

This is a report only and no action is necessary.

2. University of Louisiana System's request for approval to amend the proposed reporting structure of the internal audit function across System institutions and to align the System audit charters with the amended structure.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves amending the proposed reporting structure of the internal audit function across System institutions and to align the System audit charters with the amended structure.

H. Facilities Planning Committee

Mr. Davison asked Mr. Janet to give a report of the items. Mr. Janet described Items H.1. through H.5. Upon motion of Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items H.1. through H.5.

1. Grambling State University's request for approval to amend its 2026-27 Five-Year Capital Outlay submission to include the addition of one project for Planning and Construction for Projects.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request to amend its 2026-27 Five-Year Capital Outlay submission to include the addition of one project for Planning and Construction for Projects.

2. Grambling State University's request to obtain Board of Regents approval for an Act 959 Project for an Indoor Athletic Facility.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request to obtain Board of Regents approval for an Act 959 Project for an Indoor Athletic Facility.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that Grambling State 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 Grambling State University or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated herein.

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

3. McNeese State University's request for approval to amend its 2026-27 Five-Year Capital Outlay submission to include revised cost for two projects and the addition of one project for Planning and Construction for Projects.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University's request to amend its Five-Year Capital Outlay submission to include two revised projects and one new project Planning and Construction.

4. Nicholls State University's request for approval to name the first-floor multi-purpose room (formerly the Century Room) at John L. Guidry Stadium, the "Dr. Neil J. and Janet B. Maki Legacy Center."

***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 first-floor multi-purpose room (formerly the Century Room) at John L. Guidry Stadium, the "Dr. Neil J. and Janet B. Maki Legacy Center."

5. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to name the Malone Stadium home radio booth the "Dr. Frank Hoffmann Radio Booth."

***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 name the Malone Stadium home radio booth the "Dr. Frank Hoffmann Radio Booth."

6. Other Business

Mr. Janet thanked the campuses for hosting the capital outlay site visits, which were well-received by all. He particularly mentioned Ms. Nechaeva, who had attended each visit. She said that it had given her the opportunity to connect with students and learn about each campus.

I. Finance Committee

Mr. Busada asked Mr. Eddie Meche and Ms. Ashley McIntyre to present the items under Finance. Upon motion of Mr. Salim, seconded by Mr. Jackson, the Board unanimously voted to approve Items I.1. through I.3.

1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to proceed with an alternatively financed capital improvement through Innovative Student Facilities, Inc. 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 to pursue an alternatively financed capital project through 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 shall obtain the approval of the Board at a subsequent meeting of the leases described herein and for the execution of 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.*

2. McNeese State University's request for approval to charge a flat rate of \$1,400 per credit hour for courses required for the proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in LNG Engineering.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves McNeese State University's request to charge a flat rate of \$1,400 per credit hour for courses required for the proposed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in LNG Engineering.*

3. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval to establish the (1) Dr. Brian R. O'Callaghan Endowed Chair in Mathematics, and (2) Dr. Brian R. O'Callaghan Endowed Professorship in Mathematics.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request to establish the Dr. Brian R. O'Callaghan LEQSF (8g) Endowed Chair in Mathematics and the Brian R. O'Callaghan LEQSF (8g) Endowed Professorship in Mathematics.

4. University of Louisiana System's financial status of alternatively financed projects for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

This was a report only and no action was necessary.

5. University of Louisiana System's report of Fiscal Year 2024-25 fourth quarter financial reports and ongoing assurances.

This was a report only and no action was necessary.

6. Discussion of Policy and Procedures Memorandum, Financial Warning Policy.

Ms. McIntyre gave an update on this proposed Policy and Procedures Memorandum, and stated that feedback continues to be received.

J. Personnel Committee

Chair Robert Salim asked Mr. Marcus Jones to describe the campus requests. Upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Myers, Items J.1. through J.4. were unanimously approved by the Board.

1. Grambling State University's request for approval to appoint Mr. Max Ferguson, Chief Experience and Digital Strategy Officer, effective September 1, 2025.

***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 to appoint Mr. Max Ferguson, Chief Experience and Digital Strategy Officer, effective September 1, 2025.

2. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval to appoint Dr. Dianne Olivier as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective August 1, 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. Dianne Olivier as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective August 1, 2025.

3. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to appoint Dr. Michelle McEacharn as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective November 1, 2025.

***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 appoint Dr. Michelle McEacharn as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective November 1, 2025.*

4. University of New Orleans' request for approval to appoint Ms. Arlean Wehle as Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration effective August 20, 2025.

***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 appoint Ms. Arlean Wehle as Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration effective August 20, 2025.*

K. System President's Business

1. Personnel Actions

Dr. Gallot said that the campus and System Office Personnel Actions had been reviewed and recommended for approval. Mr. Romero asked for a motion to approve the requests. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Myers, the Personnel Actions were unanimously approved as amended.

Dr. Gallot introduced and welcomed Ms. Sharissa Felder, who had joined the System Office. She will work as Operations Support Specialist.

2. University of Louisiana System's proposed revision to Board Bylaw, Section II. Officers, A. Election.

Dr. Gallot reminded the Board that a proposed revision to a Bylaw had been distributed for 30-day review since the last Board meeting. The revision was necessary to correspond with recent legislation regarding the appointment of a Board Chair. Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following Resolution:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the revision to Board Bylaw, Section II. Officers. A. Election.*

3. University of Louisiana System’s proposed revision to Board Rule, Chapter IV. Finance and Business, Section V. Student Fees, L. Room Deposit.

President Gallot next stated that a proposed revision to a Board Rule had also been distributed for 30-day review. This Rule refers to outdated language regarding room deposits.

Upon motion of Ms. Pierre, seconded by Mr. Busada, the following resolution was unanimously approved by the Board:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the proposed revision to Board Rule, Chapter IV. Finance and Business, Section V. Student Fees, L. Room Deposit.*

4. Hansard v. Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana et al., Docket No.: 2:24-cv-2332; USDC Eastern District of Louisiana; authorization of settlement (Executive Session may be required).

Mr. Brandon DeCuir, Legal Counsel, gave an update on Items K.4. and K.5. concerning settlements on two lawsuits. He indicated that both were accessibility lawsuits and the settlements involved no contribution from the campuses.

*Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items K.4. and K.5. in globo.*

5. Lenz v. Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System et al., Docket No.: 2:24-cv-2428; USDC Eastern District of Louisiana; authorization of settlement (Executive Session may be required).

(See notes for K.4.)

6. System President’s Report

Dr. Gallot congratulated Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs Marcus Jones for being inducted into the Northwestern State University’s Long Purple Line. This accomplishment is the highest honor given to an NSU alumni and recognizes his 20 years of leadership, teaching, and service, including his tenure as the University’s 20th President.

#### *Strategic Plan and Campus Visits*

President Gallot reported that the System administration has been visiting the campuses to present the recently approved Strategic Plan. He said that there was

good reception from the administration, faculty, and communities and the visits were well-received.

*Title IX Summit*

He reminded the Board about the November 6-7 Title IX Summit on the Grambling and Louisiana Tech campuses. He complimented Dr. Erica Calais for coordinating this event. Dr. Gallot further reported that State Senators Beth Mizell and Regina Barrow have commended Dr. Calais for her professionalism and work.

*Self-Evaluation Results*

System President Gallot said that the Board members had submitted their annual self-evaluations with a 100% completion rate. He thanked them and said that the participation will aid in the direction of Board operations and effectiveness.

*Accessibility Webinars*

Dr. Gallot said that participation on the System-led Accessibility webinars has been exceptional. Two more sessions are on the schedule for November 12 and 19. The purpose is to ensure that online spaces across the System are accessible and compliant with the U.S. Department of Justice's rule.

*Office Move*

Dr. Gallot reported that the System Office would be relocating to the Iberville Building for more than a year while renovations are being conducted in the Claiborne space. However, most 2026 Board meetings will be held in the Claiborne Building Auditorium as usual. The Iberville Building is located at 627 North Fourth Street.

L. Board Chair's Business

Mr. Romero again welcomed Mr. Hogan to his first meeting. He indicated that he was appointing Mr. Hogan to the Audit, Facilities Planning, and Finance Committees. Chair Romero recognized Ms. Nechaeva for her perfect attendance at the Capital Outlay visits. He also thanked Mr. Janet for scheduling the morning's live ethics session, which helps members easily meet their requirement for the year.

Mr. Romero also reminded the Board that the campus commencement dates had been emailed to them, and he encouraged them each to attend at least one event.

1. Board Chair's Report

*Nominating Committee*

As the year draws to a close, it is necessary that the Board to elect a Vice Chair for 2026. Mr. Romero said that he has appointed Ms. Liz Pierre, Mr. Steve Davison, and Mr. Keith Myers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the purpose of recommending a member. The Committee will meet prior to the December Board meeting.

2. Other Business

Chair Romero said that the next meeting will be held at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux on December 11. He thanked Dr. Jay Clune for hosting the Board. Additionally, there will be a reception the evening before.

M. Other Business

Mr. Romero reminded the Board to attend the scheduled Board Development in the 7th Floor System Office after the meeting. The topic of discussion is contracts.

N. Adjournment

Upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:56 a.m.