



**Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System
Minutes – January 22, 2026**

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System was called to order at 10:13 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2026 by Chair Mark Romero. The meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Barry Busada, Mr. Steve Davison, 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

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Jo Lethermon, Dr. John Noble, Jr., Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins, Mr. Brad Stevens

Also in attendance were President Rick Gallot, institution representatives, System Staff, interested citizens, and legal counsel Brandon DeCuir and Linda Clark.

B. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Ronald Hogan gave an invocation and Mr. Robert Salim led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Administration of Oath of Office to 2026 Vice Chair and Parliamentarian

Mr. Romero asked Dr. Gallot to administer the Oath of Office to Ms. Kristine Russell as 2026 Vice Chair and Mr. Steve Davison as Parliamentarian. After they were given their Oaths, both said they were humbled and honored to serve this year.

D. University of Louisiana at Monroe’s request for approval to terminate five degree programs: BS in Agribusiness, BS in Health Studies, BBA in Management, BA in Modern Languages, and MS in Gerontology.

Chair Romero asked President Castille and Provost McEacharn to come to the table to give an overview of Item D. from University of Louisiana at Monroe. Dr. Castille gave the rationale to terminate the programs. Upon motion of Mr. Hogan, seconded by Ms. Stokes, the Board unanimously approved the request.

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 to terminate five academic programs: BS in Agribusiness, BS in Health Studies, BBA in Management, BA in Modern Languages, and MS in Gerontology.

E. Update on System Integration Resolution

President Gallot said that, as a follow-up to the approved resolution on November 13 to "Strengthen and Integrate Systemwide Operations through a Comprehensive Transformative Initiative," the System Office has established a Task Force and engaged external partners to advise/assist in data collection and feasibility analysis of the transformation work. To report on the feasibility portion, Dr. Gallot invited Dr. Jim Johnsen, Senior Fellow at the National Association of Higher Education Systems, to discuss the process. Dr. Johnsen reported on challenges in higher education, a vision for the UL System, how other systems have responded to such an integration, and the three phases of implementation: Develop the System Integration and Transformation Plan; Implement the Plan; and Sustain Continuous Improvement.

After a few questions from Board Members, Dr. Gallot commended Dr. James Henderson for focusing on "systemness" while he was System President.

F. System President's Report

President Gallot congratulated the 2026 officers as the year begins. He said that their commitment to service is appreciated.

Board Development/K16 Solutions

Dr. Gallot invited the Board to remain after the conclusion of the meeting for lunch and a Board Development session. He said that K16 Solutions representatives and Dr. Claire Norris would be leading the training, as well as an update from Mr. Eddie Meche and Ms. Ashley McIntyre regarding financial accountability and oversight.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette Presidential Search

Dr. Gallot shared information about the status of the Presidential Search for UL-Lafayette. He indicated that the inaugural meeting/forum had been held on January 14 on the campus in Lafayette. The Committee had reviewed and approved the ad and timeline, gathered feedback from campus and community stakeholders, and confirmed the next steps in recruitment. The preferred date for submissions of applications/nominations is February 11. Semifinalists will be identified and interviewed in late February.

Annual Washington, D.C. Trip

President Gallot also informed the Board that he, along with other staff, will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for Washington Mardi Gras activities. A benefit of the trip is to connect with legislators and other stakeholders to present the message of the UL System. Additionally, Dr. Erica Calais will accompany the Student Government representatives as well as the entire Council of Student Body Presidents. Meetings with lawmakers will be a worthwhile opportunity for these young leaders.

Chair Romero asked for a motion and second to consider one Personnel Action. Upon motion of Ms. Nechaeva, seconded by Mr. Salim, the Board unanimously approved a Personnel Action for the System Office.

G. Board Chair's Report

Upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Ms. Pierre, it was approved to add one item to the meeting agenda. There was a roll call vote, with no opposition.

Mr. Romero said that, in memory of President Gallot's mother, Dr. Mildred Bernice Gauthier Gallot, the Board would like to present a Resolution, which was read by Mr. Romero. Upon motion of Ms. Pierre, and a unanimous second, the Board approved the Resolution. Additionally, Mr. Romero gave Dr. Rick Gallot a Commendation in his mother's honor prepared by the Office of the Governor, The Honorable Jeff Landry.

H. Other Business/Adjournment

Mr. Romero said that the next two Board meetings will be at the end of February. On Thursday, February 26, the Board will convene on McNeese State University's campus for a Regular meeting. The next day, Friday, February 27, the Board will meet in Baton Rouge for a Special meeting to interview finalists for the UL-Lafayette presidency. Mr. Romero encouraged attendance at both of these important meetings.

With no other business to come before the Board, upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Ms. Stokes, the Board adjourned at 11:07 a.m.