

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

September 25, 2024

The Board of Regents met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, in the Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100, Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, 1st Floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Before the committee meetings, Uma Subramanian, the Board’s General Counsel, swore in Misti Cordell as the new Chair. Chair Cordell acknowledged her colleagues and pledged to reach out to all to collaborate for the benefit of students and the workforce in the state. In addition, Chair Cordell thanked Regent Solomon, the previous Chair, for his service and commitment to the Board’s work. Chair Cordell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Doreen Brasseaux called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner
Misti Cordell, Chair
David Aubrey
Blake David
Stephanie Finley
Robert Levy
Kennedy Orr, Student Member
Blake David
Wilbert Pryor
Terrie Sterling
Collis Temple III
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board Representatives present were:

LSU System representative, Rémy Starns
SU System representative, Dr. Leon Tarver
UL System representative, Dr. John Noble

Absent from the meeting were:

Christian Creed
Phillip May
T. Jay Seale III, Vice Chair
Gary Solomon, Jr.
Felix Weill

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Cordell asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 28, 2024 MEETING

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Levy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2024 meeting.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell made the following comments:

- She reiterated her desire to work with all Board members. She committed to driving from her home in north Louisiana to be wherever needed to do the Board's work. She invited Board members to stay in close contact and to let her know whenever there is anything she needs to be aware of. Regent Aubrey suggested that Chair Cordell meet with the other higher education board chairs when possible once they have been appointed by the Governor. He suggested this as a way to express good will from the Board of Regents and show a willingness to work together. Regent Aubrey also asked if she would be meeting with the Governor to which she replied that she soon would.
- She introduced Kennedy Orr, student member, who gave the following report:
 - She mentioned that on September 14, 2024, she attended the first Louisiana Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) meeting of the year. The meeting was productive despite having to be moved to a virtual platform because of Hurricane Francine. During the COSBP meeting Regent Orr shared some updates on behalf of the Board of Regents. COSBP reestablished committees in the following areas: executive initiatives, external affairs, research and development, and legislative and academic affairs. COSBP developed a resolution to address ensuring student participation in voting during this year's and future elections.
 - She added that COSBP discussed syllabus banks and that she will share additional information in the coming months.
 - She ended by noting that hurricane recovery is proceeding and that the various institutions are seeing successful voter registration drives. Regent Sterling asked if all the HBCUs have voting locations. Regent Orr said she was not sure but could find out. Grambling has petitioned for a voting site on the campus. Southern University A&M has a voting site on campus.
- Chair Cordell mentioned that the staff held their annual staff retreat August 28, 2024, at the Automotive Training Center at Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC). This was an opportunity for them to see various BRCC programs in person and to hear from Dr. Donna Beegle, a dynamic leader who worked her way out of generational poverty to earn her GED and later a Ph.D. Dr. Beegle is now doing research and providing training to help move people from poverty to prosperity. For this event, Regents staff wore their school colors to celebrate National College Colors Day and promote higher education.

- She mentioned that Commissioner Reed attended the Lumina State Policy Retreat on September 15, 2024, in Baltimore, Maryland and gave the gathering's keynote address. Commissioner Reed also discussed the Master Plan with the current Leadership Baton Rouge class.
- She noted that Dr. Tristan Denley, who is becoming one of the nation's foremost experts on artificial intelligence (AI) within higher education, was invited to participate in a panel discussion on September 18, 2024, on Capitol Hill hosted by the American Council on Education in conjunction with Senator Bill Cassidy's office. This event focused on how AI supports students on higher education campuses. Various experts discussed the use and integration of AI on college campuses.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Commissioner Reed gave introductory comments about progress toward the Master Plan goals. She stated that there is a clear path to success and thanked the campuses and students who are working to ensure that the goals are met. At this point, Dr. Tristan Denley gave the annual update on the Master Plan, mentioning that each year in September the Board evaluates progress toward reaching the goals, assessing what has been accomplished and what is left to be done. The current-year assessment shows that Louisiana is at 51% attainment rate, showing steady progress toward the Master Plan's goal of having 60% of Louisiana's working-age population (ages 25–64) holding a credential beyond high school by 2030. In 2024, 73,461 new credentials were awarded. Regents David and Temple commented that this ambitious goal has helped to improve the state bond rating and could open the door for a healthier population with lower rates of poverty and incarceration. Dr. Denley mentioned that 85% of Louisiana's graduates are in 3-, 4-, or 5-star jobs, but there is demand for more workers, especially in high-priority areas. Reaching the 60% goal is a team effort both within higher education and across other agencies. Dr. Denley shared a quote from Susana Schowen, Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, praising the collaboration between the Board of Regents and her department. Further, Dr. Denley noted the benefits to graduates and the state as a result of Louisiana's increasing educational attainment. Regent Williams-Brown voiced interest in spreading the

message about the progress with the Master Plan and asked how this could be done. Chair Cordell felt that sharing the information with organizations like LABI (Louisiana Association of Business & Industry) and other economic development groups, as well as with campuses, should be considered.

Another component of the Master Plan, dual enrollment, has grown, with 41,000 students now participating. For three years in a row, higher numbers of African American students have participated. In addition, proactive outreach is increasing; emails have been sent to students in 13 parishes letting them know which institutions in their area they are already qualified to attend. A college access network is being created across the state to bring together community organizations already helping high school students to achieve their goals of attending college.

Dr. Denley announced that the third Meauxmentum Summit will be held in April. He mentioned the Work-Based Learning Initiative, a project funded by the Strada Education Foundation, that is infusing work-based learning into degree programs.

Regent Levy asked Chair Cordell to ensure that the information about the progress on the Master Plan is made available to the Legislature.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Cordell inquired if any member of the Board wanted to take up any of the Committee reports separately before a motion was made to accept all reports.

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Levy, the Board voted unanimously to approve all recommendations from the September 25, 2024 committee meetings.

AUDIT

INTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Laura Soileau and Mrs. Kristin Bourque from EisnerAmper discussed the Internal Audit Charter Renewal, Internal Audit Independence Review, and Internal Audit Risk Assessment Update, and current year's proposed plan for approval. Mrs. Soileau presented the Internal Audit Charter for the Board of Regents and outlined the elements that contributed to changes, noting that the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) released new Global Internal Audit Standards in January 2024, which become effective January 9, 2025. Therefore, to best align with the new Global Internal Audit Standards, EAG Public Sector (a.k.a., EisnerAmper) made updates to Regents' internal audit charter applying the IIA's published charter for public sector as a model. She further explained the purpose of the Internal Audit Charter and the requirement to approve the Charter annually. Mrs. Soileau then certified EisnerAmper's independence and objectivity for internal auditing at the Board of Regents.

Mrs. Bourque continued with the presentation by discussing the completed FY25 Risk Assessment and proposed plan for approval. At present, the two areas to be audited by EisnerAmper include the Audit Structure Reorganization for the Board of Regents agency and the Daily Vessel Rate Computation at the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) program. Once these audits are completed, EisnerAmper will present its findings, and reassess to determine whether another internal audit is to be initiated. Mrs. Bourque also noted that EisnerAmper will complete a follow-up audit of observations identified during audits completed in prior years and any corresponding management action plans; these may include any audit findings from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA). Regent Williams-Brown requested a motion to reapprove the Internal Audit Charter.

On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Finley, the motion passed unanimously. Another motion was requested by Regent Williams-Brown to approve the Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2024–25; the motion, made by Regent Sterling and seconded by Regent David, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE NEW INTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACT WITH P&N

Ms. Bentley-Smith presented the new internal audit contract with EisnerAmper for FY25. She explained that work under this contract is required to be performed in accordance with Act 314 of the 2015 Regular Session and the Institute of Internal Auditors' *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*. Regent Aubrey questioned the role of EisnerAmper related to the agency audit, and Mrs. Soileau and Ms. Bentley-Smith confirmed that EisnerAmper provides only internal auditing services, while the Louisiana Legislative Auditor completes an annual audit of the Board of Regents agency. Regent Aubrey also requested clarification of the EisnerAmper internal audit contract structure and cost. It was noted that while this contract is for three fiscal years and ends on June 30, 2027, it is brought to the Board annually for review. Further, the cost of the contract is \$127,000 per year. Regent Williams-Brown requested a motion to approve the internal audit contract with EisnerAmper. On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent David, the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY 2024–2025 OPERATING BUDGETS

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, began his presentation by stating that the September Board of Regents' budget hearings provided an entire day for the Board to receive budget presentations from each of the management boards regarding their campus and system budgets as well as the Board of Regents agency budget,

which includes the programs of LUMCON and LOSFA. The hearings focused on the FY 2024–2025 operating budgets.

The budget hearings allowed for questions and discussion on immediate and long-term budget needs as well as potential impacts of a proposed \$250M State General Fund reduction to higher education. Below is the schedule for the budget hearings.

Schedule of Budget Hearings for Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Board Conference Room, Claiborne Building, 6th Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

9:00 a.m.	Introduction
9:05 a.m.	Statewide Budget Overview
9:45 a.m.	Board of Regents
10:00 a.m.	Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)
10:30 a.m.	Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA)
11:00 a.m.	University of Louisiana System
12:05 p.m.	Lunch Break
12:45 p.m.	Southern University System
1:45 p.m.	Break
2:00 p.m.	Louisiana State University System
3:00 p.m.	Louisiana Community and Technical College System

Following the hearings, the Finance Committee met to review and consider acceptance of the FY 2024–2025 operating budgets. At this time, BOR staff presented statewide summary information for the Board’s consideration.

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board unanimously approved the funding recommendations for all Higher Education Systems, boards and agencies for FY 2024–2025.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. LaBruyere mentioned that this month’s actions complete the final step in the FY 2024–2025 budget development cycle. Next month, staff will update and prepare for approval a preliminary funding request for FY 2025–2026, which will be the first step in the FY 2025–2026

budget cycle. This budget request is required to be submitted to the Commissioner of Administration by November 1.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, summarized the Consent Agenda, containing the small capital projects approved by staff since the previous meeting:

SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. **LSU-AG: Rice Research Station Generator Installation, Rayne, LA** – Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Rice Research Board Funds \$300,000
2. **LSU A&M: Miller Hall Exterior Envelope Repairs, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$208,000

On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Temple, the Facilities and Property Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the items on the Consent Agenda, including the small capital projects report.

ACT 959 PROJECT: SOWELA FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOOL AND MARITIME TRAINING CENTER

Act 959 of 2003 permits institutions to initiate certain capital projects not exceeding \$10M that are funded with self-generated/auxiliary revenues, grants, donations, or local/federal funds. The Louisiana Community and Technical College System, on behalf of SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA), submitted two requests for the purpose of constructing a new Flight Training School on the main campus and renovating an existing facility at the Port of Lake Charles as a Maritime Training Center.

The first project involves the construction of a new Flight Training School on the main campus. The new flight school will provide aspiring pilots with comprehensive training programs, both private and commercial, and will incorporate a state-of-the-art flight simulator, hangar facility, and meeting space to create a world-class flight training experience. The project scope includes construction of a new 12,390-square-foot (SF) metal hangar with 4,160 SF of conditioned space, a small parking lot, sidewalks, lighting, fencing, a covered canopy, and 13,367 SF in new paving to the existing taxiway. The total project cost of \$5.5M will be funded through a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (\$3.5M) and a bond referendum from the City of Lake Charles (\$2M).

The second project involves the renovation of an existing facility located on a parcel of land adjacent to the Calcasieu River in Lake Charles, which has been pledged for use by SOWELA by the Port of Lake Charles. The Maritime Training Center will provide training through industry-based certifications and customized programs focusing on maritime safety, security, regulatory compliance, hazardous material handling, and technical systems. The project scope includes the renovation of an existing 34,500 SF warehouse, including 10,000 SF of occupied and conditioned space with classrooms, marine vessel simulation labs, offices, and support spaces. Two enclosed multipurpose labs (9,700 SF each) and one open-walled lab (2,850 SF) will also be included in the renovation. The total project cost of \$5M will be funded via a Community Development Block Grant Program Disaster Recovery grant through the City of Lake Charles.

On motion of Supervisor Noble, seconded by Regent Temple, the Facilities and Property Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of two Act 959 project requests submitted by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, on behalf of the SOWELA Technical Community College, for the purpose of constructing a new Flight Training School and Maritime Training Center.

OTHER BUSINESS: HURRICANE FRANCINE AND ACT 751 (HOUSE BILL 940) UPDATES

Mr. Herring provided the Board with an update on the impact of Hurricane Francine. He noted that seven institutions and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) reported damage from the storm, primarily caused by water intrusion from wind-blown water, which led to leaking roof systems and building exterior issues. He informed the Board that each institution and LUMCON would be filing insurance claims and that a federal disaster declaration was issued on September 17, 2024, which would provide additional resources to the institutions for storm-related recovery.

Mr. Herring then provided the Board with an update on the status of Act 751, the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program, since the August 2024 Board of Regents meeting. He indicated that all project lists for FY25 have been approved by the state Office of Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) and projects are being initiated. He concluded with a summary of the projects by type (infrastructure, roofing/building exterior, mechanical/electrical/plumbing, etc.) that will be accomplished in FY25 across all four systems.

Regent Aubrey asked about the status of the capital outlay site visits. Mr. Herring noted the institutions previously visited and encouraged all members to attend upcoming visits.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Denley presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine items including Staff Approvals. Regent Sterling asked for clarification on the states included in the SARA agreement. Dr. Denley advised that all states except California are included. Regent Temple asked why California is not included. Dr. Denley responded that California chose not to be part of the

agreement and that California-based institutions are operating in Louisiana and are required to be licensed.

On motion of Regent Williams-Brown, seconded by Regent Orr, the Committee received and recommended Board of Regents approval of the items on the Consent Agenda.

2024 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PLANNING

Dr. Denley presented the 2024 Statewide Strategic Academic Planning, informing the Committee that institutions annually submit three-year plans, which detail the degree programs they plan to create over the next three years. He also advised that workforce needs are now being considered in the academic planning process.

He noted that new academic programs are not approved through this planning process and that institutions are still required to follow the approval process for new academic programs. He added that each plan has been reviewed by appropriate management board.

Dr. Denley then provided an update on the progress of programs in various stages of implementation, as well as those that may be proposed for termination.

Regent Aubrey asked when the Board will see the list of low-completer programs and whether completer numbers vary by degree program. Dr. Denley responded that established low-completer thresholds vary by degree level and that, over the next year, Regents staff will be reviewing the thresholds to ensure that they serve their intended purpose. He noted that he would like to update the Board at the beginning of the year

Regent Pryor inquired about the potential termination of a Master of Education program at Nicholls State University. Dr. Denley responded that Nicholls is looking to restructure, rather than eliminate, the program.

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Pryor, the Committee approved the recommended actions on the 2024–2025 institutional academic plans.

ACT 790 DIFFERENTIAL TUITION FOR HIGH-COST PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley informed the Committee that Act 790 of the Louisiana Legislature's 2024 Regular Session allows institutions from all four systems to set differentiated tuition rates for high-cost undergraduate programs.

He added that the Act charges the Board of Regents to create a list of high-cost program categories. He noted that a program's inclusion on this list does not oblige a management board to increase tuition or fees; it simply provides the ability to set differential tuition and fees based on management board action. He added that prior to imposing any increase in tuition or fee, a management board must establish criteria for waivers in cases of financial hardship and notify prospective students.

Regent Sterling commented that the Board should keep in mind that potential budget cuts, if realized, will have implications for how institutions will use this list.

On motion of Regent Williams-Brown, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Committee recommended approval of the list of High-Cost Undergraduate Program Categories for differential tuition authority according to Act 790 of the Louisiana Legislature's 2024 Regular Session.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF RULEMAKING

Dr. Boutté informed the Committee that the TOPS Scholarship and Grant Program administrative rules originally provided that circumstances related to a student's ability to pay for school are not sufficient to grant an exception to the requirement that a student must enroll full time, maintain continuous enrollment, and earn 24 hours each academic year because TOPS is a merit-based scholarship program. In 2019, the Board of Regents approved an amendment to

this provision which would allow an exception to the general rule. This exception requires that a student provide documentation that the family's financial circumstances had changed due to unforeseen circumstances and that the student was required to work in order to supplement the household income.

Dr. Boutté noted that since adoption of the 2019 amendment, staff has seen an increase in the number of students requesting an exception based on the financial circumstances of their family. Many students have requested an exception because their TOPS award was not paid in a prior semester due to circumstances beyond the student's control and not related to a student's failure to earn the required cumulative grade point average or meet other requirements of the program, resulting in a past-due bill at their school. Because of the past-due bill, students were unable to enroll in a later semester to maintain continuous enrollment. Staff has also seen students whose one remaining parent has died, leaving the student to pay for all their school expenses without family assistance. These students are only able to obtain an exception for one semester based on the death of an immediate family member, and their only reason for not enrolling in school is the inability to pay.

As a result of these trends, Dr. Boutté stated that staff proposes to broaden a student's ability to request an exception when financial circumstances prevent them from enrolling in school. Students will still be required to provide documentation that circumstances beyond their control caused them to fail to meet the TOPS continuation requirements; however, staff will be able to consider only the student's income rather than requiring that the family's financial circumstances be the issue. In addition, students will be required to provide a plan for preventing such circumstances from interfering with their ability to attend school in the future. She noted that the LOSFA Advisory Board had discussed this item extensively and had recommended this rulemaking for approval.

On motion of Regent Williams-Brown, seconded by Chair Cordell, the Statewide Programs Committee voted unanimously to recommend authorization of the Executive Director of LOSFA to publish a Notice of Intent to make these rules permanent.

TOPS ACT EXCEPTION

Dr. Boutté indicated that the TOPS statute requires that students achieve a qualifying score on the ACT no later than the national ACT test date in April of their year of high school graduation. The law provides for an exception to this requirement if the administering agency determines that the student was prevented from taking the test prior to high school graduation due to circumstances beyond the student's control and which were attributable to the administration of the test. The law allows an extension under these circumstances to September 30 of the year of the student's high school graduation, and it requires a one semester reduction in the period of the student's eligibility for TOPS.

One request for exception to earn a qualifying score on the ACT no later than the National ACT test date in April of the year of high school graduation was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on September 11, 2024. The student has presented facts and documentation that they believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

On motion of Regent Williams-Brown, seconded by Chair Cordell, the Statewide Programs Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request for exception that requires a student to earn a qualifying score on the ACT no later than the National ACT test date in April of the year of high school graduation.

TOPS HOME STUDY EXCEPTIONS

Dr. Boutté reminded the Committee that the TOPS statute requires that a student begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year. Act 95 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature implemented a provision which allows the administering agency to grant exceptions to this requirement when a student provides

documentation that the transfer to a home study program later than the statutorily provided time frame was beyond the student's control.

Two requests for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on September 10, 2024. The students have presented facts and documentation that they believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

TOPS/M.J. FOSTER EXCEPTIONS

Dr. Boutté summarized TOPS and M.J. Foster regulatory provisions related to maintaining continuous enrollment. Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules require TOPS recipients to continue to enroll full-time for the fall and spring semesters of each academic year, to remain enrolled throughout the semester, and to earn a minimum number of credit hours by the end of the academic year. Section 2103.E authorizes the governing body to grant an exception to the full-time, continuous enrollment and the annual earned-hour requirements when the "student/recipient has exceptional circumstances that are beyond his immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution."

In addition, she noted that Section 2207.A.5 of the M.J. Foster administrative rules provides that students must maintain continuous enrollment, unless granted an exception for cause in accordance with §2103 of the Scholarship and Grant administrative rules. The same types of exceptions that apply for TOPS students apply to other programs administered by LOSFA for which the Legislature has provided the administering agency the authority to grant exceptions, including M.J. Foster.

Dr. Boutté informed the Committee that fifteen requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on September 11, 2024. Two requests for exception to the M.J. Foster continuous enrollment requirement were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on September 11, 2024. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent Orr, the Statewide Programs Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of requests for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year, to the TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year, and to the M.J. Foster requirement that a student maintain continuous enrollment in school.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

Dr. Allison Smith, Assistant Commissioner for Student Health and Wellness, provided an overview of the state's college recovery programs and initiatives, noting that September is Collegiate Recovery Month nationwide. She summarized the history of the collegiate recovery movement, issues around student recovery, the necessity of solving related problems, and the benefit to both students and campuses in providing these services. She indicated that national organizations have identified a strong need for collaboration among local, regional, and state partners to ensure the success of recovery programs. Louisiana was featured as a higher education collaborative and she noted that this has been a statewide priority for several years. Dr. Smith then profiled several new recovery programs available at campuses across the state and ongoing activities to support these programs and the students they serve. Regent Finley asked about outcomes for students in recovery and Dr. Smith provided data on success as well as

demographics on the Collegiate Recovery Program. She also profiled several collegiate recovery graduates who embody the remarkable impact of these programs.

Dr. Smith then introduced Ms. Kristina Canfield of SLU's Lion Up Recovery Program. She also noted support for mental health services provided during the 2023 and 2024 Regular Legislative Sessions, and the partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health in support of the work.

Ms. Canfield reviewed the history of the Lion Up Recovery program and data related to its impact on campus, as well as activities that has launched to help reach and serve students. Regent Finley asked how freshmen are recruited to these programs; Ms. Canfield discussed the on-campus outreach efforts.

Dr. Smith announced the establishment of two new collegiate recovery programs, at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Northwestern State University, with funding of \$750,000. Regent Temple asked how many institutions in Louisiana have recovery programs; Dr. Smith responded that Grambling State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Tulane University, Louisiana State University and A&M College, Northshore Technical Community College, and the Southern University Law Center, in conjunction with Southern University and A&M College currently have programs. Dr. Erica Calais, UL System, spoke on behalf of the System about statewide efforts and the new recovery programs being launched. She summarized the value of these programs to students, campuses, and communities, and expressed the System's gratitude for the state's prioritization of these initiatives.

PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE

R.S. 17:1808 (ACADEMIC LICENSURE): CONDITIONAL LICENSE EXTENSIONS

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda, which included requests for extension of conditional licenses from two academic degree-granting institutions domiciled in Louisiana: American University of Technology located in New Orleans and Robert Cavalier University located in Gretna. Both institutions provide online education and are pursuing accreditation through the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Chair Cordell, the Planning, Research and Performance Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Regents approve extension of the conditional licenses as presented.

PERSONNEL

EVALUATION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. Matthew LaBruyere, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, provided the Committee with an overview of the process for evaluating the Commissioner of Higher Education. Mr. LaBruyere then stated that the Personnel Committee is authorized to go into executive session and that the Commissioner had been advised of such as required by law. He noted that the Commissioner agreed to have her evaluation discussed in executive session. A motion to enter into executive session was made by Regent Finley and seconded by Regent Temple. A roll call vote was taken to enter into executive session.

Committee Members voting to enter executive session

Robert W. Levy – Chair
Terrie P. Sterling – Vice Chair
Blake R. David
Stephanie A. Finley
Collis B. Temple III
Judy Williams-Brown

Upon the conclusion of the executive session Regent Levy made a motion, seconded by Regent Finley to return from executive session.

Committee Members voting to return from executive session

Robert W. Levy – Chair
Terrie P. Sterling – Vice Chair
Blake R. David
Stephanie A. Finley
Collis B. Temple III
Judy Williams-Brown

Regent Levy stated that the Personnel Committee discussed the Commissioner of Higher Education’s performance using the reflections and observations document provided by the Commissioner.

On motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent Temple, the Committee recommended that the Board approve the evaluation of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed presented several items to the Board:

- She announced that Dr. Michael Khonsari, LSU mechanical engineering professor, has been honored for a lifetime of service to mechanical engineering research and education with an honorary lifetime membership in the American Society of Mechanical Engineering.
- She mentioned that she and Chair Cordell attended the Call Me MISTER State Conference at Grambling State University, where 50 African American males enrolled in college of education programs around the state were recognized. Commissioner Reed expressed her excitement to see these students graduate and enter Louisiana’s classrooms. Chair Cordell endorsed the Commissioner’s view, celebrated the efficacy of the program, and suggested inviting members of the group to provide a presentation to the Board.
- She noted that Regents Williams-Brown, Levy, and Aubrey joined Chair Cordell and her for the investiture of President Martin Lemelle at Grambling State University.
- She mentioned that Regents would receive the latest “Louisiana’s Got Talent” Podcast featuring Dr. Donna Beegle speaking about her upbringing and the impacts of intergenerational poverty across the country.

- Commissioner Reed also reinforced the need to spread the message of the Master Plan. She noted that printed copies will be mailed to legislators, as well as national and state partners. She said that Board staff will present to legislative committees on October 11 and October 17, and will distribute printed copies of the Master Plan at those events as well. Board staff will also look for opportunities to speak to various communities about progress on the Master Plan and would welcome any Regents who wish to join in this effort.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There was none. Regent Aubrey reminded the Board of his meeting schedule suggestion and reiterated his suggestion, first mentioned at the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 24, to add an agenda item to cover two quarterly reports.

Chair Cordell reminded the Board that the October meeting will be held in Natchitoches. She asked the Board to review the tentative 2025 calendar before a vote at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Levy, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Appendix A
Board Meeting Guest List
Wednesday, September 25, 2024

NAME	AFFILIATION
Blair LeBlanc	HLS Fiscal
Kristin Bourque	EisnerAmper
Robert René	Southern University System
William Tulak	LCTCS
Jeannine O'Rourke	UL System
Margaret Finch	LSU A&M
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Brian Roberts	BOR/LUMCON
Dawn Diez	OBH
Felecia Johnson	OBH
Luria Young	SUBR
Annette Baldwin	Southeastern Louisiana University
SuJuan Boutte	LOSFA/BOR
Julia Gradney	OPB
Erica Calais	UL System
Jakob Ward	OPB
Amber Slater	OBH