

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

April 23, 2025

The Board of Regents met at 10:40 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in the Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Misti 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
Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair
Phillip May, Jr., Secretary
David Aubrey
Christian Creed
Blake David
Stephanie Finley
Ted Glaser III
Dallas Hixson
Darren Mire
Kennedy Orr, Student Member
Wilbert Pryor
Christy Reeves
K. Samer Shamieh
Collis Temple III
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board representatives present were:

LSU System representative, Laurie
Lipsey Aronson
UL System representative, John Noble Jr.
LCTCS representative, Stevie Smith

Mgt. Board representative not present was:

Southern System

Appendix A
Guest List

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Cordell inquired whether any member of the Board wanted to take up any of the Committee reports separately before a motion was made to accept all reports. There were no requests.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Board voted unanimously to approve all recommendations from the April 23, 2025 Committee meetings.

LEGISLATIVE

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed provided an update of Regents' legislative priorities and other bills of interest under consideration during the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

2025 BOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **Career Office Reform:** Establishes a Career Alignment Task Force to develop a campus scorecard based on findings of best and promising practices, like early-onset career advising (freshman year) and increased work-based learning opportunities, to connect students to employment opportunities and address outmigration.
- **Physician Shortage/TOPS – HB 275, Rep. Berault:** Allows a TOPS-eligible student who had previously opted out of TOPS to receive TOPS if returning to attend an in-state medical school. This priority is specifically designed to address Louisiana's physician shortage.
- **Geaux Teach – HB 109, Rep. Thompson:** Makes this existing scholarship for future educators a first-restricted-dollar award to cover tuition, books, and instructional materials.
- **Financial Aid Alignment – HB 161, Rep. Hughes:** Aligns TOPS Tech Early Start, TOPS Tech and M.J. Foster Promise eligibility based on the critical workforce needs identified by the Louisiana Workforce Commission.
- **TOPS Tech Early College Credit – HB 70, Rep. Brass:** Expands eligibility criteria for a TOPS Tech award to include the attainment of early college credit in high school through completion of dual enrollment courses or other approved skills and/or learning measures.
- **Retirement – HB 24, Rep. Bacala:** Requests that the optional retirement plan (ORP) managed by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) include provisions for: expansion of participation in ORP; allowing employees to move from ORP to TRSL after seven years of service; allowing persons over 60 to opt out of TRSL; increasing the employer contribution rate to better align with other Southern states; and allowing for an ORP Advisory Committee as a component of the TRSL Board.

- **Job Order Contracting – HB 566, Rep. Turner:** Establishes job order contracting as an alternative project delivery method applicable to deferred maintenance of public facilities by postsecondary education institutions for certain work types.
- **Healthcare Task Force Consolidation – HB 544, Rep. Turner:** Creates a committee/subcommittee structure for the Health Works Commission, Nursing Supply and Demand Council and Simulation Medical Training and Education Council.
- **HBCU Advisory Council – HB 142, Rep. Mena:** Creates additional membership on Council, provides for student member travel payments, and allows for examination of campus safety on HBCU campuses.
- **Dual Enrollment Taskforce – HB 71, Rep. Brass:** Revises the membership of the Dual Enrollment Task Force by removal of two obsolete members and addition of two new members.

Bills of Interest

- **UNO Transfer – SB 202, Sen. Harris:** Transfers UNO to the LSU System.
- **Hazing Training – HB 279, Rep. Boyd:** Requires certain postsecondary education students to complete an anti-hazing course.
- **TOPS Excellence/Equalization – HB 77, Rep. Turner:** Revises Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award amounts and adds an award category for students with an ACT score of 31 or above.
- **LCTCS Bonds – SB 72, Sen. Reese:** Provides relative to the issuance of bonds for financing certain capital improvement projects within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.
- **Deferred Maintenance – HB 335, Rep. Turner:** Requires the treasurer to deposit \$100 M from the State General Fund (Direct) to the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Fund.
- **Support Fund – HB 579, Rep. Emerson:** Transfers funds from the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF) and repeals the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund.
- **UAL/TRSL – HB 473, Rep. Emerson:** Repeals certain funds in the state treasury and applies the monies from those funds to the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL).
- **Constitutional Funding Changes – HB 472, Rep. Emerson:** Revises Article VII of the Constitution of Louisiana relative to revenue and finance.

- **DEI in State Agencies – HB 421, Rep. Chenevert:** Requires state agencies to abolish all DEI programs, offices, and positions and all DEI performance requirements for employees.
- **State Services and Benefits – SB 100, Sen. Miguez:** Requires each agency defined in proposed law to determine the eligibility of individuals receiving state services and benefits from the agency, including determining which individuals attempting to receive state services and benefits are "illegal aliens" or "unaccompanied alien children."
- **ICE Reporting – HB 307, Rep. Henry:** Requires a state agency or political subdivision to report individuals who seek public assistance and are not citizens of the U.S. to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Regent Aubrey inquired whether, if HB 473 passes, it will move forward as a constitutional amendment. Ms. Uma Subramanian, Executive Counsel, confirmed that the bill would move forward as a constitutional amendment and noted that there would likely be a special election in 2026 to vote on constitutional amendment bills that pass out of the current legislative session. Regent Aubrey asked whether the amendment, if passed, would impact the Board of Regents Support Fund. Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives, responded that the amendment in its current posture would eliminate the funding source for BoRSF and make the fund subject to appropriation. She indicated that, with the vote scheduled in 2026, impacts to the Support Fund will not occur until 2027.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Denley presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine items including Staff Approvals.

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley presented for approval the Bachelor of Science in Coastal Meteorology at Louisiana State University A&M, Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering at Louisiana State University A&M, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Technology at Louisiana State University of Alexandria,

Bachelor of Science in Integrative Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Bachelor of Science in Scientific Visual Communication at Louisiana Tech University, and Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans.

Dr. Denley noted that the Bachelor of Science in Coastal Meteorology at Louisiana State University A&M will meet the requirements for students to enter many master's and doctoral programs at Louisiana State University A&M.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Mire, the Committee recommended Board of Regents approval of the four proposed new programs as presented.

CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND LOUISIANA
CYBERSECURITY TALENT INITIATIVE FUND

Dr. Denley advised the Committee that the Cybersecurity Education Management Council was provided \$1 million in FY 2024–25 by the Legislature to expand cyber education in the state. He informed the Committee that eleven institutions have submitted applications requesting a total of \$1.7 million, so the Council will review applications and develop funding recommendations at their meeting in early May. The Board whether he would return to the Committee to provide an update in June and Dr. Denley responded that he would.

Regent Pryor inquired about the demand for cyber degrees in the state, noting that Grambling State University was the first institution in the state to offer this program. Dr. Denley responded that there is a significant need for cyber programs in the state because workforce demand is high. Regent Finley added that the Committee does consider overlapping in degree programs, including regional impact, when assessing requests for new programs.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Committee received and recommended funding be provided from the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund for applications selected by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) during its May meeting, with a report on CEMC's funding decisions to be provided to the Board in June.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

DIVISION OF ENDOWED CHAIR INTO ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS: LSU AND A&M
COLLEGE

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives notified the Committee that LSU A&M has requested approval to divide the Gordon A. and Mary Cain Chair in Chemical Engineering #2, a \$2 million endowed chair, into three Endowed Professorships, as follows:

- Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #6 with a corpus of \$1 million (\$600,000 non-state/\$400,000 BoRSF)
- Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #7 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non-state/\$200,000 BoRSF)

Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #8 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non-state/\$200,000 BoRSF)

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent May, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve LSU A&M's request to divide the Gordon A. and Mary Cain Chair in Chemical Engineering #2 into three (3) endowed professorships, as follows: (1) Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #6, with a corpus of \$1,000,000 (\$600,000 non-state/\$400,000 BoRSF); (2) Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #7, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non-state/\$200,000 BoRSF); and (3) Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #8, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non-state/\$200,000 BoRSF).

CONVERSION OF ENDOWED SUPERIOR GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP INTO
ENDOWED CHAIR AND APPOINTMENT OF A HOLDER WITHOUT A NATIONAL SEARCH:
PENNINGTON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Ms. Robison informed the Committee that PBRC has requested approval to convert the LPFA Postdoctoral Fellowship, created in FY 2015–16 from a matched Endowed Chair, back into the LPFA Endowed Chair in Nutrition, with a \$1 million corpus, and fill the endowment with Dr. Leanne Redman via internal appointment. She noted that Dr. Redman is recognized as an international leader in obesity research and her curriculum vitae has been reviewed and determined to align well with all expectations of a chairholder outlined in the Endowed Chairs policy.

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent May, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve Pennington Biomedical Research Center's request to revert the LPFA Postdoctoral Fellowship back to LPFA Endowed Chair in Nutrition, with a corpus of \$1 million (\$600,000 non-state/\$400,000 BoRSF) and appoint Dr. Leanne Redman to the Chair.

FY 2024–25 BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Robison highlighted the process for developing external evaluations for proposals submitted to the constitutionally prescribed program components of the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) and specific award recommendations for FY 2024–25. She noted that the current Revenue Estimating Conference projection is aligned with the budget approved during the 2024 Regular Legislative Session and sufficient funds are available in the Support Fund to accommodate the recommendations. She then specified the following nine (9) recommendations for FY 2024–25 across all BoRSF subprograms, to be funded with earnings distributed during the fiscal year. By these recommendations, the Board was asked to authorize 186 awards, with contingencies, as follows:

I. Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars

Board action completes the endowments for proposals ranked 1–5 in the Consultants’ Report (i.e., proposals 009EC, 010EC, 004EC, 001EC, and 017EC).

II. Enhancement of the Quality of Academic, Research, and Agricultural Departments and Units

Board action approves the following:

- A. Departmental Enhancement: Disbursement of \$2,313,356 estimated to be available in Departmental Enhancement for FY 2024–25 to fund the first year of twenty–one (21) new proposals at the funding levels and with the funding stipulations recommended by consultants.
- B. BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative: Funding for five (5) proposals, ranked 1–5, submitted in the FY 2024–25 cycle to the BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative for the durations and at the levels recommended.
- C. Endowed Professorships: A total of \$1,980,000 from the Support Fund for the Endowed Professorships subprogram, including First-Generation Undergraduate Scholarships, to match new and prior-year requests at 17 campuses.
- D. Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships: \$850,000 from the Support Fund to match eighteen (18) applications submitted in FY 2024–25 under the Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships subprogram.

III. Targeted Research & Development

Board action approves disbursement of \$2,237,817 estimated to be available in FY 2024–25 to fund the first year of new RCS, ITRS, PoC/P, and ATLAS projects as follows:

1. Research Competitiveness Subprogram: \$1,249,973
2. Industrial Ties Research Subprogram: \$637,844
 - A. Industrial Ties: \$477,906
 - B. Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative: \$159,938
3. Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars: \$350,000

Approved R&D proposals shall be funded at the levels and with the stipulations recommended by consultants; Support Fund money shall be awarded to fund at recommended levels the top twenty-three (23) RCS proposals, four (4) ITRS proposals, four (4) PoC/P proposals, and eight (8) ATLAS proposals. Should the amount of money ultimately available to fund first-year activities in all R&D projects be less than the \$2,237,817 disbursed herein, adherence to the following principles shall be uniformly enforced: (1) should an institution refuse or be denied an award, or should FY 2024-25 money be returned from previously funded R&D contracts, that money shall be offered to the next-ranked proposal which the consultants recommended for Priority I or II funding within the respective subprogram (ranks 9–10 in ATLAS), subject to availability of funds; (2) if the remaining money in the budget for a particular component is insufficient to fully fund the next-ranked recommended proposal for that component, the remaining funds shall constitute the total award for that proposal; and (3) if there are no remaining Priority I proposals in a particular subprogram, the money shall be awarded in descending rank order to Priority I or II proposal(s) in another R&D subprogram in accordance with restrictions applicable to allocation of funds for multi-year projects. R&D Priority I and II proposals shall be funded in rank order at the levels and durations and with the stipulations recommended by consultants until the funds designated for each component have been exhausted.

IV. Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students

Board action approves disbursement of \$1,000,000 from the Support Fund to match twelve (12) applications, ranked 1–12, submitted in FY 2024–25 under the Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships subprogram.

V. Contingency Plan for Budgetary Shortfall

Board action approved the following contingency plan for a budgetary shortfall: Should available FY 2024–25 Support Fund revenues not achieve the amount cited herein during FY 2024–25, any shortfall shall be accommodated through a proportionate reduction in the amounts allocated for proposals in the competitive non-endowment Enhancement and Research and Development program components.

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the FY 2024–25 BoRSF funding recommendations, with contingencies, as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Robison noted that a question had been asked about the disposition of an endowments matched at the University of New Orleans if the institution moves from the UL System to the LSU System. She informed the Committee that, for any institution undergoing such a change, all matched endowments must remain with the institution and any transfer would require approval of the original donor (or donor's authorized representative), the system's Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Regents.

There being no further business to come before the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee, on motion of Regent Glaser, seconded by Regent May, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Final Rulemaking – Implements provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 which provide that the Chafee ETV shall be awarded without regard to financial need

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, Executive Director for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), explained that at its December 11, 2024, meeting, the Board of Regents authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to implement guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, which stated that the Chafee ETV is not to be included as other financial assistance when determining a student's eligibility for federal financial aid. More recent clarification also indicates that a student may receive the full Chafee ETV award amount even if they have other sources of financial aid that meet their full cost of attendance. Dr. Boutté noted that these changes apply only to the awarding of federal financial assistance.

B. TOPS Home Study Exceptions – TOPS statutory provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that one request for an exception to the deadline to begin a home study program was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of March 13, 2025. The student has presented facts and documentation that the student believes justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance, and the LOSFA Advisory Board recommends Board of Regents approval.

C. TOPS and M.J. Foster Promise Exceptions – 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

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that three requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of March 13, 2025. In addition, at

the same meeting, the LOSFA Advisory Board reviewed and approved three requests for exception to the M.J. Foster Promise requirements. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance, and the Advisory Board recommends Board of Regents approval.

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Orr, the Statewide Committee voted unanimously to recommend Board approval of the Consent Agenda items.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Pryor asked about campus-related hazing incidents and what is being done to address the issue. Commissioner Reed responded that this issue would be discussed later, during the Board of Regents meeting.

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda, starting with the recommendation of two renewal applications for academic licensure. The next item was recommendations for approval of six initial and sixteen renewal applications, as recommended by the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools.

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Planning, Research, and Performance Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Regents approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda.

- A. R.S. 17:1808 (Academic Licensure)
 - 1. Renewal Applications
 - a. Chamberlain University – Chicago, IL
 - b. Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Louisiana Campus, Monroe, LA
- B. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools
 - 1. Initial License Applications
 - a. Community Helpers Early Learning Professionals, Lake Charles, LA
 - b. Delta College West, Lake Charles, LA
 - c. Dental Assisting Solutions, Shreveport, LA
 - d. Lake Charles Dental Assistant School, Lake Charles, LA

- e. Top Tier Dental – New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- f. Top Tier Dental – Slidell, Slidell, LA
- 2. Renewal Applications
 - a. Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2083
 - b. Beso Beauty, Metairie, LA - License #2264
 - c. Carter's Career Center, Monroe, LA - License #2286
 - d. Coastal College – Hammond, Hammond, LA - License #791
 - e. Hospitality Opportunity and Service Training (HOST) Program, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2312
 - f. ITI Technical College, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2007
 - g. LifeShare Phlebotomy School, Shreveport, LA - License #2313
 - h. Louisiana Dental Assistant School, Zachary, LA - License #2073
 - i. Louisiana Dental Institute, Monroe, LA - License #2287
 - j. Next Level Educational Services, LaPlace, LA - License #2331
 - k. Rosebud Training Academy, Baker, LA - License #2369
 - l. The H.E.A.R.T. Academy, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2348
 - m. Tulsa Welding School – Jacksonville Campus, Jacksonville, FL - License #2123
 - n. United Dental Institute – Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2328
 - o. United Dental Institute – Lafayette, Lafayette, LA - License #2329
 - p. United Dental Institute – New Orleans, New Orleans, LA - License #2330

Following the Consent Agenda, Dr. Craig provided a high-level overview of the 2024 Health Works Commission Annual report, one of the Board of Regents' annual legislative submissions. She summarized the roles of the three healthcare workforce groups staffed by the Board: the Health Works Commission (HWC), Nursing Supply and Demand Council (NSDC), and Simulation Medical Training and Education Council (SMTEC). Dr. Craig noted House Bill 544 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session, which proposes consolidating NSDC and SMTEC into two committees under HWC to improve efficiency. She highlighted continued progress in healthcare workforce development, with notable increases in licensed professionals: Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (9,670, up 9%), Registered Nurses (66,594, up 10%), and Licensed Practical Nurses (22,065, up 4%). Despite recent gains, demand remains high, with thousands of open positions statewide. Though workforce demands are present, Louisiana reports a low nursing staff turnover rate (5.4%) compared to the national average of 18.4%.

Dr. Craig concluded by sharing the 2025 HWC recommendations, which aim to strengthen the nursing and healthcare workforce pipeline. These include creating faculty stipends using H.E.R.O. Fund dollars, standardizing course transferability, advocating for academic-practice partnership funding, offering financial support to underrepresented nursing students, continuing capitation funding to expand program capacity, and addressing faculty salary competitiveness. She emphasized the importance of continued investment and collaboration to meet Louisiana's growing healthcare demands. There were no questions following this informational presentation and no action was requested.

FINANCE

APPROPRIATION BILLS – LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, informed the Committee that, at this time, House Bills 1 (General Appropriations Bill) and 460 (Supplemental Appropriations Bill) are referred to House Appropriations Committee but have not yet been heard. She stated that it is anticipated they will be presented the week of April 28 or May 5. HB 1 is the legislative adoption of the Governor's Executive Budget and appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. HB 460 appropriates additional funds for the current fiscal year, 2024–25. Ms. Bentley-Smith reported that she would keep the Board apprised of any changes to the bills as they move through the legislative process.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

HOUSE BILL 2 UPDATE

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, informed the Board of the posture of House Bill 2 (HB 2), the state's capital outlay bill, after the introduction of the bill by the Louisiana House of Representatives. He noted that 44 projects, totaling approximately \$341M across all public postsecondary institutions and LUMCON, were included in the bill to receive new funding for fiscal year 2026, Mr. Herring noted that he would keep the Board informed as the bill moves through the legislative process.

ACT 751 UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided an update on Act 751 passed during the 2024 Regular Legislative Session. He informed the Board of the intent of the legislation, the initial funding distribution by system, the number of projects approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the breakdown of projects underway by system and by project type.

Regent Temple asked if the perception of the deferred maintenance backlog issue has changed over the last ten years and if any progress had been made over that period. Mr. Herring responded that awareness of the issue has increased over the past decade and Act 751 will provide a reliable, predictable funding mechanism to allow higher education postsecondary institutions to begin to meaningfully address the backlog. He noted that deferred maintenance funding has not been appropriated consistently over the last ten years, which hinders an institution's ability to repair and replace equipment and systems appropriately to keep pace with the rate of decline for these items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2025 MEETING

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Chair Cordell attended the third annual Meauxmentum Summit hosted by the Academic Affairs led by Dr. Tristan Denley in Lafayette at the Cajundome. She commented that seeing so many of Louisiana's higher education leaders so actively engaged was inspiring.

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, began his discussion about the summit by thanking his staff for their hard work organizing the event.

Representatives from 28 institutions throughout the state gathered in Lafayette to participate in numerous workshops led by leaders in the state, as well as representatives from several national organizations, including philanthropy groups. It was a showcase to talk about work being done in Louisiana. The focus was the work involved in the grant from the Ascendium Foundation to support scaled implementation of student success in Louisiana. This work targets two of the strands in the Meauxmentum Framework—choice and pathways. Choice centers on adopting strategies that help students make purposeful choices by embedding early career advising and exploration in the curriculum. Pathways are then established to help students navigate to their ultimate goals by identifying classes that help them get from admission to graduation. Involved in the process is the identification of “catapult” classes that deepen learning and improve the odds of students obtaining the credentials they seek. As part of this project, every campus has been awarded \$100,000 for implementation of the plan. They are developing their plan of action. The final report of the summit was a gallery walk of plans shared by each campus.

CHAIR’S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell made the following comments:

- She noted that April and May are busy months for Regents and higher education, from the legislative session to graduations across the state.
- She recognized “the best of the best” and said that it has been an honor to have Regent Kennedy Orr serve as student member for the past year. She praised Regent Orr for her tenure on the Board and urged her to stay in touch after she graduates from Southern University A&M in May. Commissioner Reed presented the Regents stole to Regent Orr, who also received a gift from Chair Cordell on behalf of the entire Board.
- In her student member report, Regent Orr thanked everyone for their support and noted how appreciative she is of all the small things that have helped mold her thinking about the future, which still holds questions for her. She plans to use her connections to continue to serve in some capacity in Louisiana and to help shape decisions about what she will do next. A new student member from the LSU System will be elected May 2. Regent Orr mentioned a resolution passed by the Council of Student Body Presidents to support student voting rights in presidential elections by eliminating barriers to voting with regards to conflict with classes, exams, and work schedules, having information about elections readily available, and possibly making presidential election days university holidays.
- Chair Cordell mentioned that HBCU Day at the Capitol will be held on Monday, April 28. In the evening, attendees will gather at the Capitol Park Museum from 5–7 p.m., where the HBCUs will showcase the best of their campuses. Mascots will be in attendance.

- She noted that April is Community College Month and Louisiana is proud to be home to 14 institutions across three systems. All these institutions play a critical role in developing Louisiana's workforce. Throughout the coming month, each of these institutions will be spotlighted on social media.
- She mentioned highlights of Regents' recent tour of the Lafayette area, including visits to UL and SOWELA, where members witnessed the success of the Metallica Scholarship, an award sponsored by the rock group Metallica. She thanked Regents Sterling, Hixson, Reeves, Aubrey, Finley, and David for being part of these visits.

Regent Sterling commented that students bring "color commentary" to the work of BOR, so it is worth the Regents' time to visit these sites. Regent Hixson enjoyed seeing non-traditional students in school (e.g., students over 55 going back to school later in life), and shared his thoughts on the use of medical simulation dolls.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She noted the passing of Denise Latour this month and praised Ms. Latour for her extraordinary commitment as a member of the Dual Enrollment Task Force. She was also a Ponchatoula High School teacher and counselor.
- She mentioned the senior team's recent visit to a United Way Prosperity Center. Prosperity Centers provide family, job, and home ownership support. During that same visit, the team had a chance to learn more about the world of work for students who are 16–24 years old at Café Reconcile in New Orleans.
- She reminded the Board that every year outstanding future educators are recognized at the Future Educator Honor Roll on National Teacher of the Year Day, which will be held on May 6 this year. On that day the education community will recognize the top two future educators from every college and university in Louisiana that has a College of Education and from high schools that have a Rising Educator program. The program will take place at the Old State Capitol. The state Teacher of the Year and Ms. Frances Shaw, a chemistry teacher who at the age of 80 came back from retirement to fill a need in her district, will address the gathering.
- She asked Chair Cordell to recognize the BOR's administrative assistants in honor of Administrative Professionals Day. In addition to being presented with a bouquet of flowers, Commissioner Reed indicated that they will be celebrated at a luncheon on Friday, April 25, 2025.
- She commended Board members for their support, noting that five Board members took time to attend a dinner in Lafayette recently for various foundations. She said that the members' presence sent a clear message that Louisiana has a sustained commitment to the work.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. Regent Aubrey made a comment about Regents Temple's and Pryor's level of participation in the meeting. He requested

a continuing Board development discussion of finances, particularly related to institutions that may face challenges.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent David, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, April 25, 2025

NAME	AFFILIATION
Angela Amedee	LSUHSC – New Orleans
Robert Rohli	LSU A&M
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Chuck Berryman	LSU A&M
Helen Taylor	LSU - Shreveport
Liz Beard	LSU - Alexandria
Nate Simmons	LSU - Alexandria
Laurie Lipsey Aronson	LSU Board of Supervisors
Dagoberto Diaz	LSU A&M
Robert René	SUS - BR
Brian Roberts	BOR - LUMCON
William Tulak	LCTCS
Stephanie Styles	