

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

June 18, 2025

The Board of Regents met at 2:09 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, 1st Floor, 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
David Aubrey
Christian Creed
Blake David
Stephanie Finley
Ted Glaser III
Dallas Hixson
Darren Mire
Wilbert Pryor
Christy Reeves
Devesh Sarda, Student Member
K. Samer Shamieh
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgmt. Board Representatives present were:

LSU System Representative, Remy Voisin Starns

Mgmt. Board Representatives not present were:

UL System Representative
SU System Representative
LCTC System Representative

Absent from the meeting were:

Phillip May
Collis Temple III

Appendix A
Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2025 MEETING

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Finley, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025 meeting.

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 at which point Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Reeves, put forth a motion to accept all items with the exception of Planning, Research and Performance. Following significant discussion regarding the approval of licensure renewal and concerns about competition with existing Louisiana institutions, the following action was taken:

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the Committee meetings regarding Items A–H and, with regards to Item G, to issue license renewals for one (1) year contingent on staff research regarding competition of offerings of Louisiana institutions with those of out-of-state institutions.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Misti Cordell made the following comments:

- She welcomed Devesh Sarda, LSU Shreveport SGA President, as the Regents' student member for the 2025–26 academic year, noting that Regent Sarda is the first student from LSU Shreveport to sit on the Board. Chair Cordell mentioned that Regent Sarda also previously served as an SGA senator. He is passionate about helping other students. He was recognized as the outstanding student in computer science and software development at LSU Shreveport. Regent Sarda thanked the Board for the opportunity and recognized students from Southern, ULL, and LSU serving with him on the Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP). Regent Sarda was sworn in at the beginning of the Board meeting by General Counsel Uma Subramanian. Representing LSU Shreveport were Demetrius Brown, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and Shelby Keith, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration.
- She recognized the recent naming of Dr. Carrie Castille as the tenth President of ULM and looked forward to the potential Dr. Castille brings to ULM through her leadership. Dr. Castille is the first female to hold the position in the university's 94-year history.
- She mentioned that Regents hosted the LAHEC Professional Development Summit, which drew over 300 attendees from organizations around the state to discuss wellness, mental health, and hazing prevention, particularly the recently approved Stop Hazing Act.
- She mentioned how pleased she was to have attended for the first time the annual Future Educators Honor Roll ceremony in May. Each college or school of education in the state makes nominations for this recognition of top future educators who are in their residency.

FINANCE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FY 2025–2026 OPERATING BUDGET DISTRIBUTION

Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, began her presentation by stating that at its March 2025 meeting, the Board of Regents approved a preliminary distribution of the FY 2025–26 higher education operating budget as proposed in the Governor’s Executive Budget. The Executive Budget recommended \$1.28B in State General Funds for higher education entities, which represented a decrease of \$42.3M, including one-time (non-recurring) State General Fund allocations (\$40.5M), mandated costs reductions (\$4.4M) due to retirement cost savings, and a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) decrease related to a means of finance swap between State General Funds (\$4.4M) and the TOPS Fund (\$4.4M). The decreases were offset by increases of \$6.1M for the LSU First benefits program and \$2.3M for the Patriot Scholars program.

Ms. Bentley-Smith stated that during the budgeting process the Legislature increased the HB1 recommendation, adding \$7M, for a total of \$1.33B in State General Fund to higher education for FY26. Additionally, HB460 (Supplemental Bill) appropriated an additional \$19.4M in the current fiscal year (FY25) across all our postsecondary institutions. Both bills were sent to the Governor for signature and enactment following the conclusion of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Ms. Bentley-Smith added that FY26 budget maintains \$10.5M in M.J. Foster Scholars adult financial aid funding and \$70.5M in GO Grants, the state’s need-based aid program, increases funding for TOPS and provides an additional \$2.3M for the Patriot Scholarship program that supports our Louisiana National Guardsmen.

During the presentation, Chair David asked if recently passed legislation would significantly affect the TOPS budget. Ms. Bentley-Smith responded that additional funding had been included in the TOPS budget for the new legislation.

Regent Hixson inquired if the budget passed by the Legislature would allow the new funding formula to run, to which Ms. Bentley-Smith replied that it would not since no added funds were received.

During discussion of funding for debt payments at the University of New Orleans, Regent Aubrey asked if the amount provided would cover all the institution's outstanding debt. Ms. Bentley-Smith stated that other funding was appropriated to conduct a financial audit of the university and, should new findings be discovered, the Legislature would need to take action in response.

After approval of the agenda item, Regent Aubrey asked if money was allocated for emergency deferred maintenance. Ms. Bentley-Smith noted that funding for deferred maintenance costs was included in both House Bills 1 and 2 and more detail would be provided in the Facilities Committee presentation. She also noted certain specific line-item appropriations contained in House Bills 1 and 460 as examples. Regent Aubrey noted that as Regents members toured campuses around the state, they were made aware of unexpected needs and asked if a pool of funding was available for unforeseen emergencies which had not already been identified. Ms. Bentley-Smith noted that institutions can return to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) to request changes and the Office of Facilities and Planning has some built in funding with the understanding that it could be used to cover these occurrences. She also explained that newly passed legislation related to Job Order Contracting can aid in addressing these issues.

Regent Aubrey concluded by noting that, even with a stand-still budget, increased costs for utilities, retirement, pensions, etc. will still leave some institutions with challenges in the future. Ms. Bentley-Smith reminded the Board that systems may use their ability to move 5% of their state appropriations to address concerns if needed. With the State General Fund increases in HB1, the FY26 operating budget distribution by system, including all means of finance (State General Fund, Interagency Transfers, Self-Generated Revenue, Statutory Dedications, and Federal), was presented as follows:

HB 1 Enrolled - General Appropriations Funding for Fiscal Year 2026						
System	State General Fund	Interagency Transfers	Self-Generated Revenue	Statutory Dedications	Federal	Total
BOR	\$296,298,344	\$14,256,109	\$16,050,299	\$157,191,757	\$34,232,149	\$518,028,658
LSU	\$491,536,668	\$8,485,184	\$839,034,535	\$34,974,626	\$14,018,275	\$1,388,049,288
SU	\$67,022,663	\$4,476,791	\$112,289,046	\$4,611,400	\$3,654,209	\$192,054,109
UL	\$315,232,366	\$259,923	\$693,993,461	\$23,774,940	\$0	\$1,033,260,690
LCTC	\$154,267,249	\$0	\$175,812,107	\$18,052,315	\$0	\$348,131,671
TOTAL	\$1,324,357,290	\$27,478,007	\$1,837,179,448	\$238,605,038	\$51,904,633	\$3,479,524,416

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the funding distribution recommendations for Higher Education for FY 2025–2026.

AUDIT

INTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Laura Soileau and Mrs. Kristin Bourque from EisnerAmper presented a status report on the Board of Regents’ Fiscal Year 2025 Internal Audit. Mrs. Bourque explained that the Board of Regents agency Human Resources Audit was complete and the Regents Human Resources Process Audit was in progress. Ms. Bourque also provided updates regarding audits completed in previous years, including security processes for LOSFA and LUMCON as well as a review of the LaCarte Procurement Card program for the agency. This presentation was for informational purposes only and required no action.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR MANAGEMENT LETTER

Ms. Bentley-Smith discussed the annual Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) Management Letter that was issued for the Board of Regents on May 14, 2025. During the annual single audit for FY 2023–24, the LLA reported one finding titled Inadequate Controls over Travel Expenditures for the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) program, under the BOR agency. Regarding one international travel expenditure that was not fully allowable under state travel regulations nor appropriately approved, Ms. Bentley-Smith described the corrective actions that have already been

implemented across the agency to address this issue, including additional travel training for those participating in international travel, all international travel expenditures continuing to require approval of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and establishing a process through HR for the repayment of funds. Following the presentation Regent Finley requested clarification that this finding was due to a single travel expenditure, which Ms. Bentley-Smith confirmed. This presentation was for informational purposes only and required no action.

LEGISLATIVE

2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Brianna Golden Phillips provided an update of Regents' legislative priorities and other legislation impacting higher education considered during the 2025 Regular Session.

2025 BOR Legislative Priorities

- Career Office Reform – SCR 38 (Sent to SOS), Sen. Edmonds: 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
- Geaux Teach – HB 109 (Act 59), Rep. Thompson: Makes this existing scholarship for future educators a first-restricted-dollar scholarship to cover tuition, books, and instructional materials
- Financial Aid Alignment – HB 161 (Act 152), 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
- Retirement – HB 24 (Act 47), Rep. Bacala: Requests that the optional retirement plan (ORP) managed by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) include provisions for expanding 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, and allowing for an ORP Advisory Committee as a component the TRSL Board
- Job Order Contracting – HB 566 (Act 88), 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 (Sent to Governor), 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 (Act 10), Rep. Mena: Creates additional membership on the Council, provides for student member travel payments, and allows for examination of campus safety on HBCU campuses
- Dual Enrollment Taskforce – HB 71 (Act 51), Rep. Brass: Revises the membership of the Dual Enrollment Task Force by removal of two obsolete members and addition of three new members

BILLS OF INTEREST

- UNO Transfer – SB 202 (Sent to Governor), Sen. Harris: Transfers UNO to the LSU System
- Hazing Task Force – HCR 37 (Sent to SOS), Rep. Hughes: Establishes a hazing prevention task force to be staffed by the Board of Regents
- Hazing Training – HB 279 (Act 174), Rep. Boyd: Requires certain postsecondary education students to complete an anti-hazing course
- TOPS Excellence/Equalization – HB 77 (Sent to Governor), Rep. Turner: Revises the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) to add an Excellence award category for students with an ACT score of 31 or above
- Phased Retirement Task Force – HR 143 (Sent to SOS), Rep. Bacala: Creates a task force to study the feasibility of a phased retirement program for public postsecondary education systems, to be staffed by the Board of Regents
- LCTCS Bonds – SB 72 (Act 35), Sen. Reese: Provides relative to the issuance of bonds for financing certain capital improvement projects within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- Support fund – HB 473 (Act 22), Rep. Emerson: Repeals certain funds in the state treasury including the Kevin P. Reilly Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund and related subfunds (BoRSF) and applies the monies from those funds to the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL)
- Gaming Revenue – HB 639 (Act 298), Rep. Riser: Dedicates 25% of the monies generated by the online sports wagering tax to Division I College athletic programs to be appropriated by the Board of Regents and 3% of the monies generated by the online sports wagering tax to the Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund
- NIL Task Force – HR 15 (Sent to SOS), Rep. Young: Creates a task force to study issues relative to the name, image, and likeness of student athletes in Louisiana to be staffed by the Board of Regents
- State Services and Benefits – SB 100 (Sent to Governor), 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”
- Antisemitism – HR 167 (Sent to SOS), Rep. Bayham: Requests public postsecondary education institutions in Louisiana to enhance policies and procedures to combat antisemitism on campus

Regent Pryor asked about legislative concerns about the “TOPS for DOCS” bill. Chair Cordell responded that there was no additional funding that could be allocated toward the bill.

Regent Mire asked how the \$20M debt payment to the University of New Orleans had been determined. Dr. Reed shared that the Legislature had decided as a “first step” that the funding allocated would be used to pay down the debts while the LSU System also conducts a full financial audit. If audit findings revealed that the transfer would require additional support, then more funds would need to be provided.

Regent Mire asked whether available dollars could be used for deferred maintenance needs if less funding is needed for the transfer. Dr. Reed noted that \$3 million in line-item appropriations had been

provided for deferred maintenance for UNO. Ms. Bentley-Smith indicated that the \$20M can only be used to pay down debt and that, as specified in SB 202, the University of Louisiana System cannot reallocate funds appropriated to UNO for any other purpose.

Regent Mire asked, regarding HB 279, hazing training, what training will be developed by Regents. Ms. Golden Phillips clarified that Regents would provide a two-hour hazing training as a resource to the institutions but indicated that Regents is not required by law to do so. Regent Mire inquired as to the composition of the hazing task force. Mrs. Golden Phillips stated that the task force includes up to 11 legislator members in addition to representation from each public postsecondary system. Regent Sarda asked whether a student organization that is already completing two hours of hazing prevention training is still required to complete the Regents-provided training. Ms. Golden Phillips responded that if a student organization already provides a training that satisfies the mandate in the bill, its members would not be required to take the Regents training. She reiterated that the Regents training is simply a resource.

Regent Aubrey indicated that he would like clarification on the breakdown of the \$20M UNO debt allocation and the funding provided to Southern University at New Orleans in HB 1.

Regent Aubrey also noted his concern related to the lack of funding and recognition for the community college system during the Session. Ms. Bentley-Smith agreed noting that the Board of Regents works on behalf of all systems and both Chair Cordell and Dr. Reed advocated strongly for community colleges during the Session. Dr. Reed added that in legislative meetings both she and the chair reinforced the need for workforce funding and support for the community college system, as well as the lack of funding for the M.J. Foster Promise program. Despite their efforts, these initiatives were not funded.

Supervisor Starnes inquired about the cost cited in the fiscal note for SB 202, asking whether it was listed as \$81M. Ms. Bentley-Smith indicated that the fiscal note might capture the total cost over multiple years. Supervisor Starnes stated his understanding that the audit of UNO would determine the difference UNO's actual debt burden and the allocated \$20M debt funding payment, and that significantly

more resources would be needed to complete the transfer of UNO to the LSU System. He also stated that he is proud and happy to hear that the Legislature and others are committed to providing the resources needed to ensure a successful transfer.

Regent Hixson inquired whether the Governor would sign SB 202 transferring UNO to the LSU System. Dr. Reed responded that she has seen no indication that he would not sign the bill.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

BOARD OF REGENTS FACILITIES POLICY REVISION

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, presented the Board with revisions to the Board of Regents' Facilities policy necessitated by the passage of legislation during the 2024 and 2025 Regular Sessions of the Louisiana Legislature. Prior to the proposed revisions, he noted, the last update to the Facilities Policy occurred in April of 2019.

The three primary changes to the policy involve the passage and implementation of Act 751 of the 2024 Regular Session, passage of the Job Order Contracting project delivery method in the 2025 Regular Session, and acknowledgment of the facilities condition assessment initiated this year to assist with deferred maintenance project planning.

First, the policy has incorporated a section devoted to Act 751 of 2024. Act 751 created the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program to address the campus infrastructure improvement needs that exist for facilities located at public postsecondary education institutions across the state of Louisiana. Within the last year, the Office of Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) developed policies and procedures related to the implementation of the program that deviate from Major Repair and Reroofing (deferred maintenance) funds provided in prior years. This proposed revision provides guidance as to the implementation of the program.

The second newly added section involves the passage of the Job Order Contracting (JOC) project delivery method. The JOC legislation passed in the 2025 Regular Session (Act 88) to support the

implementation of Act 751. JOC offers a flexible and efficient framework for completing projects by using competitively awarded, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts with pre-priced construction tasks. This approach allows institutions to respond rapidly to facility needs, reduce procurement lead times, and ensure cost transparency while maintaining compliance with public contracting standards.

The BOR is statutorily responsible for establishing standard procedures and templates, certifying institutional readiness to implement the JOC program, approving procurement frameworks, and monitoring JOC program compliance and outcomes. To augment the newly created section within the Facilities policy, staff provided a draft JOC Policy and Procedures Manual for Board review. Mr. Herring informed the Board that the formal JOC policy will be presented for approval during the August 2025 meeting.

The final substantial revision to the current policy involves modifications to the section related to the facilities condition assessment. The current policy highlights efforts to assess the state of Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions that took place over 20 years ago. During discussions around the implementation of Act 751, each management board expressed the need for an updated facilities condition assessment. The policy revision applies to the current assessment, which was initiated in the Spring of 2025.

The policy revision also addresses the increase to projects authorized through Act 959 of 2003 and technical changes throughout the document.

On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Facilities and Property Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the revisions to the Board of Regents' Facilities policy.

HOUSE BILL 2/DEFERRED MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided the Board with an update on the final posture of House Bill 2 (HB 2), the state's capital outlay bill, upon completion of the 2025 Regular Session. He noted fifty-two projects across all public postsecondary institutions and LUMCON, totaling approximately \$332M, were included

in the bill to receive new funding for fiscal year 2026. Mr. Herring informed the Board of the \$25M appropriated for deferred maintenance, and highlighted Act 35 of the 2025 Regular Session, which provides bonding authority to fund eight projects within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. This item was for informational purposes only and no action was requested.

CAMPUS SAFETY UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided a summary of the campus safety assessment project initiated by the BOR in late 2023 in partnership with the National Center for Research and Training (NCBRT). Staff gave an overview of the project then introduced Mr. Jerry Monier with NCBRT.

Before Mr. Monier provided his remarks, the Board was shown a three-minute video produced by NCBRT highlighting the campus safety project and the effort that went into the work. Upon completion of the video, Mr. Monier provided an in-depth overview of the project scope, common findings, and the work plan for the upcoming fiscal year. This item was for informational purposes only and no action was requested.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Regent Pryor asked about enrollment in the Caddo Parish Extension Academy. Dr. Denley advised that an updated letter received from Caddo Parish noted that seven students were enrolled. Dr. Denley invited Dr. Ernise Singleton with the Louisiana Department of Education and Rosetta Boone with Caddo Parish to address Board members' questions. Ms. Boone noted that the Caddo Parish Extension Academy participants attend classes at Southern University Shreveport, Bossier Parish Community College, or Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College where they learn a trade and earn a credential or are enrolled in a two-year associate's degree program.

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Mire, the Committee recommended

Board of Regents approval of the items on the Consent Agenda.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley then presented for approval the Associate of Applied Science in Diesel Equipment Technician at Delgado Community College, the Bachelor of Science in Applied Data Science at Louisiana State University A&M, the Bachelor of Science in Disaster Preparedness and Response at Louisiana State University of Alexandria, the Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Science at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans, the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at Nicholls State University, the Bachelor of Arts in Recording Arts at University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Computing and Information Sciences at University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Regent Aubrey asked if the BSW at Nicholls is necessary, considering the current budget concerns, as there are already similar programs offered in the state. Dr. Denley responded that Nicholls currently offers a degree concentration and this program will allow students' coursework to be reflected. He invited Dr. Todd Keller to speak about the program. Dr. Keller noted that the Social Work concentration has an average enrollment of 37 students per year and that many students do not want to take an online program. He added that offering this program sets the expectation that a student will go on to earn a Master's in Social Work and that the program can become accredited, which will allow completers to reduce their MSW program by one year. Regent Aubrey asked if Nicholls' plan is to offer a Master's in Social Work in the future; Dr. Keller responded that this is not currently being planned. Regent Finley advised that it is important to focus on collaboration when considering a new degree program. Staff agreed.

On motion of Regent Glaser, seconded by Regent Mire, the Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Regents approve the seven proposed new programs as presented. Regent Aubrey abstained from the vote.

NEW AQUATIC GERMPLASM AND GENETIC RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE – LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY A&M AND LOUISIANA STATE

UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

Dr. Denley presented for approval the Aquatic Germplasm and Genetic Resources Research Center of Excellence at Louisiana State University A&M and Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. Dr. Denley advised the Committee that the Center will allow research to be conducted on aquatic life.

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Mire, the Committee recommended approval of the Center by the Board of Regents.

CYBERSECURITY TALENT INITIATIVE FUND UPDATE

Dr. Denley provided an update on the projects approved for funding by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) at its May meeting, noting that the following projects had been approved:

New Projects

- Southeastern University: Building Career Pathways: A Workforce Certification Initiative - \$124,640
- University of Louisiana-Monroe: AI-Powered Cybersecurity Education to Address the Industry Skills Gap - \$129,532

Sustained Projects

- Fletcher Technical Community College: Enhancing Experiential Learning for Cybersecurity Honors Students to Strengthen Workforce Readiness - \$150,000
- Bossier Parish Community College: The LA Cyber Academy (Statewide) - \$161,516
- Northwestern State University: Central Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Enhancement Program - \$40,000
- LSU Shreveport: Comprehensive Cyber Talent Pipeline - \$133,243
- Southern University A&M: Empowering Cybersecurity Leaders by Establishing an Executive Master's Program in Cybersecurity, Mentorship, and Industry-Partnered Certificates - \$155,265
- University of New Orleans: Development of an Advanced Cybersecurity Certificate Program - \$105,804

Dr. Denley noted that this item was for informational purposes only and no action was requested.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Denley introduced Dr. Samuel Gladden and Dr. Zackeus Johnson as new members of the Academic and Student Affairs team.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

DIVISION OF ENDOWED CHAIR INTO ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

Ms. Robison notified the Committee that LSU A&M has requested to divide the Freeport McMoRan Endowed Chair in Economics, \$1 million endowed chair matched by the BoRSF in FY 1993–94, into two Endowed Professorships:

- Freeport McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #1 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF)
- Freeport McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #2 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF)

She noted that the original donor entered into a revised donor agreement in 2024, which approves this conversion.

On motion of Regent Glaser, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve LSU A&M’s request to divide the Freeport McMoRan Endowed Chair in Economics into two (2) endowed professorships, as follows: (1) McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #1, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF); and (2) McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #2, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF).

ADJUSTMENTS TO BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS IN FY 2025–26 APPROVED PLAN AND BUDGET

Ms. Robison informed the Committee that House Bills 473 and 579 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session repeal the constitutionally established Kevin P. Reilly Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF) and related Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF). For the repeal to proceed, approval of the constitutional amendment by the voters will be sought in April 2026. Liquidation of LEQTF and BoRSF assets will begin immediately upon voter approval, with all repealed Funds eliminated in their entirety by June 30, 2026. She indicated that Regents staff are proposing to shift funds within the programs approved in HB 1 to ensure the highest and best use of its remaining investments in

eligible institutions and to address as much as possible outstanding donor requests for endowment matching.

Ms. Robison noted that the BoRSF operates grant and endowment matching programs on a competitive basis through a year-long process, beginning annually in July, so it is critical to address prior to the start of the new fiscal year the adjustments to the FY 2025–26 budget necessitated by the repeal of the BoRSF in HB 473 and HB 589. Once the Board acts on the recommendation, she stated, institutions and faculty members will be informed of the status of competitive grant and endowment program funding for the new fiscal year.

Ms. Robison summarized recommended budget revisions for FY 2025–26, which will provide new awards for only one competitive grant program – the Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS) – and transfer funds allocated to the Departmental Enhancement Subprogram to the endowment matching programs within the Enhancement category (Endowed Professorships, Endowed First-Generation Scholarships, and Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships). She added that existing obligations in the Support Fund (multiyear awards approved in previous fiscal years and match to federal awards) as well as the statutorily calculated administrative allocation will be retained in full. The rationale for this adjustment is related to both the need to continue addressing the high demand for endowment matching from donors and institutions across the state as well as supporting highly impactful seed grants to faculty researchers.

During fall 2025, Ms. Robison reminded the Committee, based on the possibility of the immediate repeal of the LEQTF through the Third Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, BoRSF staff collected from all eligible systems and institutions complete lists of outstanding nonstate donor contributions awaiting state match through the Support Fund to complete permanent endowments in support of scholarships and high-value faculty. The total amount needed to match all outstanding slots reported in November 2025 was \$59.25 million. The BoRSF matched approximately 10% of this total – \$5.85 million – in FY 2024–25, but Ms. Robison noted that significant additional investments are needed to satisfy donor demand. Recommended budget adjustments will increase available matching dollars to

\$8.13 million in FY 2025–26, helping to reduce the number of requests that are incomplete upon potential termination of the BoRSF on June 30, 2026.

Finally, Ms. Robison reminded the Committee that though the BoRSF may be repealed in FY 2025–26, a FY 2026–27 Plan and Budget is constitutionally required to be submitted to the Legislature and Governor no less than 60 days prior to the 2026 Regular Legislative Session. This budget, to be developed during fall 2025, will be brought to the Board for consideration in December 2025. If the BoRSF is repealed in April 2026, Ms. Robison stated, this Plan and Budget will not be enacted.

On motion of Regent Shamieh, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve as presented the adjustments to Board of Regents Support Fund programmatic funding levels in accordance with the budget levels approved in HB 1 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. TOPS Exceptions – TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that five requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of April 15, 2025. 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 Shamieh, the Statewide Programs Committee voted unanimously to recommend Board approval of the Consent Agenda item.

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda, starting with the recommendation of six renewal applications for academic licensure. The next item was recommendations for approval of one

new Associate of Occupational Studies application, five initial applications and 23 renewal applications, as recommended by the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools.

Regent Pryor asked about the large number of Louisiana students enrolled at Southern New Hampshire University and the role Regents can play in better promoting online programs at Louisiana institutions. Dr. Craig explained the licensing requirements for these out-of-state distance education programs and the physical presence stipulation that triggers the licensure requirement. Regent Shamieh asked if the law could be changed to require Louisiana students to attend a Louisiana institution. Dr. Craig explained that school choice could not be dictated by law. The Board continued with an in-depth discussion about out-of-state versus in-state program offerings including policies, accreditation, program promotion, reciprocity agreements, and length of approval processes. The Board requested additional information online schools and licensure at a future meeting.

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Planning, Research, and Performance Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. Regent Sarda abstained.

- A. R.S. 17:1808 (Academic Licensure)
 - 1. Renewal Applications
 - a. Baton Rouge General Medical Center – Baton Rouge, LA
 - b. Concordia University Irvine – Irvine, CA
 - c. Fielding Graduate University – Santa Barbara, CA
 - d. Herzing University – New Orleans, LA
 - e. Southern New Hampshire University
 - f. University of Southern California – Los Angeles, CA
- B. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools
 - 1. Associate of Occupational Studies Program Application
 - a. Digital Media Institute, Shreveport, LA
 - AOS in Digital Animation and Visual Effects
 - 2. Initial License Applications
 - a. Advance Nursing Training – Bogalusa, Bogalusa, LA
 - b. Diesel Driving Academy – West Monroe, West Monroe, LA
 - c. Driving Academy – Baton Rouge, LA
 - d. Moe's Phlebotomy – Independence, LA
 - e. Northeast Maritime Institute – Houma, LA
 - 3. Renewal Applications
 - a. ABCDL Truck Driving Academy – Hammond – License #2373
 - b. Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy – Baton Rouge – License #2191
 - c. CDL Mentors – Lake Charles – Lake Charles – License #2299
 - d. Coastal College – Lafayette – Lafayette – License #1002
 - e. Coastal College – Monroe – Monroe – License #957

- f. Coastal Truck Driving School of Lake Charles – Lake Charles – License #2372
- g. Delta College of Arts & Technology – Lafayette Branch – Lafayette – License #2075
- h. Elise Phlebotomy Training Center – Harvey – License #2317
- i. Felician Medical Training Academy – St. Francisville – License #2378
- j. Goodwill Technical College – New Orleans – License #2210
- k. Lenora School of Phlebotomy– Slidell – License #911
- l. Louisiana Culinary Institute – Baton Rouge – License #2045
- m. Persistent Medical Education – Lafayette – License #2381
- n. Phlebotomy Career Training Academy – Lafayette – License #2350
- o. Phlebotomy Training Specialists – Baton Rouge – License #2383
- p. Royal Angels Anointed Hands – Greensburg – License #2380
- q. River Parishes Institute – Gonzales – License #2351
- r. Saint Christopher College – Carencro – License #2269
- s. Sovereign College – Lafayette – License #2316
- t. St. Agatha Career College – New Orleans – License #2352
- u. Tender Love & Care Allied Health Training – Gretna – License #2370
- v. Trinity Bay Vocational Institute – St. James – License #2379
- w. Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center – Houston, TX – License #2212

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, introduced a presentation by the following guests from River Parishes Community College (RPCC) related to their first annual Industry Match Day:

- Dr. Paul Donaldson – Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Student Success
- Kate Whitehead – Director of Work-Based Learning and Westbank Initiatives
- Tasha Jackson – Assistant Director of Energy Partners for Innovation and Collaboration Consortium (EPIC)

The presenters noted that the annual Match Day activities, made possible through a grant from BOR, are intended to expose RPCC students to the various industries in the River Region. Dr. Donaldson reiterated that the mission of EPIC is to adapt education to industry demands by strategically upskilling the workforce. Ms. Jackson highlighted the EPIC Consortium’s vast network of partnerships in education, government and community, as well as industry and capital. Ms. Whitehead discussed the Match Day initiative’s direct alignment with the EPIC workstream of cultivating talent. During the day’s activities students were paired with industry representatives to demonstrate technical expertise to potential

employers, to participate in expert-led mock interviews, and to showcase current Energy Sciences Division interns. As members of ten (10) teams, the RPCC students participated in all three areas to showcase their capabilities and the opportunities afforded them through EPIC. Ms. Whitehead shared that 31 Dow apprentices and 25 interns with BASF, Methanex, CF Industries and Marathon were recognized. In addition, five students were offered internships based on interviews conducted during the Match Day event. The three presenters expressed a desire to see this and similar programs foster growth in work-based learning programs going forward.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She noted that more than 35,000 students earned diplomas from Louisiana institutions of higher learning in Spring 2025.
- She and Regent Mire attended Xavier University's 100th anniversary celebration and the dedication of a statue of Dr. Norman C. Francis, Xavier's president from 1968 to 2015.
- She and Chair Cordell, along with others from BOR, participated in Regents Gives Back by painting a home for a teacher through the Habitat project. The project was funded by LSU Greeks.
- She, along with Chair Cordell and Regents student workers, attended Governor Landry's signing of the JOC bill, which authorizes Job Order Contracting as an alternative project delivery method for recurring deferred maintenance projects within Louisiana postsecondary education institutions.
- She thanked the Legislature and Governor for their work during the 2025 Regular Session. BOR tracked over 100 bills and appeared in numerous committees. She also thanked Chair Cordell, who spent many days in Baton Rouge during the session. Regent Aubrey also commended Chair Cordell for her work supporting legislation important to the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cordell reminded members the Board will not meet in July. The August 20 meeting will include a joint meeting with BESE. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Mire, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

NAME	AFFILIATION
Joanie Brocato	LSUHSC – MLS Dept.
Erin Dugan	LSU Health N.O.
Rosaria Guastella	Delgado Community College
Blair LeBlanc	HLS Fiscal
Eamon Halpin	LSU Alexandria
Shelby Keith	LSU Shreveport
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Liz Beard	LSU Alexandria
Terry Tiersch	LSU AgCenter
Andy Schade	LSU AgCenter
Jeannine O'Rourke	UL System
Demitrius Brown	LSU Shreveport
Margaret Finch	LSU A&M
Donald Davenport	Delgado Community College
Oliver Dasbach	LSU A&M
Tara LaFrance	Delgado Community College
Oriana Holmes	OPB
Christian Michelet	OPB
Jakob Ward	OPB
Trang Nguyen	OPB
Chandler LeBoeuf	LCTCS
Brian Roberts	BOR-LUMCON
SuJuan Boutte	LOSFA/BOR
Troy Blanchard	LSU - EVPP
Kate Whitehead	RPCC
Paul Donaldson	RPCC
Todd Keller	Nicholls State University