

MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS

August 20, 2025

The Board of Regents met at 12:47 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, in the Iowa Room 1–153, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Vice Chair Terrie Sterling called the meeting to order. Vice Chair Sterling announced that Chair Cordell and Commissioner Reed were absent from the meeting because they were in the United Kingdom with a group of Louisiana leaders at a program at Oxford University centering on executive degree apprenticeship in critical sectors such as healthcare and manufacturing. This collaborative, organized by the National Governors’ Association, includes ten states.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:

Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair  
David Aubrey  
Christian Creed  
Blake David  
Ted Glaser III  
Dallas Hixson  
Darren Mire  
Wilbert Pryor  
Christy Reeves  
Devesh Sarda, Student Member  
K. Samer Shamieh  
Collis Temple III  
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board representatives present were:

LSU System Representative, Remy Voisin Starns  
UL System Representative, John Noble, Jr.  
LCTCS System Representative, William Tulak

Mgt. Board representative not present was:

SU System Representative

Absent from the meeting were:

Misti Cordell, Chair  
Stephanie Finley  
Phillip May, Jr.

Appendix A  
Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chair Terrie Sterling asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18, 2025 MEETING

Vice Chair Sterling asked for a motion to approve the June 18, 2025 meeting minutes.

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2025 meeting.**

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Vice Chair Sterling 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. There were no requests.

**On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the Committee meetings.**

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, introduced Dr. Kelvin Bentley, program manager for Texas Credentials for the Future through the University of Texas System, to discuss his work with the National Association of Higher Education Systems (NASH) and Google’s Community of Practice on Microcredentials. Dr. Denley reminded Board members of the partnership discussed earlier in the day at the joint BESE-BOR meeting regarding the future use of AI. In Louisiana, this program involves the four systems’ 28 institutions under the purview of BOR. Dr. Denley thanked Google for providing access to all its professional microcredentials. Each Board member received access to the Coursera platform through which they can participate in various courses centered on AI, particularly the AI Essentials course, which involves a three- to four-hour commitment. Other Microcredentials offered include prompting essentials, cybersecurity, data analytics, and project management. Dr. Denley noted that Regents Reeves and David had already signed up for courses.

Dr. Bentley discussed his collaborative work with Google and NASH, noting that surveys indicate students and employers feel microcredentials help with job searches and strengthen applications. Those same surveys found that 74% of U.S. students are more likely to enroll in a degree program that offers industry microcredentials. Microcredentials have joined degrees, experiential learning opportunities, and internships in enhancing career readiness. The goal is to give all learners no-cost access to industry credentials. In the Texas program, microcredentials are available not only to students but also to faculty, staff, and alumni. The University of Texas System, along with partnering systems including Louisiana, will be conducting a study that includes reviewing facilitation, technical assistance, and professional development. The Community of Practice began last summer with 11 systems, including

BOR, and Dr. Bentley hopes to bring additional NASH members shortly. In addition to no-cost access to the microcredentials, Google is offering a \$15,000 stipend to incentivize faculty to experiment with the use of the microcredentials. Dr. Bentley stated that this is a great opportunity for Louisiana to be at the cutting edge, since offerings in and use of microcredentials are in the early stages. In Louisiana the Community of Practice provides 500 licenses per institution, with 14,000+ learners being served currently and potential for further expansion. Louisiana is the only state in which a statewide approach to incorporating microcredentials is being implemented.

Regent Devesh Sarda asked when students, faculty, and staff will have access to courses on Coursera. Dr. Denley replied that the access already exists and will be rolled at most institutions this fall. Regent Sarda commented that microcredentials are important for students because they show that the student has gone above and beyond the normal degree.

Regent Sterling asked Dr. Denley how these microcredentials fit with BOR's credentials of value and how they are counted. Dr. Denley emphasized that the AI credentials course is not defined as a credential of value, but other courses, such as cybersecurity and data analytics, are. He noted that the highest credential earned by the student is the one counted toward the attainment goal.

Regent Hixson advised the Regents that they will need to use their BOR email account to gain access to Coursera. Dr. Denley offered help to anyone having difficulties logging in.

#### CHAIR'S COMMENTS

On behalf of Chair Cordell, Vice Chair Sterling made the following comments:

- She recognized Regent Devesh Sarda, student member, who gave a report about the start of the fall semester.
  - Regent Sarda mentioned that Commissioner Reed has asked him to attend the Hazing Prevention Summit at the Pennington Center in Baton Rouge in September along with students from other systems.
  - He confirmed that the Council of Student Body Presidents now has dates for the group's meetings this year and that he will report to Board following each of the meetings. Meetings will be held on the following dates: Oct. 3–4 (Baton Rouge), Nov. 7–8 (Bossier City), Feb. 27–28 (Lake Charles), and April 10–11 (Shreveport).
- She encouraged Board members who had not seen them to watch the Louisiana Higher Education "Beg-Knows America" stories on CBS. Two episodes have aired, one highlighting a Southeastern Louisiana University student and the importance of having friends on campus and another about James Robert, a student born with a disability who is now using AI to develop wheelchairs for children with disabilities. The videos are available on YouTube.
- She mentioned several new BOR task forces had begun meeting.
  - Regent Aubrey and Regent Temple are part of the NIL Task Force, along with individuals from the high school level, athletic directors, and practitioners from LSU to NAIA schools. Chair Cordell and Regent Aubrey attended the first meeting, which Regent Aubrey noted was well supported by Board staff. At this meeting, a representative from the Louisiana Attorney General's office provided background content information

and members reviewed laws pertaining to NIL. The task force will meet again on August 26, 2025 in the Governor's Press Room.

- Regents also has a presence in the Governor's new task for on higher education reform, with Commissioner Reed and Chair Cordell appointed as members. The first meeting focusing on institutional accreditation will be held on August 28, 2025.
- She noted that Commissioner Reed was involved in welcoming U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon on her recent visit to Jefferson Parish to highlight improved test scores. During her visit, the Secretary visited with Southeastern Louisiana University to talk about dual enrollment and apprenticeship programs.

## **AUDIT**

### INTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Laura Soileau from EisnerAmper reviewed the Internal Audit Charter, which must be approved annually. Mrs. Soileau outlined the purpose, authority, and responsibility of the Internal Audit Charter and reported that there are no changes to guidance provided by the Institute of Internal Auditing Standards that would necessitate revisions.

**On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Creed, the Audit Committee recommended Board reapproval of the Internal Audit Charter.**

Mrs. Soileau continued her presentation with a review of the Global Internal Audit Standards, highlighting that the internal audit function is independent and internal auditors must be free from undue influence and committed to making objective assessments (Domain I). She further noted that the chief audit executive must develop a methodology and conduct internal assessments of the internal audit functions in conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards, as well as determine an action plan should instances of nonconformance arise and provide thorough documentation in accordance with the Standards. Mrs. Soileau confirmed that EisnerAmper's assessment and Quality Assurance and Improvement Program meets these Standards. These items were for informational purposes only.

During the annual risk assessment process, Mrs. Soileau stated, EisnerAmper determined the Board of Regents' Internal Audit Plan for FY26 would begin with a review of the agency's professional services contractual management and processes. Once this audit is completed, EisnerAmper will reassess the internal audit plan for the remainder of the fiscal year with considerations given to risk, discussions with management/Audit Committee, and available contract dollars remaining. The plan for the remainder of the fiscal year will then be presented to the Audit Committee for approval.

**On motion of Regent Shamieh, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Audit Committee recommended Board approval of the Internal Audit Plan for FY26.**

### BOARD OF REGENTS FORMULA, ADMISSIONS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS AUDIT PLAN,

## FY 2025–26

Ms. Bentley-Smith then introduced Ms. Amanda Cain, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Compliance, and Mr. Patrick Roque, Assistant Commissioner for Audit and Compliance, and presented the Formula, Admissions, and Scholarships Audit Plan for FY26. Ms. Bentley-Smith discussed the process to determine the Formula and Admission Audit Plan, noting that efficiency and effectiveness could be increased by focusing on specific data elements for higher-risk areas and institutions rather than the broad review previously conducted. She then discussed the audit plan for scholarships managed by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), which is in compliance with Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 28, Part IV, Section 107. In accordance with standard auditing practices, an annual risk assessment guided the selection of institutions for review, ensuring resources are focused on areas with the highest potential for noncompliance. The targeted compliance rate for these reviews is 90%. Ms. Bentley-Smith also noted that the risk assessment begins with a collaborative discussion between the Academic Affairs and Finance Divisions, including personnel from BOR institutional research and information technology. Regent Aubrey asked if admissions standards were part of the Board of Regents' audit plan. Mr. Roque confirmed that admissions standards are a key component of this year's audit plan as a thorough audit had not been completed since prior to COVID-19 and many of the policies changed in the interim. Regent Creed then requested a clarification regarding the 90% compliance rate. Mr. Roque explained that the audit team's goal is to ensure that institutions comply with assessment at a rate of 90% or greater and that the team works with the institutions to meet this goal.

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Creed, the Audit Committee recommended that the Board approve the Board of Regents' Formula, Admissions, and LOSFA Programs Audit Plans for FY26.**

## **FACILITIES AND PROPERTY**

### CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, reported on the Consent Agenda's Small Capital Projects report, containing the projects approved by staff since the previous meeting:

### SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. **Fletcher: Houma Campus Storage/Maintenance Building, Houma, LA** – Fletcher Technical Community College, Insurance Proceeds \$247,150

2. **LSU A&M: Campus Mounds Restoration 2025, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, National Park Service Campus Mounds Preservation Grant \$200,000
3. **LSU A&M: Himes Hall Suite 150 Renovation, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$208,000
4. **LSU A&M: Hodges Hall Rooms 116 and 116A Renovation, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$180,000
5. **LSU A&M: Patrick F. Taylor Hall Chilled Water Tertiary Pump Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$243,613
6. **LSU A&M: Pentagon Activity Center Variable Refrigerant Volume Repair and Component Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$198,103
7. **LSU A&M: Tennis Facility HVAC System Modifications, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$650,000
8. **LSU A&M: Veterinary Medicine Heating Water Exchanger and Valve Replacements, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$184,428
9. **LSU A&M: Williams Hall Coil Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Insurance Proceeds \$198,930
10. **LA Tech: Parking Lot Improvements, Ruston, LA** – Louisiana Tech University, Operational Funds \$235,000
11. **LA Tech: Warehouse and Applied Trade Shop Fire Damage Repairs, Ruston, LA** – Louisiana Tech University, Insurance Proceeds \$320,000
12. **LSU-S: Business Education Building Repairs, First Through Third Floors, Shreveport, LA** – Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Insurance Proceeds/Operational Funds \$390,000
13. **LSU-S: Noel Library Rooms 141 and 142 Improvements, Shreveport, LA** – Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Self-Generated Revenues \$475,000
14. **LSU-S: Soccer Building Correction and Pedestrian Bridge, Shreveport, LA** – Louisiana State University - Shreveport, Auxiliary Revenues \$172,030
15. **SOWELA: Charleston Building Chiller One Replacement, Lake Charles, LA** – SOWELA Technical Community College, Self-Generated Revenues \$275,000

Regent Temple inquired as to the types of projects being approved under the small capital project provisions. Mr. Herring stated that the threshold for small capital projects is \$1M or less. If an institution does not exceed the prescribed threshold, any type of project may be initiated.

**On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Facilities and Property Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the item on the Consent Agenda, the Small Capital Projects report.**

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE SOUTH QUAD HOUSING PROJECT

LSU A&M has pursued a multi-phase revitalization of its on-campus housing through a public-private partnership (P3) delivery model. The LSU Board of Supervisors, on behalf of LSU A&M, submitted a P3 agreement for the purpose of constructing Phase Four of the Housing Program. The first three phases – Nicholson Gateway Project and the Greenhouse District Project Phases 2 and 3 – delivered more than 3,000 new or renovated beds on schedule and under budget. The next phase of the initiative, South Quad Project – Phase 4 (SQ-4), will construct 1,266 first-year student beds on the South Quad site, in proximity to the College of Engineering in Patrick F. Taylor Hall and the E.J. Ourso College of Business.

SQ-4 will also replace approximately 100 short-term master-leased beds, relieve pressure on upper-division apartments that are currently housing first-year students, and allow LSU A&M to continue its first-year residency expectation even as enrollment grows. This project will also position LSU A&M to be able to replace, in future phases, older first-year housing buildings that are reaching the end of their useful life.

The new housing will consist of approximately 1,266 new on-campus beds in two residence halls dedicated to first-year students. The total development cost of the project is not to exceed \$188,520,143, of which \$167M is the total estimated housing project cost. The legal agreements and deal structure for SQ-4 will be virtually identical, except for construction details, to the Greenhouse District Phases 2 and 3. Bonds for the development will be issued by a special-purpose entity subsidiary or affiliate of the LSU Real Estate and Facilities Foundation (REFF SPE), through the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority to fund the project. The bonds will be secured by a lease agreement between LSU A&M and South Quad L3C. Funds to repay the bonds and operate the facilities will ultimately come from rent paid by students who choose to live on campus. The housing is scheduled to be completed by fall 2027.

LSU A&M will lease the land to the REFF SPE, which will contract with LSU's private housing development partner, RISE: A Real Estate Company (RISE), for the construction of SQ-4. LSU A&M will continue to oversee all residential-life-related functions, with RISE performing all physical operations and maintenance of the facilities. LSU A&M is requesting that the BOR approve the annual Maintenance Reserve Account (MRA) contribution, to be based on an amount of no less

than \$385 per bed annually. This is the same structure used successfully in the prior housing development phases.

The second component of the project involves construction of a new Mobility Hub. The Mobility Hub involves construction of a 5,000 SF air-conditioned building with restrooms, Wi-Fi, and ample security components, to provide a space for students and staff while awaiting transit to the campus core. Parking for LSU A&M students is a challenge that has grown over the last five-plus years primarily due to enrollment growth and construction-related reductions in available parking spaces. At the same time, over 2,000 parking spaces have been, or will be, removed from the campus core because of the new library and information commons, the SQ-4 housing project, and the reduction of on-street parking.

LSU A&M has already initiated the Park & Geaux project to make improvements to campus parking and transit systems on the periphery of campus. The Mobility Hub will be constructed in the Park & Geaux lot across from the Vet School and adjacent to the softball stadium. The Mobility Hub will help anchor the overall project and provide improved security, paving, and signage to help mobility on campus. The cost of this portion of the project will not exceed \$10M, with the Office of Parking and Transportation responsible for paying this portion of the debt service. The Mobility Hub will open for the fall 2026 semester, and LSU is requesting that the MRA on this portion of the project be based on an amount of \$0.40/SF of covered, air-conditioned space.

Regent David asked where the new housing will be located. Mr. Herring stated the new facilities will be in what is now known as the Touchdown Village parking lot. Mr. Patrick Martin, LSU Assistant Vice President for Real Estate, Public Partnership & Compliance, added that the site will be on South Quad Drive closer to Highland Road.

Regent Pryor asked if this project would solve the issue of some LSU A&M first-year students having to live off-campus. Mr. Martin responded that once these facilities are online, the expectation is that the issue will be rectified.

Regent Pryor also inquired whether the new facilities would be in the Tiger Land area and if LSU A&M has plans to acquire Tiger Land properties. Mr. Martin responded that the new facilities related to the South Quad project are not located near the Tiger Land area. Supervisor Starns noted that the LSU Board of Supervisors is cognizant of the concerns related to the Tiger Land area and has held discussions on the matter.

Regent Sarda asked if the new housing facilities will be able to accommodate future first-year enrollment growth. Mr. Martin responded that this is certainly the intent of the project, adding that LSU A&M is constantly evaluating future housing needs.

Regent Aubrey asked for LSU A&M's current on-campus housing capacity. Mr. Peter Trentacoste, LSU Executive Director of Residential Life, stated the current capacity is 8,800 beds, of

which 6,800 are for first-year students. Regent Aubrey then asked if current capacity is comparable with peer institutions. Mr. Trentacoste confirmed that is the case and the new facilities will provide LSU A&M with over 10,000 available beds.

Regent Creed requested an explanation of the Maintenance Reserve Account (MRA) contribution. Mr. Martin provided examples of work that could be completed by using MRA funds and clarified that MRA funding is derived from rental payments.

**On motion of Regent Glaser, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Facilities and Property Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the public-private partnership project submitted by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Louisiana State University and A&M College, for the purpose of construction of the South Quad Project – Phase Four of the housing program, including the Mobility Hub.**

#### JOB ORDER CONTRACTING POLICY APPROVAL

The passage of Act 88 during the 2025 Regular Legislative Session provided public postsecondary institutions with the ability to use the Job Order Contracting (JOC) project delivery method to accomplish work related to deferred maintenance, including the implementation of projects funded through Act 751 of 2024. Mr. Herring noted that 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. The JOC policy manual, including relevant appendices, was provided in meeting materials and had been presented in draft during the June 2025 Board meeting. The final version had been revised to clearly define the ability of an institution to hire a third-party firm to administer a JOC program on behalf of an institution, and appendices were added, including sample templates for solicitation and administration of a JOC agreement.

Regent Aubrey asked what size projects could be undertaken using the JOC delivery method. Mr. Herring responded that the maximum individual JOC contract would be capped at \$5M per year, but project costs could range from a few hundred thousand to over \$1M.

**On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Facilities and Property Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Board of Regents Job Order Contracting Manual, including all appendices, with authorization for staff to make technical changes as needed.**

#### OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Herring informed the Board of the upcoming capital outlay site visit schedule. Regent Temple mentioned the importance of Regents visiting institutions to gain firsthand knowledge of capital priorities and improvements across all public postsecondary institutions.

## **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 Glaser, the Committee received and 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 Technical Studies at Bossier Parish Community College, the Associate of Applied Science in Helicopter Aviation at South Louisiana Community College, the Bachelor of Science in Public Health at Grambling State University, and the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology at Nicholls State University.

Regent Glaser asked if there are any programs that train students on the use of drones; Dr. Denley responded that programs are in the state to train students in the use of drones.

Regent Mire asked about the dual enrollment portion of the aviation program. Dr. Charles Miller from SOLACC responded that the College is looking at partnerships with both an aviation academy and secondary schools in the region. Regent Sarda asked if the students will be trained for visibility or for instruments only. Dr. Miller responded that students would have five FAA credentials once they complete the program.

**On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Creed, the Committee approved the four proposed new programs as presented.**

### NEW COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES HUMANITIES CENTER – LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY A&M

Dr. Denley then presented for approval the Humanities Center in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) at Louisiana State University A&M. Dr. Denley advised that the Center's mission is to foster a scholarly culture of human-centered learning, offer a diverse suite of programming and resources to support researchers' professional development at

every career stage, and support HSS faculty as they write and publish their research and creative activity.

**On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Committee approved the new research center as presented.**

## STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

### CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Geaux Teach Program Rulemaking - Implements Act 59 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

Dr. Sujuan Boutté explained that this rulemaking allows students who receive Geaux Teach Program funds to apply those funds as a first-restricted dollar. It will be applied to awarded students' tuition, fees, textbooks, and instructional materials prior to the application of any other state or institutional aid. This amendment will ensure that students receive the maximum benefit of the Geaux Teach Program as well as any other scholarships, including TOPS, and need-based aid for which they are eligible. Prior to Act 59, the Geaux Teach Program was a last dollar program that could only be used to pay tuition, fees, and textbooks and instructional materials for undergraduate students and students enrolled in approved alternative teacher certification programs.

- B. M.J. Foster Promise Program Rulemaking - Implements Act 152 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that Act 152 provides additional responsibilities to the M.J. Foster Advisory Council. This Council was created as part of the original M.J. Foster Promise Program, Louisiana's adult financial aid offering, when it was created in 2021, to identify credential programs in which an eligible student may enroll to receive an M.J. Foster Promise award. Act 152 adds to those responsibilities and provides that in addition to selecting eligible programs for the M.J. Foster Promise Program, the Council will identify such programs for TOPS Tech and TOPS Tech Early Start. It requires that the Council consider the eligible programs for M.J. Foster Promise Program when identifying eligible programs for TOPS Tech and TOPS Tech Early Start but does not require that the eligible programs of study be precisely aligned.

- C. TOPS, TOPS Tech, and TOPS Tech Early Start Rulemaking - Implements Acts 152, 347, 268, and 359 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and adds core courses as equivalents in the TOPS core curriculum

Dr. Boutté explained the Act 152 changes that were necessary in the TOPS rulemaking for the approval of courses of study for TOPS Tech Early Start and TOPS Tech. Dr. Boutté then explained that Act 347 creates the TOPS Excellence Award and provides that students may qualify based on an equivalent concordant value to the ACT on the Classic Learning Test.

She also explained that Act 359 eliminates the requirement that home study students achieve a higher score on the ACT than students who attend a public or approved non-public high school in Louisiana. Act 356 provides that all high schools must use a 10-point grading scale when reporting grades to the Student Transcript System (STS) for the purpose of determining a student's eligibility for a TOPS Award. The Act 356 amendments do not require rulemaking; however, information is provided on this Act because it could result in additional expenditures for TOPS due to students becoming eligible for TOPS or for a higher award level due to the changes.

Act 268 pushes back implementation of the requirement that students complete one unit of computer science for the TOPS core curriculum from high school graduates of 2028–2029 to graduates of 2030–2031.

In addition to implementing the 2025 Acts of the Legislature, this rulemaking adds core equivalents for TOPS.

- D. 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 year

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that one request for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on July 23, 2025. The student has presented facts and documentation that the student believes justifies the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance, and the Advisory Board recommends Board of Regents approval.

- E. TOPS and M.J Foster Promise Program 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 twenty-three requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on July 23, 2025. One request for exception to the M.J. Foster continuous enrollment requirement was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on July 23, 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 Sarda, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the Statewide Programs Committee voted unanimously to recommend Board approval of the Consent Agenda items.**

## **PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND PERFORMANCE**

### CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda, starting with the recommendations for approval of two initial and 29 renewal proprietary school applications, as recommended by the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools.

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

- A. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools
  - 1. Initial License Applications
    - a. Accelerated Academy – Covington, LA
    - b. Accelerated Academy – Geismar, LA
  - 2. Renewal Applications
    - a. AAA Crane & Rigging – Addis – License #2371
    - b. Ben D. Johnson Educational Center – Natchitoches – License #2300
    - c. CDL Mentors of Baton Rouge Truck Driving School – Baton Rouge – License #2319
    - d. Cooper’s Defensive Driving – New Orleans – License #2375
    - e. Delta College of Arts & Technology – Baton Rouge – License #857
    - f. Diesel Driving Academy – Baton Rouge – License #717
    - g. Global Trucking Academy – Marksville – License #2245
    - h. Hands on HVAC School-Shreveport – Shreveport – License #2355
    - i. Holmes Healthcare Training Center – New Orleans – License #2301
    - j. Inspire Coding Consulting-Slidell – Slidell – License #2292
    - k. Integrated Education Solutions – Violet – License #911
    - l. Louisiana Green Corps – New Orleans – License #2356
    - m. Louisiana Institute of Massage Therapy – Lake Charles – License #2180
    - n. Med-Advance Training – Baton Rouge – License #2272
    - o. Nashville Auto-Diesel College – Nashville, TN – License #2051
    - p. Operations Spark – New Orleans – License #2247
    - q. Ouachita Truck Driving Academy – Sterlington – License #2050
    - r. Petra College – Hammond – License #2215
    - s. Precision Welding Testing & Training – Geismar – License #2293
    - t. Premier Diagnostic Institute – Metairie – License #2382
    - u. Remington College-Lafayette – Lafayette – License #2152

- v. Remington College-Shreveport – Shreveport – License #2153
- w. Safe Road Truck Driving School – New Orleans – License #2333
- x. Unitech Training Academy-Alexandria – Alexandria – License #2384
- y. Unitech Training Academy-Baton Rouge – Baton Rouge – License #2385
- z. Unitech Training Academy-Houma – Houma – License #2386
- aa. Unitech Training Academy-Lafayette – Lafayette – License #2387
- bb. Unitech Training Academy-New Orleans – New Orleans – License #2388
- cc. Unitech Training Academy-West Monroe – West Monroe – License #2389

Following the Consent Agenda, Dr. Craig provided an update on the Hunger-Free Campus Designations and Awards. She summarized the legislation (2022) that established an application process for designating Hunger-Free Campuses. The legislation includes establishing a competitive grant program to provide funding to assist postsecondary education institutions in raising awareness of resources available to address basic food needs, leveraging and maximizing existing infrastructure and federal programs, and building strategic partnerships at local, state, and national levels to address food insecurity among students in Louisiana postsecondary institutions.

Dr. Craig reported that all of Louisiana’s public two- and four-year institutions have met the eligibility requirements and have once again earned the Hunger-Free Campus designation for a three-year term spanning AYs 2025–2027. In addition, four LAICU institutions also met all requirements and were recognized with the designation:

- Centenary College
- Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University
- Loyola University
- Tulane University

In addition to the designations, Dr. Craig highlighted the Hunger-Free Campus Award recipients. In 2024, six institutions were each recognized with awards of \$8,000 to strengthen their hunger-free campus initiatives. In 2025, five institutions received the award, with the funding amount increased from \$8,000 to \$10,000. The 2025 award winners were:

- Delgado Community College
- Fletcher Technical Community College
- LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans
- Nicholls State University
- Northwestern State University

She continued her presentation by highlighting the inspiring and innovative work happening at each of the postsecondary systems across the state, including themed and holiday food drives and volunteer events, student support events during finals week, the expansion of wraparound services, engagement of dietetic interns to staff and guide food pantry operations, and partnerships with local groups to secure donations.

Dr. Craig concluded her remarks by emphasizing that each institution participating in the Hunger-Free Campus program develops unique and creative initiatives reflecting their commitment to collaboration, care, and meeting the specific needs of their student communities. Dr. Craig then introduced staff members Allison Vicknair and Dr. Lupe Lamadrid, and recognized them for their great work in establishing and maintaining the designation program and grant award process.

#### REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

On behalf of Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed, Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented several items to the Board:

- She provided an update on BOR's summer project Helping Foster Youth Start College on the Right Foot. She recognized Emily Skaikay for her work with this project and noted that the project has grown over the six years it has been BOR's annual summer project. In 2025, sixty-one foster students, both on and off campus, have received supplies.
- Several BOR staff members traveled during the first week of August to the annual State Higher Education Executive Officers annual policy conference in Minneapolis, MN. Five members of the BOR team—Ms. Bentley-Smith, Dr. Denley, Ms. Kim Kirkpatrick, Dr. Reed, and Dr. Allison Smith—were selected to give presentations. Topics covered included the return on investment for dual enrollment and strategies for improving education and workforce alignment.
- She mentioned that Dr. Reed joined the Blanco Policy Center Katrina Forward Summit in Lafayette to mark the twentieth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina this month. There she was joined by former Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Joseph Savoie and Barry Erwin of Leaders for a Better Louisiana. In addition, Regent David attended the event as they discussed how education in Louisiana has changed over the last twenty years. On August 30, 2025, Dr. Reed will participate in an emergency preparedness Katrina panel for the City of New Orleans. The discussions will focus on lessons learned, resilience, and the work ahead to ensure that Louisiana continues to prosper.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Regent Sterling asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. Regent Glaser took a moment to commend Southern University A&M and District Attorney Tony Clayton for expelling the fraternity involved in the hazing death of a SUBR student.

Dr. Shamieh reminded the Board that at the June meeting Regent Pryor discussed concerns about Southern New Hampshire University and inquired as to when Board staff would get back with questions

posed during that discussion. Regent Mire responded that information is being collected and will be presented as soon as it is assembled, which may not be until January 2026.

Regent Aubrey voiced concern about higher education budgets. Regent David mentioned that the two-day September meetings will be devoted to budget matters. Regent Aubrey expressed his view that the Board needs to be honest about the budgeting challenges that lie ahead and that Board members need to be informed to advocate for and assist system leaders to address budget issues. For the benefit of new Board members, Regent David explained how budget hearings work. Regent Sterling reminded the Board that the dates for the budget hearings and Board meeting are September 23 and 24, 2025, and suggested that any member who wishes to submit questions for those meetings should send them to Ms. Bentley-Smith. Ms. Bentley-Smith added that Regents staff have met with the four system chief financial officers to discuss system plans and Regents' expectations for the hearings.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Temple, the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

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Appendix A  
Board Meeting Guest List  
Wednesday, August 20, 2025

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Laura Soileau	EisnerAmper
Connie Walton	Grambling State University
Carolyn Hester	Grambling State University
Sharon Murff	Grambling State University
Meg Brown	Grambling State University
Jeannine O'Rourke	UL System
William Tulak	LCTCS
Charles Miller	South Louisiana Community College
Margaret Finch	LSU A&M
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Chris Barrett	LSU A&M
Sujuan Boutte	LOSFA/BOR
Troy Blanchard	LSU A&M