

MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

October 22, 2025

The Board of Regents met at 12:45 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, in the Terrace – University Library, University of Louisiana at Monroe, 700 University Avenue, Monroe, Louisiana.

Chair Cordell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:

Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner
Misti Cordell, Chair
Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair
Phillip May, Secretary
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
Collis Temple III
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board representatives not present were:

LCTCS
LSU
Southern
UL

Appendix A
Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 MEETING

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent David, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2025 meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE 2026 CALENDAR

Chair Cordell asked Regents to consider the proposed 2026 BOR meeting calendar. Regent Aubrey noted a possible conflict of the January meeting with the 2026 Washington, D.C. Mardi Gras events, which some Regents will be attending. Chair Cordell suggested moving the meeting to the Monday prior, January 19, 2026, and asked staff to check for room availability.

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026 Board calendar.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell thanked the Board members for traveling to northeast Louisiana for the three-day visit. She also thanked Regent Creed for co-hosting a gathering of the Board, and Carrie Castille, ULM's president, for their hospitality. Chair Cordell also made the following comments:

- She recognized Regent Devesh Sarda, student member, who gave his report.
 - Regent Sarda mentioned that he heard from the SGA presidents at each of the sites visited during the Board's October gathering in northeast Louisiana.
 - He reviewed topics discussed during the October 3 meeting of the Council of Student Body Presidents, which included: hazing prevention, use of apps to ensure safety on campus, and accessibility as campuses work toward ADA compliance.
 - During the October 3 meeting, keynote speaker Andrew Schwartz, an LSU A&M professor in the Information Systems and Decision Sciences Department, spoke about various aspects of AI, notably privacy and integrity, AI equity and access, and accountability and responsibility centered around AI.
 - Regent Sarda announced that the next meeting of the COSBP will be held November 7–8 in Shreveport.
- Regent Cordell, along with Commissioner Reed, shared a photo taken during a recent COSBP meeting in Baton Rouge at Tiger Stadium. Commissioner Reed said the students had a chance to see Mr. Harold Boutte for the first time and were delighted. She described cards handed out by LSU at the meeting, which were also given to each Board member which stated: "When Louisiana colleges and universities win, our students win, our community wins, and our state stands as a model of what it truly means to build a winning culture." The logos of all of the systems in higher education were also included on the card.
- She thanked all of the campuses visited during the three-day tour, mentioning highlights of the stops at the following institutions: Louisiana Delta, Louisiana Tech, Grambling, ULM, and VCOM. She wrapped up her summary by saying that she continues to be impressed by all of the amazing students across Louisiana. More campus visits will be coming soon.
- She announced the following Regents would serve as members of the Nominating Committee, which will bring a recommended slate of officers to the Board in December: Darren Mire (Chair), Collis Temple III, Stephanie Finley, Phillip May, and K. Samer Shamieh.

FINANCE

APPROVAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2026–2027

Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, presented a breakdown of the 2026–2027 budget request. The Board will be requesting an increase of \$119M, which includes funding for initiatives put forth by the Board at specialized and four- and two-year institutions. No additional funds will be requested for TOPS, while the Board will request an additional \$10M for need-based funding through GO Grants and an additional \$14.5M for the M.J. Foster Promise Program. Within the next month, this year's \$10M allocation in the M.J. Foster Promise Program will have been spent.

Ms. Bentley-Smith presented the following details of the budget request: \$50M increase for formula institutions, \$20M increase for specialized institutions, maintaining \$50M received in non-recurring line item allocations provided during the last legislative session, and a request to reinvest mandated costs savings at institutions. In addition, targeted requests include the following: \$20M for dual enrollment, \$14.5 for the M.J. Foster Program, \$10M for GO Grants, \$4M for START Software, and \$500,000 for the Cybersecurity Assurance Program. In summary, the \$119M requested increase would move the total higher education budget from the FY 2025–26 total of \$1.32B to a total of \$1.44B in FY 2026–27.

Ms. Bentley-Smith also noted the constitutional amendment that will be up for a vote in April 2026. If passed, the provisions of the amendment will allow institutions to pay off a portion of their UAL debt and generate savings of approximately \$81M to higher education, which could be retained in higher education and redistributed to assist institutions. She shared a draft of the redistribution.

The proposed budget also includes the following one-time funding requests: \$175M for a system-specific ERP platform, \$20M for workforce funding and development, \$5M for campus cyber security funding, \$5M for campus physical and cyber safety, \$1M for textbook affordability funding, and \$1M for the Hunger-Free Campus program.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board unanimously approved the State General Fund operating budget requests for all higher education systems, boards, and agencies for FY 2026–2027.

Following approval of the motion, Regent Sarda asked if the new funding formula could be applied to the approved budget. Ms. Bentley-Smith responded that the new funding formula could be applied. Regent Aubrey noted that during the three-day visit to various institutions in northeast Louisiana, both students and institutional leaders mentioned a lack of funding for initiatives such as HiSET and Call Me MiSTER. He proposed having the Board voice support for education initiatives, perhaps by asking for more funding. After further discussion, Regent Aubrey offered as an amendment to add \$5M to

workforce funding for teacher apprenticeship programs and education support initiatives like the Call Me MiSTER program.

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to add \$5M to the workforce funding request in the FY 2026–2027 budget request for HiSET and teacher apprenticeships type initiatives.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

ACT 959 REQUEST

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, presented information about a project request under Act 959 to construct an indoor practice athletic facility at Grambling State University. The project scope involves construction of a 36,505 square foot facility at a cost of \$6.7M.

On motion of Regent Finley, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Act 959 project submitted by the University of Louisiana System, on behalf of Grambling State University, for the purpose of constructing an indoor athletic practice facility. Board approval is contingent upon University of Louisiana System approval during its meeting of October 23, 2025.

CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET RECOMMENDATION FOR FY 2026–2027

Mr. Herring reviewed the annual BOR Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation required by statute to be submitted to the Division of Administration by November 1 of each year. The Board received 153 projects for consideration, of which staff are recommending 79 for approval. Mr. Herring noted that this continues the trend of receiving and approving fewer projects. Institutions have been asked to minimize the number of requests. In the 2025 budget, higher education received approximately \$326M (\$248M from general obligation bonds and \$78M in cash) for capital projects. Mr. Herring added that, in considering priorities, the staff accounts for which projects are currently under construction and which have a commitment to bid during the current fiscal year. Mr. Herring concluded by mentioning that staff met with every system to discuss the facilities condition assessment. BOR worked with the Office of Facility Planning and Control to find a contractor to conduct the assessments. Gordian was hired to do a comprehensive facilities condition assessment, a space utilities analysis, and a review of historical spending levels, staffing levels related to maintenance, and energy costs over the last five years. The information gathered from the Gordian report will help systems develop a capital plan. Eight onsite assessments have been completed and more are in the planning phase.

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent David, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board of Regents FY 2026–2027 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation as presented.

Regent Sarda asked for further clarification of what is considered deferred maintenance as

opposed to capital projects. Commissioned Reed said that traditionally the Board has had an approximately \$2B backlog in deferred maintenance. Legislation has been passed to try to eliminate this backlog but campuses still spend about \$50M to \$60M of their own operating budgets on deferred maintenance. Mr. Herring stated that about 50% of capital outlay funds go toward deferred maintenance. He further stated that the levels of funding for deferred maintenance vary from year to year, making it difficult to plan for unforeseen but needed repairs and plan for the future.

Regent Aubrey asked how the Board is funding the facilities condition assessment tool and how assessments are scheduled. Mr. Herring responded that the assessment is funded through Act 751. Each system was asked to identify two institutions at which the assessment would begin. The work should be done on all campuses by fall 2026. The total cost of the assessment is \$9.4M for all of higher education. Mr. Herring explained the process Gordian uses for the assessment. The data in the assessment which is a resource for capital planning is reviewed in conjunction with each institution's master plan. Commissioner Reed said that the ability to have a third party validate the information and consistently review all of the campuses allows us to move from self-reported to strong and expert information to make decisions. Mr. Herring said that the information in the final report will be housed on a cloud platform, but was not clear on public access. Commissioner Reed said the Board would be consulted about their preference.

Chair Cordell asked if Gordian would offer a maintenance schedule, including such items as routine maintenance for HVAC systems. Mr. Herring responded that such a detailed maintenance schedule would be a component of the report.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine items including Staff Approvals.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board unanimously approved the items on the Consent Agenda.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Dr. Denley presented for the Board's consideration a proposed Bachelor's Degree in Entrepreneurship at Southern University A&M.

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Board voted to approve the BBA Entrepreneurship at Southern University and A&M College, with Regent Aubrey abstaining.

Regent Aubrey questioned adding this degree when Southern University A&M already has a

Bachelor's of Business Administration. He wondered about adding a concentration in entrepreneurship to an existing degree program rather than a new degree. Dr. Denley explained that often when subspecialties within a program grow as a result of high demand and interest, a fiscally responsible way to meet that need is to create a new program which will use many of the existing courses, staff, and resources. He then invited Dean Donald Andrews from Southern's College of Business to answer further questions about the proposed new degree program. Dean Andrews said that Southern has been working in the area of entrepreneurship for thirty years. He spoke about training opportunities given to Southern's faculty in the area and funding procured from various sources such as grants and alumni donations.

Dean Andrews said the new program will be a business program oriented toward practice because entrepreneurship is a craft. After further discussion, Regent May pointed out that the proposed degree program in entrepreneurship at Southern does not include a request for additional funding.

Dr. Denley presented proposals for the following new centers and institutes: the Institute for the Health and Performance of Champions at LSU A&M and the Center for Research Excellence for Traumatic Injury and Burn Research and Innovation at LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans.

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Board voted unanimously to approve the institute and research center as presented.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

As an introduction to the M.J. Foster Promise Program annual report, Chair Cordell announced that the Board was honored with the College Promise National Impact Award, which was presented in San Antonio during the Tenth Anniversary and Careers Institute of College Promise. The award recognized the M.J. Foster Promise Program for its work in providing workforce training opportunities for working-age adults who have not earned a degree. Dr. Denley presented more information about the impact of the program. In 2025, the Board used the funding allocated to help a record number of nearly 6,400 recipients, 68% of whom self-reported adjusted gross incomes below the ALICE Household Survival Budget in Louisiana. After M.J. Foster recipients graduate, the median increase in their salaries is \$36,000, often doubling or tripling their income.

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent May, the Board voted unanimously to approve the M.J. Foster Promise Program Annual Report and authorized the Commissioner of Higher Education to submit the report to the appropriate legislative committees on behalf of the Board of Regents.

Based on Regent Pryor's question about distribution of the funding, Dr. Denley explained that the legislation governing the M.J. Foster Promise Program stipulates that recipients are generally eligible to receive funds covering the cost of the program they have chosen. This is on average \$2,000 per recipient. Commissioner Reed added that this is the only state-funded scholarship program requiring recipients to pursue a high-demand credential and that there is a needs-based component. Commissioner Reed noted

that while there is a need for more funding, it will be up to Regents and LCTCS to explain the value of the program and up to the Legislature to prioritize increasing the allocation of funds to meet the demand for these awards.

Dr. Denley presented the 2025 TOPS Annual Report required by statute. He stated that data show that students receiving a TOPS award are much more likely to complete their credential more quickly and successfully. He mentioned that gradually over the last decade increasing numbers of students eligible for TOPS have chosen not to accept it, often because they planned to leave the state to pursue higher education elsewhere. Last year, as part of a broader financial aid report, the Board sent recommendations to the Legislature about TOPS. Some of those recommendations were approved by the Legislature including the creation of a new TOPS award level, Excellence, which is specifically designed to entice the best and brightest students to remain in Louisiana. Chair Cordell added that students she has talked with praised the new TOPS Excellence scholarship as being a factor in their decisions about their choice to remain in the state.

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the TOPS Report: Analysis of the TOPS Program from 2015–2025 and authorized the Commissioner of Higher Education to submit the report to the appropriate legislative committees on behalf of the Board of Regents.

Regent Sarda asked what percentage of TOPS-accepted students stay and work in Louisiana. Dr. Denley responded that the Board is working with LA FIRST to understand the interconnection between TOPS eligibility and the decision to remain in the state for higher education in order to answer that question.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRHOLDER WITHOUT NATIONAL SEARCH: LSU A&M

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives, notified the Board of a request to waive the requirement that BoRSF-matched Endowed Chairs be filled as a result of a national search to appoint Dr. Kenneth (Kip) Matthews II to the Dr. Charles M. Smith Chair in Medical Physics at LSU. LSU has used the Smith Chair to support the Director of the LSU and Mary Byrd Perkins Medical Physics program. She noted that staff reviewed Dr. Matthews's qualifications and found them to align well with policy requirements of internal appointments.

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Sarda, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Endowed Chairholder at LSU A&M without a National Search. Regent Pryor opposed the motion.

OVERVIEW OF BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND (BoRSF) PLAN AND BUDGET.

FY 2026–2027

Ms. Robison presented an overview of the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) and budget. This item was for informational purposes only. Ms. Robison reminded the Board that the Support Fund is a constitutionally dedicated program designed to enhance Louisiana’s higher education and support economic development, however, Act 222 of the 2025 Regular Session repeals the trust fund that provides the funding for the BoRSF. If the provisions of Act 222 are approved by Louisiana voters in April 2026, the Support Fund will cease to exist, but a budget is still required until the vote takes place. Ms. Robison reviewed graphs of data showing how the fund has fared and ways in which BoRSF support is used. She noted that the Board will be asked to approve the recommended \$22M BoRSF budget, with contingencies, in December.

Regent Creed asked Ms. Robison to explain, especially for new Board members, the legislative intent in repealing the fund. Ms. Robison responded that the intent of the repeal is to use the funds to pay unaccrued liabilities in the retirement systems.

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda, which consisted of three initial applications, one change of ownership, and 34 renewal applications.

On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

- a. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools
 - i. Initial Applications
 - a. Lafayette Medical Assistant School, Lafayette, LA
 - b. Shreveport Medical Assistant School, Shreveport, LA
 - c. Mandeville Medical Assistant School, Mandeville, LA
 - ii. Change of Ownership Applications
 - a. Medical Education (MediEd), New Iberia, LA - Formerly Academy of Acadiana - New Iberia
 - iii. Renewal Applications
 - a. 160 Driving Academy - Shreveport – License #2364 – Shreveport, LA
 - b. Acadiana Area Career College - A Div of Blue Cliff College – License #2357 – Lafayette, LA
 - c. Accelerated Academy - Baton Rouge – License #2220 – Baton Rouge, LA
 - d. Accelerated Academy - Denham Springs – License #2154 – Denham Springs, LA

- e. Accelerated Academy - Hammond – License #2235 – Hammond, LA
- f. Accelerated Academy - Houma – License #2228 – Houma, LA
- g. Accelerated Academy - Lafayette – License #2219 – Lafayette, LA
- h. Accelerated Academy - Lake Charles – License #2308 – Lake Charles, LA
- i. Accelerated Academy - Metairie – License #2230 – Metairie, LA
- j. Accelerated Academy - Monroe – License #2223 – Monroe, LA
- k. Accelerated Academy - Slidell – License #2224 – Slidell, LA
- l. Advance Nursing Training – License #2197 – New Orleans, LA
- m. Ark-La-Tex Dental Assisting Academy – License #2131 – Shreveport, LA
- n. Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy – License #2335 – Baton Rouge, LA
- o. Blue Cliff College - Alexandria – License #2358 – Alexandria, LA
- p. Blue Cliff College - Metairie, Satellite Location – License #2361 – Metairie, LA
- q. Camelot College – License #680 – Baton Rouge, LA
- r. Coastal College - Alexandria – License #991 – Alexandria, LA
- s. Cross Road CDL Academy – License #2321 – Harvey, LA
- t. Delta College South – License #969 – Baton Rouge, LA
- u. Digital Media Institute – License #2198 – Shreveport, LA
- v. Fortis College – License #2134 – Baton Rouge, LA
- w. Healthcare Training Institute – License #2109 – Kenner, LA
- x. Life Care – License #2182 – Marrero, LA
- y. Louisiana Truck Driving Training – License #2393 – Tickfaw, LA
- z. MedCerts – License #2337 – Livonia, MI
- aa. New Orleans Medical Assistant School – License #2305 – New Orleans, LA
- bb. Opelousas Academy of Nondestructive Testing – License #2275 – Opelousas, LA
- cc. Remington College - Baton Rouge – License #2277 – Baton Rouge, LA
- dd. River Cities School of Dental Assisting – License #2089 – Shreveport, LA
- ee. Smith Institute – License #2362 – Shreveport, LA
- ff. Stick It Phlebotomy – License #2226 – Ruston, LA
- gg. Synergy Massage Institute - Metairie – License #2365 – Metairie, LA
- hh. The Captain School – License #2392 – Marrero, LA

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI USE POLICY

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, and Dr. Uma Subramanian, General Counsel, presented the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy. Dr. Denley explained that this policy addresses components of Governor Landry's executive order JML 25-103, which cautions higher education boards and institutions about the use of free AI programs. The framework establishes guardrails for responsible, ethical, and safe deployment of AI tools.

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Louisiana Board of Regents Policy on Responsible,

Ethical, and Secure Use of Artificial Intelligence.

Regent Aubrey mentioned that the management boards are included in the policy to ensure that they establish safeguards for the use of AI. Dr. Denley noted that the AI policy is fashioned after examples from the SREB (Southern Regional Education Board).

RESOLUTION CONCERNING AI USE IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Dr. Subramanian explained the resolution, which is a companion to the policy. While the policy governs the Board's own use of AI, the resolution urges the member institutions of the four management boards to adopt policies for the safe, responsible use of AI particularly with respect to use by students and faculty members. The Board will coordinate with the management boards on student use of AI. The resolution urges the management boards to adopt these policies by the December 15, 2025 deadline established in the Governor's executive order.

On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Sarda, the Board voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of the proposed resolution.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She echoed Chair Cordell's gratitude to the institutions visited during the three-day tour of northeast Louisiana. She also thanked the economic developers who were part of the visits.
- She recognized LOSFA staff for the work they have done since the September cyber incident to bring all systems back up safely. She also thanked Board staff and various state agencies for their work in helping to secure the system. She indicated that she will continue to provide updates to the Board about the restoration process and mentioned that START accounts are now active.
- She noted that Regents were given a copy of the Louisiana ALICE Report, which analyzes asset-limited individuals in every parish in the state. She said the report reinforces the need for education and training to lift people out of poverty given that 50% of Louisiana households are asset limited or in poverty.
- She mentioned that Regents were given a copy of the Early Childhood Education in Louisiana Report. She tabbed a graphic of the cost of childcare compared to that of in-state college tuition in five major markets. According to the 2023 data, in every market the cost of early childhood education is more than the cost of tuition of a public four-year institution. She noted that nineteen campuses have early childhood centers and the hope is eventually to have universal childcare access on every university campus.
- She commended Regent Reeves for her recent keynote address at the LOUIS Users Conference. She received much positive feedback about Regent Reeves's speech, which shared experiences from her own time as a librarian.
- She noted that Dr. Tristan Denley was invited to speak at the World Education Forum in New York. This provides Dr. Denley an opportunity to talk about the work of the Board on a global stage.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. She mentioned that there will be no meeting in November and that the meeting on December 10th will be a joint meeting with BESE.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

NAME	AFFILIATION
Matthew Dickerson	Mid South Extrusion
Randy Ellis	City of Monroe
Judy Williams-Brown	BoR
Staci Albritton Mitchell	Mayor of West Monroe
Brookley Barnes	Grow NELA
Rick Gallot	ULS
Brian Roberts	LUMCON
Wendi Palermo	LCTCS
Jackie Baer	LSU A&M
Guillaume Spielmann	LSU A&M
Donald R. Andrews	Southern University – Baton Rouge
Chance Eppinette	ULM