

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 6, 2026

The Board of Regents Executive Committee met at 10:03 a.m. on Friday, February 6, in the Board of Regents Board Conference Room (6-242), Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Misti Cordell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Emily Skaikay called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Executive Committee Members present for the meeting were:

Misti Cordell, Chair
Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair
Phillip May, Secretary
Christian Creed
Blake David
Collis Temple III
Judy Williams-Brown

Executive Committee Members not present were:

N/A

Non-Executive Committee Member present for the meeting was:

David Aubrey

Appendix A
Guest List

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2025 MEETING

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent May, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2025 meeting.

RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2026

Chair Cordell thanked members for their willingness to serve in assigned positions. She asked if there were any questions. There were none. Chair Cordell mentioned that all committee assignments would be updated on Board materials starting with the March meeting. She also announced two additional assignments: the personnel chair will lead contract negotiations with the Commissioner of Higher Education and Regent Temple will be the lead contact for NIL issues.

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Sterling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026 Committee Assignments.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE

CALEB WILSON HAZING PREVENTION TASK FORCE REPORT

The House Concurrent Resolution 37 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session established the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force following the tragic death of Southern University A&M student Caleb Wilson. Brianna Golden Phillips, Director of Government Affairs, and Allison Smith, Assistant Commissioner for Student Health and Wellness, staffed the Task Force for BOR. Chair Cordell commended them on their work and asked them to present information about the report. Ms. Golden Phillips shared that BOR submits a total of 14 annual reports to the legislature. During the 2025 Regular Legislative Session four one-time reports were added, bringing the total to 18, of which 15 had been submitted.

Dr. Smith presented the report and recommendations of the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force. The Task Force recommended increased annual training for all students, all persons serving in advisory capacities, and appropriate faculty and staff across institutional communities. The training will include reinforcement of shared expectations, review of legal and institutional consequences of hazing, encouragement of reporting and bystander intervention, and long-term culture training. The goal of consistent training is to develop statewide understanding among faculty and advisors of the roles they play in hazing intervention. In addition, the Task Force recommended stronger accountability for reporting and compliance.

Policy implications of the recommendations of the Task Force include 1) adding a section to the annual Power-Based Violence report to capture information on hazing incidents so that they are now part of crime documentation on institutions' websites; and 2) recommending that the BOR update its existing uniform policy on hazing to include an amnesty provision that encourages reporting and help-seeking behaviors without fear of punitive consequences for policy violations. Another recommendation is to conduct a review of the appropriate evidentiary standard change, to enable institutions to act decisively to protect student safety while maintaining fairness and due process in hazing-related proceedings. Louisiana is currently the only state that requires a clear and convincing standard of evidence in hazing-related cases. The Task Force recommended reverting to the "preponderance of evidence" standard that was used before 2024.

In terms of financial implications, the Task Force recommended the adoption of clear penalties for failure to comply with public reporting requirements. To prevent inconsistent compliance, meaningful penalties should be imposed across the state to reinforce accountability and ensure consistent enforcement of all hazing prevention requirements. The Task Force also suggested requesting legislative appropriations to support mandated training.

Chair Cordell commended the group for well-run, productive meetings and for the deep engagement of Caleb Wilson's family, who gave input from their perspective. Dr. Smith added that a task force member asked her to read the following part of the report for the record: "The task force extends its sincere gratitude to the family of Mr. Caleb Wilson for their steadfast presence, engagement, and courage throughout this difficult and deeply personal process. The willingness of the Wilson family to participate in this work serves as a constant reminder of the tragic impact of hazing, the urgency of prevention, and the importance of accountability."

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force Report as requested by the legislature.

NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS (NIL) TASK FORCE REPORT

Chair Cordell thanked Regents Temple and Aubrey for serving on the NIL Task Force, a group organized to protect the interests of all student-athletes in Louisiana, and Ms. Golden Phillips and Jolee Liles, a representative from the Office of the Attorney General, to discuss the recommendations. Ms. Golden Phillips thanked Harry "Skip" Philips, also from the office of the Attorney General, for his contributions. She noted that the Task Force began meeting in July 2025 to discuss students' protection and how institutions can manage NIL since the House Settlement.

Ms. Liles presented a summary of the legal background of NIL which stems from the right of publicity in the use of one's name, image, or likeness. The House Settlement established that student athletes are now able to collect back pay on money they could have earned. New rules have also been instituted for scholarship caps, roster limits, and a new reporting structure for third party NIL deals. Student athletes now are required to report any NIL deal they make to the newly formed college sports commission. In addition, institutions can now pay their athletes directly from athletic revenues, with an annual cap of \$20.5 million.

Ms. Golden Phillips presented a list of Louisiana institutions that have opted to participate in the provisions of the House Settlement and referred to state and federal current and pending statutes governing NIL. She noted that members of the Task Force are discussing with LHSAA compensation for high school athletes. Ms. Liles added that there is consideration at the federal level of whether NIL should be managed on a state-by-state basis or through a federal mandate.

Ms. Golden Phillips and Ms. Liles discussed legislative recommendations set forth by the NIL Task Force, including amending state law to expand definition of "agent contract" and "athlete agent," requiring background checks and mandatory training for agents through the Attorney General's office, establishing a regulatory NIL framework for high school athletes to include sanctions that could be imposed by LHSAA for violations, and updating college NIL state laws to require all institutions to adopt policies by August 2026. In addition, the Task Force recommended studies to explore trust accounts for high school athletes and to review athletic department funding. During meetings, members also discussed mental health best practices for student-athletes, adherence to Title IX implications in developing and implementing NIL policies, and uniformity in addressing international athletes' potential NIL compensation.

Regent Temple added that the college athletics landscape is vastly different from what it used to be. Citing examples from his personal experience, he expressed appreciation for the state's attempt to put policies in place to mitigate harm to young athletes.

Regent Aubrey commended the Task Force for its work in crafting recommendations that aim to protect student-athletes but are not so restrictive as to force these athletes to go to other states. He added that some companies have created divisions to focus on NIL deals with high school and college athletes.

Chair Cordell asked Ms. Golden Phillips to share the makeup of the Task Force, which she did. Commissioner Reed mentioned that member J.T. Curtis, athletic director at John Curtis High school, highlighted the importance of student-athletes focusing on getting a degree along with excelling in their chosen sport.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent May, the Board voted unanimously to accept the NIL Report as requested by the legislature.

FY2027 HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET REQUEST

Chair Cordell reminded the Board that the 2026 Regular Session begins on March 9 and asked Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, to present the FY27 Higher Education Budget request. Ms. Bentley-Smith reviewed a chart summarizing the existing operating budget, General Fund request, and executive budget adjustments. She noted that the current EOB is a little over \$3B and that BOR requested \$118M for recurring expenditures. She focused on several increases in the budget adjustments included by the Division of Administration on behalf of the Governor. The request includes a \$14.5M increase for the M.J. Foster Promise Program and an additional \$4M to support the START Program software upgrade to manage the 529 programs. Ms. Bentley-Smith noted that BOR has requested formula funding as well as one time funding requests.

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Ms. Golden Phillips then reviewed BOR's legislative priorities for the upcoming Session. Regent Aubrey asked why the M.J. Foster Promise and START Program items were highlighted on the slide, and Ms. Bentley-Smith clarified that those items included in the Executive Budget. Regent Aubrey reiterated his support for increased funding for teacher education to ensure that the state workforce is ready for new opportunities ahead.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent David, the Board voted unanimously to grant the Commissioner and Board Chair authority to finalize the 2026 Legislative agenda and act on legislation, as needed, with an update to the Board at the March 2026 meeting.

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 fourteen projects approved by staff since the last meeting of the Facilities and Property Committee:

SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. **Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC): Outdoor Construction Lab, Baton Rouge, LA** – BRCC Foundation \$798,000
2. **Louisiana State University – Alexandria (LSUA): Campus-Wide Signage Project, Alexandria, LA** – LSUA, Operational Funds \$375,000

3. **Louisiana State University – Alexandria (LSUA): Lot Five Resurfacing, Alexandria, LA** – LSUA, Auxiliary Revenues \$740,000
4. **Louisiana State University – Alexandria (LSUA): Modular Office Building, Alexandria, LA** – LSUA, Line-item appropriation to LSUA in Act 460 of the 2025 Louisiana Regular Session \$500,000
5. **Louisiana State University – Alexandria (LSUA): Tennis and Pickleball Courts, Alexandria, LA** – LSUA, Auxiliary Revenues \$900,000
6. **LSU A&M: Dodson Hall Auditorium Renovation, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Athletics Transfer Fund \$858,000
7. **LSU A&M: French House Honors College Site Improvements Phase Two, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, LSU’s Enhancing the Core Fund and Foundation funding \$569,199
8. **LSU A&M: Petroleum Engineering Research, Training, and Testing (PERTT) Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Wellbore and Flow Loop, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, U.S. Economic Development Administration H2theFuture Grant \$688,800
9. **LSU A&M: School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Large Animal Hospital Floor Refinishing, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$311,000
10. **LSU A&M: School of Veterinary Medicine Small Animal Hospital Intensive Care Unit Modular Building, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds \$350,000
11. **LSU A&M: Thomas Boyd Hall Room 103 and 105 Renovation, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Ancillary Self-Generated Revenues \$331,397
12. **LSU A&M: Tiger Stadium 2026 Preventative Maintenance, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Ancillary Revenues \$400,635
13. **Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans (LSU HSCNO): Lions Eye Center West Restroom Renovation, New Orleans, LA** – Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans, Operational Funds \$400,000
14. **University of New Orleans (UNO): Maestri Field Turf Renovations, New Orleans, LA** – University of New Orleans – New Orleans, Recreation for Youth Partnership Appropriation in Act 1 of 2025 Louisiana Regular Session \$850,000

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent May, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, including the Small Capital Projects Report, as presented.

ACT 959 PROJECT REQUEST

Mr. Herring reviewed the Act 959 Project request submitted by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors on behalf of LSU HSCNO to renovate the third floor of LSU HSCNO's CALS facility. He noted that the original interim hospital had been repurposed to create the current state-of-the-art CALS facility to train future healthcare professionals. Growth of LSU HSCNO necessitates more space to accommodate faculty and staff. As part of the proposed project, 7,540 square feet of shell space on the third floor will be transformed into office space at an estimated cost of \$3M, funded with self-generated revenues derived from physician lease payments and ongoing grant allocations.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Act 959 Project submitted by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans, for the purpose of renovating the third floor of the Center for Advanced Learning and Simulation.

THIRD-PARTY PROJECT: LOUISIANA TECH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Herring presented details about a third-party project submitted by the University of Louisiana System, on behalf of Louisiana Tech, for the purpose of constructing infrastructure improvements. In particular, improvements would be made to a co-generation power plant, which provides heating and cooling to buildings on campus, to tie it in to local utility companies by the end of 2027. This project would make much-needed upgrades to a utility system in operation since the early 1940s at a cost of approximately \$17M to be funded by the Maintenance Reserve Account at a level of \$50,000 per year.

Regent Creed asked about the involvement of the 501c3. Mr. Herring responded that this is a typical third-party project involving leasing the sites, with the third parties will be responsible for managing the work and completing the projects. Regent Aubrey asked about the financial review of the projects. Mr. Herring mentioned that Louisiana Tech had consulted with the Bond Commission in developing the figures for the project, which are not based on cost savings from energy efficiency but represent a set cost. He also discussed the anticipated savings to be used to pay the debt service.

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to approve the third-party project submitted by the University of Louisiana System, on behalf of Louisiana Tech University, to construct infrastructure improvements related to the removal of the existing co-generation power plant.

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. Regent Creed noted his view that the addition of programs at LSU A&M's School of Construction Management is critically important to the state, especially in light of the announcement of \$70B in new investment.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Dr. Denley presented for the Board's consideration a proposed Master's Degree in Architecture at Louisiana State University and A&M College. Dr. Denley explained that the requested new degree at LSU A&M would differ from the current MR Master's Degree in Architecture, a 96-hour non-thesis degree focused on professional architects. The MS Master's Degree in Architecture would be a 36-hour, thesis-based degree that would build a pathway for students with a bachelor's degree in architecture to build toward the Doctor of Design degree.

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the academic program as presented.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

APPOINTMENT OF ENDOWED CHAIRHOLDER WITHOUT A NATIONAL SEARCH: UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives, noted that the University of New Orleans has requested appointing Dr. Mohammad Kabir Hassan to the James R. Moffett Chair in World Resources. Ms. Robison informed the Board that Dr. Hassan is a highly accomplished and respected researcher who has published prolifically in his field and meets all requirements for an internal appointment.

On motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent May, the Board voted unanimously to approve the University of New Orleans' request to waive the national search requirement to appoint Dr. Mohammad Kabir Hassan to the James R. Moffett Chair in World Resources. As stipulated in Board policy, a copy of the Letter of Appointment sent to Dr. Hassan must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of this approval.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of two items related to the TOPS program:

- A. TOPS Home Study Exception – TOPS statutory provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than at the conclusion of the tenth-grade year.
- B. 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. Craig indicated that one student seeks exemption under the first provision and twenty-five under the second. All of these requests have been recommended by the LOFSA Advisory Board for Board of Regents approval. Regent Creed asked one follow-up question on the process.

On motion of Regent Williams-Brown, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board unanimously approved the recommendations of the LOFSA Advisory Board concerning the Consent Agenda items.

M.J. FOSTER PROMISE PROGRAM UPDATE

Dr. Craig presented an update on the M.J. Foster Promise program, which has only \$849 in available funds remaining. Funds are evenly divided between proprietary and public schools. The program has funded student requests through the end of December 2025, and more requests continue to be received. Should BOR receive additional funds from the Division of Administration, these new requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. Dr. Craig reiterated that the Governor has recognized the importance of the M.J. Foster Promise Program and included in the FY27 Executive Budget an additional \$14.5M for the program. Dr. Denley reported that graduates of the program, on average, see a \$36,000 increase in annual income. Regent Aubrey asked clarifying questions regarding proprietary school participation and administrative support for the program.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell expressed her disappointment at not being able to attend the Meauxmentum Summit in Lafayette because of the January winter storm in North Louisiana, but commended Dr. Denley for another successful event. Regent David, who was in attendance at the Summit, said he was impressed by the number of leaders in higher education from across the country who voiced great interest in Louisiana's goals. Dr. Denley thanked Regents' staff for their contributions to planning and hosting the

Summit each year. He added that this yearly event has led to recognition and contributions from philanthropic groups. In the Summit's closing activity, based on proposals submitted for a competition modeled after *Shark Tank*, four institutions made a case for funds to support their campus Meauxmentum work and were each awarded \$10,000. Commissioner Reed added that the head of the National Association of System Heads (NASH) attended the Summit and asked if five to ten states could send a representative in 2027 since there is interest in replicating Louisiana's approach in other states. Similarly, Strong Start to Finish, a network committed to developmental education reform, brought attendees from 17 states to see the work Louisiana is doing.

Chair Cordell announced that she has decided to run for Congressional seat in Louisiana's 5th District. She intends to continue serving in her role on the BOR with the assistance of Vice Chair Terrie Sterling.

Ms. Emily Skaikay reminded the members that there is a visit to the Federal Reserve in New Orleans scheduled for Monday, February 23 starting at 10:00 a.m. This event is informational only and is optional. Regent Sterling mentioned that BOR has asked the economist from the Atlanta Federal Reserve office to present about the relationship of BOR's work to Louisiana's economic development. Regent Aubrey suggested inviting Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development Susan Bourgeois to attend a Board development meeting in the spring.

Regent Aubrey commended Regent May for his work during the recent winter storm in North Louisiana. Regent May added that the people in North Louisiana are resilient, but the recovery from the storm will require more aid, especially from the federal level.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Sterling, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Appendix A
Executive Committee Meeting Guest List
Friday, February 6, 2026

NAME	AFFILIATION
Jason Rodrigue	Louisiana Tech
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Jolee Liles	Designee, LA DOJ
Jeannine O'Rourke	UL System
Lauren Tarver-Tatman	Jones Walker, LLP
Matt Kern	Jones Walker, LLP
Marwan Ghandour	LSU A&M
Kirk Deslatte	LSU Health
Jakob Ward	OPB
Bonnie Hymel	Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Luria Young	SUBR