

February 2026 Board of Regents Executive Committee Meeting

February 6, 2026



Agenda Item II.

Roll Call



Agenda Item III.

Public Comments



Agenda Item IV.

Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2025



Agenda Item V.

Ratification of Committee Assignments for 2026



Legislative

February 6, 2026



Brianna Golden Phillips, J.D.
Director of Government Affairs

Allison Smith, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner for Student Health and Wellness

Elizabeth Bentley-Smith
Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration

Legislative Reports and Submissions

14 Annual Reports

4 One-Time Reports

18 Total Reports

13 Reports Submitted



Agenda Item VI.A.1.a.

**Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force Report:
Response to HCR 37 of the 2025 Regular Legislative
Session**



Caleb Wilson Report Recommendations

Increased Annual Training for Campus Community

The Task Force recommended the adoption of consistent annual hazing prevention training for all students; as well as the adoption of state-provided annual hazing prevention training for all persons serving in an advisory capacity, as a conduct hearing panelist and appropriate faculty and staff.



Caleb Wilson Report Recommendations

Policy Implications

- The Task Force recommended adding a section to the annual Power-Based Violence report to include information on hazing incidents and training across public postsecondary institutions while streamlining reporting.
- Additionally, the Task Force recommended that the Board of Regents 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.



Caleb Wilson Report Recommendations

Change of Evidentiary Standards

The Task Force recommended the review of and appropriate statutory changes in evidentiary standards used in institutional hazing proceedings from “clear and convincing” to the standard of “preponderance of evidence” that was used prior to 2024.



Caleb Wilson Report Recommendations

Financial Implications

- The Task Force recommended the adoption of clear penalties for failure to comply with public reporting requirements and the recommended alignment with existing penalties found in R.S. 17:3399.18 for campus crime statistics reporting.
- The Task Force recommended identification of a sustainable funding mechanism to support ongoing hazing prevention, training, and reporting efforts.



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends the Board accept the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force Report requested by the Legislature.



Agenda Item VI.A.1.b.

**Name, Image, and Likeness Task Force Report:
Response to HR 15 of the 2025 Regular Legislative
Session**



NIL Legal Background

- **2014-2025 Actions**
- **House Settlement Agreement (Key Provisions)**
 - Back Pay to Athletes: Approximately \$2.8 billion in compensatory damages paid over 10 years to former and current college athletes (from 2016 onward) for past NIL restrictions.
 - Revenue Sharing: Power Five Division I schools may directly compensate student-athletes from athletic revenues, with an annual cap of ~\$20.5 million per school in 2025–26, increasing in future years.
 - Roster Limits: Elimination of scholarship caps per sport, replaced with sport-specific roster limits.
 - Reporting Structure: Establishes a new reporting and compliance framework to regulate and enforce rules governing third-party NIL agreements.



NIL Legal Background

Louisiana Division I House Settlement Opt-Ins

Institution	Conference
Grambling State University	Southwestern Athletic Conference
Louisiana State University A&M	Southeastern Conference
Louisiana Tech University	Conference USA
McNeese State University	Southland Conference
Nicholls State University	Southland Conference
Northwestern State University	Southland Conference
Southeastern Louisiana University	Southland Conference
Southern University A&M	Southwestern Athletic Conference
Tulane University	American Conference
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Sun Belt Conference
University of Louisiana at Monroe	Sun Belt Conference
University of New Orleans	Southland Conference



NIL Governance

State

- Intercollegiate Athletics (RS 17:3703)
- Interscholastic Athletics (LHSAA Statement)

Federal

- Student Compensation, Oversight, and Revenue Equity (SCORE) Act
- Student Athlete Fairness and Enforcement (SAFE) Act



Report Recommendations

Expand the Athlete Agent Registration Process

- Amend state law to expand the definition of an “agent contract” to include agreements involving the use or compensation of an athlete’s name, image, and likeness (NIL), and to broaden the definition of an “athlete agent” to include individuals representing student-athletes in NIL matters.
- Also require the Attorney General to implement procedures requiring athlete agents to undergo background checks and complete a mandatory training program.



Report Recommendations

Establish High School NIL Laws

- Establishment of a regulatory framework for high school Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) activities, allowing students to earn compensation—with parental consent for minors—while prohibiting NIL deals tied to restricted industries and limiting compensation during school-related activities.
- Violations would be subject to sanctions imposed by the authority governing high school athletics, and the legislation would require the development and regular updating of educational materials for students, families, and school personnel.



Report Recommendations

Update and Revise College NIL Laws

- Each management board and postsecondary institution should be required to adopt policies implementing the provisions of state NIL laws by August 2026.
- At a minimum, these policies should include the following elements prescribed in existing law: intercollegiate athletes' compensation, institutional involvement, use of institutional marks, representation by athlete agents, availability of educational workshops and resources, and enforcement of the policy.
- In addition, institutions should be required to designate of a point of contact for NIL compliance.



Report Recommendations

- (1) Further Study on Trust Accounts for High School Athletes**
- (2) Study Resolution on Athletic Department Funding**



Best Practices

Prioritizing Mental Health

- Require institutions to educate student-athletes on available mental health resources and provide mandatory professional development, including financial literacy, time management, and professionalism.

Adherence to Title IX When Engaging in Revenue Sharing

- Institutions should carefully consider Title IX implications when developing, implementing and engaging in NIL and revenue-sharing policies

Uniformity Addressing International Athletes NIL Compensation in Policies

- Recommends that NIL policies prohibit international student athletes from participating in NIL activities until federal guidance is clarified to ensure visa compliance.



Report Recommendations

Legislative	Best Practices
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expand the Athlete Agent Registration Process2. Establish High School NIL Laws3. Update and Revise College NIL Laws4. Trust Accounts for High School Athletes5. Study Resolution to Explore Athletic Department Funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prioritizing Student Mental Health2. Adherence to Title IX When Engaging in Revenue Sharing3. Uniformity Addressing International Athletes NIL Compensation Policies



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends the Board accept the NIL Report requested by the Legislature.



FY27 Higher Education Budget Request

Higher Education Budget Request Summary of FY 2026-2027		
FY 26 Existing Operating Budget		\$1,321,988,254
FY 27 State General Fund Budget Request		
	Institution Stability and Continued Efficiency	\$70,000,000
	Institutional Affordability and Targeted Requests	\$49,000,000
FY 27 Executive Budget Adjustments		
	TOPS Fund MOF Swap to align to REC	\$4,387,568
	Fund LSU First cost increases	\$5,265,856
	LSU-HSC-S Cancer Center Act 171 of the 2019 RLS (Inflation)	\$13,872
	UL Board increase for DOA Services	\$28,726
	Non-recur line-items in FY26 budget	(\$49,413,240)
	Mandated Costs Savings	(\$4,829,156)
	Non-recur carry forward (BOR)	(\$126,128)
FY 27 Executive Budget State General Fund Request		\$1,277,315,752
FY 27 Total Difference in Funding		(\$44,672,502)



FY27 Higher Education Budget Request

Recurring Requests – \$119M:

- \$50M – Formula institutions
- \$20M – Specialized institutions
- \$20M – Dual Enrollment
- **\$14.5M – M.J. Foster Promise increase**
- \$10M – GO Grants increase
- **\$4M – START Program software upgrade to manage the 529 programs**
- \$500,000 – Security Operations Center (SOC) @ LONI increasing costs to provide cybersecurity monitoring services for campuses across the state.



One-Time Fundings Requests

One Time Requests – \$212M

- \$175M – Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software for the four systems to consolidate to a single platform and streamline processes and campus accountability.
- \$20M – Workforce funding for short-term training/credentials at two-institutions and high demand career fields at four-year institutions
- \$5M – Teacher Recruitment and Retention to support K-12 teaching apprenticeships, incentive programs, and other initiatives
- \$5M – Cyber program development and expansion to support current Cyber Education Management Council initiatives and the Cyber Academy
- \$5M – Campus safety funding for institution training and assistance after all institution campus safety assessments are complete
- \$1M – Textbook affordability funding for LOUIS to provide institutions with open-source documents and eTextbooks, as we strive to reduce the cost of attendance for students
- \$1M – Hunger free campus program to assist institutions in raising awareness on available resources, leverage federal programs, and build strategic partnerships to address food insecurity among students



One-Time Fundings Requests

Additional One Time Requests

- \$100M – Act 751 Deferred Maintenance Funds to continue addressing the backlog of needs across the state
- \$1M – Recommended funding by the Governor's Task Force on Public Higher Education Reform
- \$TBD – Hazing Prevention training and education programs per the recommendations of the Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Task Force



2026 Legislative Priorities

TOPS for DOCS – Allows a TOPS-eligible student who previously opted out of TOPS to receive their reward if returning to attend an in-state medical and dental school. This is specifically designed to address Louisiana's physician shortage.

TOPS Tech Early College Credit – Expands eligibility criteria for a TOPS Tech award to include the attainment of early college credit in high school through completion of dual enrollment courses or other approved skills and learning measures.

Dual Enrollment Single Application – Advance Task Force recommendations to include strategies such as a single statewide application process, simplifying student access across public postsecondary institutions.



2026 Legislative Priorities

Hazing Prevention – Requires comprehensive annual campus-wide education and enhances accountability through improved reporting, fair adjudication, consistent consequences, and statewide oversight.

Digital Misuse – Prohibits the creation of deep-fake images using campus Wi-Fi or other institutional networks to maintain the integrity of the campus digital environment.



2026 Legislative Priorities

NIL – Establishes a framework for high school and postsecondary NIL activities, including safeguards for minors, prohibited industries, required education, and institutional compliance oversight.

Athletic Department Funding – Requests a comprehensive study of the financial implications of NIL and revenue-sharing activities on athletic programs and the long-term sustainability of collegiate sports funding.

Phased Retirement – Authorizes public postsecondary education systems to develop a voluntary phased retirement program policy to support faculty and staff recruitment, retention, knowledge transfer, and succession planning, with such program to begin no earlier than July 1, 2027.

Support Fund – Preserves the public character and original restrictions of Board of Regents Support Fund endowment matching dollars, requiring institutions' continued compliance with matching conditions and endowment protections regardless of changes to the Kevin P. Reilly, Sr., Louisiana Quality Education Trust Fund.



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends granting 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

February 6, 2026

Chris Herring
Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning & Emergency
Management



Agenda Item VI.B.1.

Small Capital Projects Report

Institution	Project	Amount
BRCC	Outdoor Construction Lab (BRCC Foundation Funds)	\$798,000
LSUA	Campus-Wide Signage Project (Operational Funds)	\$375,000
LSUA	Lot Five Resurfacing (Auxiliary Revenues)	\$740,000
LSUA	Modular Office Building (Legislative Appropriation in Act 460 of 2025 Louisiana Regular Session)	\$500,000
LSUA	Tennis and Pickleball Courts (Auxiliary Revenues)	\$900,000
LSU A&M	Dodson Hall Auditorium Renovation (Athletics Transfer Fund)	\$858,000
LSU A&M	French House Honors College Site Improvements Phase Two (Enhancing the Core Fund/Foundation Funding)	\$569,199



Agenda Item VI.B.1.

Small Capital Projects Report

Institution	Project	Amount
LSU A&M	Petroleum Engineering Research, Training, and Testing Carbon Dioxide Wellbore and Flow Loop (U.S. Economic Development Administration H2theFuture Grant)	\$688,800
LSU A&M	School of Veterinary Medicine Large Animal Hospital Floor Refinishing (Operational Funds)	\$311,000
LSU A&M	School of Veterinary Medicine Small Animal Intensive Care Unit Modular Building (Operational Funds)	\$350,000
LSU A&M	Thomas Boyd Hall Rooms 103 and 105 Renovation (Ancillary Self-Generated Revenues)	\$331,397
LSU A&M	Tiger Stadium 2026 Preventative Maintenance (Auxiliary Revenues)	\$400,635
LSU HSCNO	Lions Eye Center West Restroom Renovation (Operational Funds)	\$400,000



Agenda Item VI.B.1.

Small Capital Projects Report

Institution	Project	Amount
UNO	Maestri Field Turf Renovation (Recreation for Youth Partnership Appropriation in Act 1 of 2025 Louisiana Regular Session)	\$850,000
	TOTAL	\$8,072,031



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of the Consent Agenda, including the Small Capital Projects Report, as presented.



Agenda Item VI.B.2.

Act 959 Request: Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans (LSU HSCNO) Center for Advanced Learning and Simulation (CALs) Third Floor Renovations



Act 959 Request

- The Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of LSU HSCNO, submitted an Act 959 project request for the purpose of renovating the third floor of LSU HSCNO's CALS facility.
- The original interim Hospital was repurposed to create the current state-of-the-art CALS facility to train future healthcare professionals and support continuing education for medical professionals.



Act 959 Request

- Due to the growth of LSU HSCNO's Medical School, the upper floors of the facility are at capacity and additional space is required to support faculty and staff.
- The project scope involves renovating 7,540 SF of shell space on the third floor to expand LSU HSCNO's clinical office space.
- The total estimated project cost is approximately \$3M and will be funded with self-generated revenues derived from physician lease payments and ongoing grant allocations.



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of 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.



Agenda Item VI.B.3.

Third-Party Project: Louisiana Tech Infrastructure Improvement Project



Third-Party Project

- The University of Louisiana System, on behalf of Louisiana Tech University (LA Tech), submitted a third-party project for the purpose of constructing infrastructure improvements.
- Louisiana Tech currently operates a co-generation plant that produces electrical power and provides steam to the main campus.
- The plant uses a natural-gas-fired turbine generator to produce electricity and a heat recovery steam generator to provide steam used for heating and cooling campus buildings.



Third-Party Project

- The utility distribution systems are in poor condition, having been in operation since the early 1940s without any significant upgrades.
- Due to the age and condition of the current plant and distributions systems, the institution is concerned about the long-term integrity and reliability of their continued use.
- This project will allow Louisiana Tech to discontinue operation of the co-generation power plant and associated distribution systems.



Third-Party Project

- The project scope involves infrastructure improvements in each building currently served by the co-generation power plant.
- Mechanical and electrical systems will be replaced or upgraded to accommodate the conversion to local utility companies when the power plant is retired at the end of 2027.
- The work also includes the demolition and removal of equipment that uses steam and the installation of new boilers and chillers.



Third-Party Project

- The project costs are approximately \$17M, inclusive of the improvements, necessary reserve funds and capitalized interest, and bond issuance cost.
- The Maintenance Reserve Account will be funded at a level of \$50,000 per year.
- According to proforma provided by the ULS and bond counsel, annual savings from the retirement of the co-generation plant are projected to be approximately \$1.6M, which is sufficient to cover the annual debt service (\$1.27M).



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of 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

February 6, 2026

Tristan Denley, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation



Agenda Item VI.C.1.

Consent Agenda

- a. Routine Staff Approvals
- b. Terminations
- c. School of Construction – LSU A&M



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of the items on the consent agenda.



Agenda Item VI.C.2.a.

Academic Programs

- a. MS Architecture – LSU A&M



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of the academic program as presented.



Research and Sponsored Initiatives

February 6, 2026

Carrie Robison

Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives



Agenda Item VI.D.1.

**Appointment of Endowed Chairholder without a
National Search: University of New Orleans**



Staff Recommendation

Senior Staff recommends approval of 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

February 6, 2026

Susannah Craig, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success



Agenda Item VI.E.1.a.

Consent Agenda

a. **Approval of TOPS Home Study Exception**

Request for exception to the TOPS statutory provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade.



Agenda Item VI.E.1.b.

Consent Agenda

b. Approval of TOPS Exceptions

Requests for exception to the TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year.



Recommendation

The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends approval of the Consent Agenda items.



Agenda Item VI.E.2.

M.J. Foster Promise Program Update



Agenda Item VII.

Other Business



Agenda Item VIII.

Adjournment

