MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

August 26, 2026

The Board of Regents met at 10:40 a.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, in the Louisiana Purchase Room (1–100), Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Misti Cordell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:
Misti Cordell, Chair
Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair
Dallas Hixson, Secretary
David Aubrey
Blake David
Phillip May, Jr.
Darren Mire
Christy Oliver Reeves
Maria Nechaeva, Student Member
K. Samer Shamieh
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board representatives present were:
LCTC Representative
LSU System Representative
SU System Representative
UL System Representative

Absent from the meeting were:
Christian Creed
Stephanie Finley
Ted Glaser III
Wilbert Pryor
Collis Temple III

Appendix A
Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2026 MEETING

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2026 meeting.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Cordell inquired whether 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 Sterling, seconded by Regent May, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the August 26, 2026 Committee meetings.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Chair Cordell introduced Richard Nelson, the new president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges (LCTC). Chair Cordell noted that during the 2025–26 school year, the LCTC System awarded approximately 52,000 credentials to more than 41,000 completers, with nearly 20,000 graduates entering high-demand occupations.

President Nelson presented to the Board his five-point plan—expanding, connecting, aligning, partnering, and delivering—to expand access to the state's twelve LCTC institutions. The plan seeks to address the challenge of adapting training to meet rapidly evolving workforce demands. Strategies include streamlining applications; improving information on programs, salaries, and employment outcomes; strengthening counseling; addressing childcare and transportation barriers; and reducing reliance on student loans.

To recruit more students, President Nelson announced the creation of the LCTC Charter School to connect high school students to career and technical training, as well as ongoing studies of existing programs, including M.J. Foster Promise, TOPS Tech, and Pell, to boost student support. He also emphasized incorporating employer-driven priorities into programs for incarcerated individuals.

Board members discussed the urgency created by major economic-development investments and the importance of reaching students earlier. President Nelson noted that the average age of an LCTC student is 26 and said the system must enroll more traditional-age students. He cited employer investments supporting workforce training at SOWELA Technical, Louisiana Delta, and Nunez Community Colleges.

Regent Hixson praised the energy around the opportunities ahead, while Chair Cordell noted discussions around connecting residents to jobs and retaining young people in Louisiana. Regent Aubrey reaffirmed his support for two-year institutions and asked how LCTC is accelerating progress toward the 2030 Meauxmentum goal. President Nelson responded that the system needs approximately $600 million in new funding to respond to current workforce opportunities.

Regent May noted workforce-training expectations connected to data-center investments. Commissioner Reed emphasized expanded financing models and potential rapid-response funding to build capacity as needs change, and Regent Sterling underscored the need for talent developed at both the two-year and four-year institutions and the importance of working together.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell made the following comments:

- She recognized Regent Maria Nechaeva, student member, who reported on the start of the fall semester at Southeastern Louisiana University, including increased enrollment as well as student activities supporting the campus food pantry and Thanksgiving meals.
- She noted that over 200,000 students are enrolled in Louisiana's public and postsecondary institutions this fall. She wished them all a successful and safe semester.
- She discussed a visit she and Commissioner Reed made in June to Muse 3 Farm in St. Helena Parish. She described the small family start-up farm established in 2015 by four brothers: Allen, Burnell, Chris, and Mittie Muse. The farm consists of over 200 acres where the Muses grow pine for timber and raise cattle, goats, and chickens. The visit provided insight into the impact of small businesses on Louisiana's economy. She thanked Regent Glaser and the LSU and Southern Ag Center directors for participating in the visit. The Muses report that they have had over 800 student visitors in 2026.
- She announced that Regents will host its annual staff retreat on August 31 at Pennington Biomedical Research Center, during which Commissioner Reed will moderate a lunch panel with Regents Hixson and Reeves. In addition, the Chair and Commissioner Reed will hand out staff awards.

LEGISLATIVE

POLICY OVERVIEW

Ms. Brianna Golden Phillips provided a brief overview of proposed policy updates and revisions across several Board committees.

ADMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFORM ANTI-HAZING POLICY

Regent Mire highlighted the enactment of HB 636, the Caleb Wilson Anti-Hazing Prevention Act, and recognized Mrs. Urania Wilson, Caleb's mother, who was present to share remarks.

Mrs. Wilson expressed her gratitude to Commissioner Reed and her staff for their support and collaboration with her family. She emphasized her hope that no other child would lose their life or be harmed because of hazing and expressed her belief that Louisiana can serve as a national leader in hazing prevention. She again thanked the Board for its efforts.

Ms. Golden Phillips presented the major components of the Uniform Anti-Hazing Policy:

- **Strengthens institutional accountability by incorporating enhanced sanctions for hazing violations,** including the permanent banishment of organizations when a hazing incident results in a student's death.
- **Establishes organizational reporting obligations and clear expectations for reporting alleged hazing incidents**, coordinating with law enforcement, documenting institutional actions, and maintaining confidential and anonymous reporting mechanisms.
- Strengthens institutional responsibilities to provide **comprehensive hazing prevention education for students and expand annual training requirements** for recognized student organizations, organizational advisors, and institutional hearing panels.
- **Expands public disclosure requirements** by requiring institutions to maintain publicly accessible information regarding organizational findings of responsibility for hazing and disciplinary sanctions while protecting individual student privacy.

Regent Aubrey asked about reporting and public disclosure of hazing incidents, including the annual reporting timeline and whether the Board receives institution-specific data. Ms. Golden Phillips confirmed that the Board will receive hazing incident data through the annual Power-Based Violence Report. Dr. Allison Smith noted that institutions are also required to report under the federal Stop Campus Hazing Act, which includes public transparency requirements and requires reporting at least twice annually.

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Board unanimously approved the amendments to the Uniform Anti-Hazing Policy.

AMENDMENTS TO THE UNIFORM POLICY ON POWER-BASED VIOLENCE

Ms. Golden Phillips presented the amendments to the Uniform Policy on Power-Based Violence:

- Clarifies that power-based violence applies **to conduct committed based on sex**, consistent with Louisiana law.
- **Implements Enhanced Prevention and Educational Outreach** to provide information regarding power-based violence no fewer than four times during each academic year.
- Directs institutions to share information regarding Power-Based Violence **with the parent or legal guardian of an enrolled student who is a minor.**

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent May, the Board unanimously approved the amendments to the Uniform Policy on Power-Based Violence.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Tristan Denley presented the Consent Agenda, which included routine staff approvals, name changes, changes to Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes, minor reorganizations of academic units, a new graduate certificate/graduate assistantship item, and academic program terminations.

Dr. Denley reported that, with the terminations included on the agenda, institutions had terminated approximately 50 academic programs during the current year and 130 programs since the current phase of academic planning began. He noted that institutions continue to evaluate their academic offerings and redirect resources as appropriate. Additional program requests will be presented at the September meeting.

On motion of Regent Nechaeva, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the Consent Agenda was approved unanimously.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley presented a proposal for an Associate of Applied Science in Technical Studies at Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College.

The proposed degree would provide students who have completed technical diplomas in areas such as advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, diesel-powered equipment technology, HVAC, industrial maintenance, plumbing, electrical technology, and welding with a pathway to complete additional general education coursework and pursue further education, including transfer into bachelor's degree programs.

Dr. Denley noted that similar degree structures are offered throughout the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and that the proposed program would not require additional institutional resources.

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Supervisor Smith (LCTC Representative), the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF POLICIES

Regent Sterling stated that four policy-related items, developed primarily in response to recent legislative action, would be considered individually.

Joint Policy with LA Works Workforce Pell

Dr. Denley presented a proposed joint policy with Louisiana Works concerning Workforce Pell.

Recent federal legislation expanded Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term credentials. Dr. Denley explained that eligible programs must meet federal and state requirements related to high-demand, high-wage occupations, graduation and placement rates, and program length.

Louisiana Works and the Louisiana Board of Regents were designated by the Governor's Office to collaboratively establish the list of programs eligible for consideration in Louisiana. Dr. Denley reported that the first group of programs had been reviewed by the Workforce Pell Committee, with five programs expected to advance to the Workforce Investment Council. Programs approved through the state process would subsequently be submitted by the Governor's Office to the U.S. Department of Education for final federal approval.

Dr. Denley further explained that the proposed policy addresses academic credit transfer and credential stackability to ensure eligible credentials provide pathways to additional education or credentials.

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Supervisor Smith (LCTC Representative), the motion was approved unanimously.

Update to Academic Affairs 2.22 Dual Enrollment

Dr. Denley presented an update to Academic Affairs Policy 2.22 concerning dual enrollment, as required by Act 438 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session.

The proposed revised policy establishes a uniform statewide dual enrollment application process and a standardized tuition rate framework for public postsecondary institutions. Dr. Denley explained that students would have access to a single-portal application process to view and apply for dual enrollment opportunities throughout the state.

The policy also establishes separate standardized pricing categories for academically based dual enrollment courses and career and technical education courses. Dr. Denley noted that the policy advances the Board's ongoing efforts to improve consistency, access, and ease of enrollment for Louisiana high school students participating in dual enrollment.

On motion of Supervisor Henry (SUS Representative), seconded by Regent Reeves, the motion was approved unanimously.

Establishment of Academic Affairs 2.26 Accreditation and Update to Academic Affairs 2.13 Program Accreditation

Dr. Denley presented two related accreditation actions authorized by Act 486 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session: the establishment of Academic Affairs Policy 2.26 regarding institutional accreditation and an update to Academic Affairs Policy 2.13 regarding program accreditation.

Dr. Denley explained that the proposed institutional accreditation policy builds upon an executive order from the Governor's Office that established a task force to examine accreditation. The policy also reflects federal changes which allow institutions to select from federally recognized institutional accreditors rather than being limited to accreditors based on geographic region.

The proposed policy would not require Louisiana institutions to change accreditors. Instead, it would establish a state process through which an institution could pursue accreditation by another federally recognized accreditor. Institutions seeking an alternative accreditor would be required to obtain approval from their respective public postsecondary management board and complete the applicable federal and accreditor approval processes.

Dr. Denley emphasized that institutions would be limited to accreditors approved under the Board of Regents' policy.

Dr. Denley explained that the proposed update to Academic Affairs Policy 2.13 would clarify Board requirements for program-level accreditation, including requirements applicable to certain engineering-related technical programs and veterinary medicine programs. During discussion, a committee member asked whether allowing multiple accreditors could result in differences in accreditation rigor. Staff explained that eligible accreditors must first be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and approved by the Board before becoming available to Louisiana institutions.

The Committee also discussed CPHE, a proposed national accrediting organization. Staff explained that CPHE is not currently recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and therefore is not yet an option under the proposed policy.

Discussion further clarified that institutions would generally remain with their existing accreditors but could pursue an approved alternative through the required institutional, state, and federal processes.

On motion of Regent Shamieh, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the motion was approved unanimously.

Rescinding of Uniform Policy on Governor's Military & Veteran-Friendly Campuses

Dr. Denley presented a proposal to rescind the Board's Uniform Policy on the Governor's Military and Veteran-Friendly Campus Program, consistent with Act 130 of 2025 and Act 772 of 2026. Act 772 transfers administration of the program from the Board of Regents to the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, making the existing Board policy unnecessary. Regents staff have worked with the Department to transfer program materials and support continuity.

Chair Cordell thanked Charlton McGinley and others involved in developing the program. Dr. Denley recognized Dr. Lupe Lamadrid, Senior Policy Analyst at the Board of Regents, for her work supporting the program and the transition.

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Nechaeva, rescinding of the policy was approved unanimously.

There being no other business, on motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Nechaeva, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

UPDATE ON GOOGLE CAREER CERTIFICATES

Chair Shamieh introduced an update on the Google Career Certificates initiative for informational purposes only. Dr. Denley provided an overview of the statewide partnership with Google, launched approximately one year ago to provide students, faculty, and staff access to Google professional certificate programs. He noted that faculty have used the certificate resources to strengthen their knowledge of artificial intelligence, support professional development, and incorporate AI tools and content into their courses.

Dr. Denley introduced Dr. Elizabeth Hornsby, Chief Knowledge Officer and co-founder of Veritas Global EduConsulting and adjunct professor at Southern University at New Orleans. He recognized Dr. Hornsby for her work supporting faculty statewide in navigating the Google certificate resources and integrating the content into their courses.

Dr. Hornsby thanked the Committee and provided a comprehensive overview of the Google Career Certificates initiative, highlighting its benefits to students, including opportunities to develop industry-relevant skills and earn credentials aligned with workforce needs. At the conclusion of the presentation, Board members expressed their appreciation for Dr. Hornsby's work and recognized her with a standing ovation.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

AUDIT

Board of Regents Formula, Admissions, and Scholarships Audit Plan, FY 2026-27

Elizabeth Bentley-Smith presented the Formula, Admissions, and Scholarships Audit Plan for FY27. Ms. Bentley-Smith discussed the process used 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 conducting the broad review previously utilized.

She then discussed the audit plan for scholarships managed by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), which is in accordance 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%.

On motion of Regent Mire and seconded by Regent David, the Audit Committee recommended that the Board approve the Board of Regents' Formula, Admissions, and LOSFA Programs Audit Plans for FY27.

Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) Facility Usage Rates

The LUMCON facilities in Houma (Blue Works) and Cocodrie (Defelice Marine Center) offer both internal and external users many services, including lodging, cafeteria, educational programming, facilities rentals, vessel hire, etc. To support these services, LUMCON has continually maintained a fee schedule differentiated by specific user types.

Ms. Bentley-Smith noted that in accordance with Act 314 of 2016, the Board of Regents is required to approve LUMCON's fee schedule. The updated fees were presented noting the current schedule, along with discount rates offered to other public entities to access the services offered. Ms. Bentley-Smith stated that the fees were derived through reference to peer institutions, the regional market where the facilities are located and Louisiana's current General Services Administration (GSA) rates, which are incorporated into the State Travel Policy.

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Mire, the Audit Committee recommended approval of LUMCON's rates as presented

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent David, the meeting was adjourned.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

Approval of Facilities Policy Revision

Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, reported on two substantive changes in the Board of Regents Facilities Policy, which incorporated legislative changes resulting primarily from Act 772 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session.

The primary changes to the policy involve the passage and implementation of Act 772 of the 2026 Regular Session. This act removed BOR approval of two types of projects initiated under the provisions of LA R.S. 39:128. The first legislative change no longer requires management boards to submit 'Small Capital Projects', or projects initiated by the management board with a construction cost of $2M or less, to the BOR for staff approval.

The second policy change removes BOR approval of projects initiated under the provisions of LA R.S. 39:128, known as Act 959 projects. With implementation of the new legislation, Act 959 projects will now require management board and JLCB approval only, and will no longer require BOR approval. Under the provisions of both of these legislative changes, management boards are required to report the status of projects to the BOR. Ms. Bentley-Smith also noted that policy revisions updated the definitions of Master Plan and Professional Services Selection Boards.

On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent May, the Facilities and Property Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the items on the Consent Agenda's Small Capital Projects report.

Other Business

Chris Herring, Vice President for Facilities, Capital Planning and Development of the University of Louisiana System, provided the Board with an update on the Grambling State University (GSU) Library, which has been closed for approximately two months following a sewage leak. In late June, a campus sewer main backed up, affecting the library because of its proximity to the main line. A claim was filed immediately with the Office of Risk Management

(ORM) and its third-party administrator, Sedgwick. The parties are finalizing the scope of work and replacement of the damaged flooring is anticipated to be completed by the end of September. In the interim, laboratory spaces have been made available to accommodate students affected by the library closure.

There being no further business to come before the Facilities and Property Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

DIVISION OF ENDOWED CHAIR INTO ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS: SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

Ms. Carrie Robison informed the Committee that the Leon Ford Family Endowed Chair in Regional Studies is a $1 million endowed chair held by Southeastern Louisiana University, matched by the BoRSF in FY 1998–99. With donor and Board of Supervisors concurrence, SLU requests approval to divide it into four Endowed Professorships, each with a corpus of $250,000 ($150,000 non-state/$100,000 BoRSF), as follows:

- Leon Ford III Endowed Super Professorship in Southeast Louisiana Studies
- Edward Brent Dufreche Endowed Super Professorship in Biology
- Nora Dell Fritscher Endowed Super Professorship in Nursing
- Phil and Ann Livingston, in Memory of Lacy Ann Livingston, Endowed Super Professorship in Nursing

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve Southeastern Louisiana University's request to divide the Leon Ford Family Endowed Chair in Regional Studies into four (4) endowed professorships, each with a corpus of $250,000 ($150,000 non-state/$100,000 BoRSF), as follows: (1) Leon Ford III Endowed Super Professorship in Southeast Louisiana Studies; (2) Edward Brent Dufreche Endowed Super Professorship in Biology; (3) Nora Dell Fritscher Endowed Super Professorship in Nursing; and (4) Phil and Ann Livingston, in Memory of Lacy Ann Livingston, Endowed Super Professorship in Nursing.

APPOINTMENT OF ENDOWED CHAIRHOLDER WITHOUT NATIONAL SEARCH: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERISTY AND A&M COLLEGE

Ms. Robison notified the Committee that LSU A&M requests to appoint Dr. Christopher G. Arges, Principal Chemical Engineer at Argonne National Laboratory and as a CASE Senior

Scientist Affiliate at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, to the Gordon A. and Mary Cain Chair in Chemical Engineering #4, a $2 million Chair matched by the BoRSF in 2007–08.

Ms. Robison summarized Dr. Arges' qualifications, noting that this request is not to approve an internal appointment but to expedite the hiring of a new faculty member. Ms. Robison added that the proposed appointment meets the criteria set forth in policy related to filling a chair without a national search.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Christopher G. Arges to the Gordon A. and Mary Cain Chair in Chemical Engineering #4.

As stipulated in Board policy, a copy of the Letter of Appointment sent to Dr. Arges must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of this approval.

BoRSF ENDOWMENT PROGRAM POLICY ADDITIONS

Ms. Robison indicated that the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) provides endowment matching to support faculty and student success across four programs: Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars, Endowed Professorships/Endowed First-Generation Student Scholarships, Endowed Superior Graduate Students, and Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships. She noted that the Board has regularly taken action to set forth circumstances in which changes can be made to the posture of specific endowments, including renaming, moving from one endowment type to another, and use of expendable dollars. These Board actions are not always incorporated into formal policy.

Ms. Robison informed the Board that Regents had previously adopted rules related to two common issues related to BoRSF matched endowments: changes from one endowment type to another and use of expendable funds to create new endowments (see Attachment A). These rules have been used since their adoption and should be added to the policies for clarity.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Mire, the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve BoRSF endowment program policy additions as presented. These policy additions will be effective immediately.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, on motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the meeting was adjourned.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Rulemaking – M.J. Foster Promise Program rulemaking to implement Act 642 of the 2026 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

Dr. Susannah Craig, Interim Director for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), notified the Committee that Act 633 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature provided for a gradual reduction in the minimum age of eligibility for the M.J. Foster Promise Program from 21 to 17, beginning in the 2024–2025 academic year. Act 642 of the 2026 Regular Session essentially pauses the reduction in age provided for by Act 633 of 2024 and provides that the minimum age for initial eligibility for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 academic years shall be 21. Dr. Craig noted that this allows Board of Regents to study the age impact and make a determination if the age threshold should remain at 21. Under the provisions of Act 642, any student who received an M.J. Foster Promise Program award during the 2024–2025 or 2025–2026 academic year and who is continuing their studies will be permitted to continue receiving Program funds even if they have not yet attained the age of 21.

B. Approval of Rulemaking – TOPS and TOPS Tech rulemaking to implement Act 355, Act 695, and Act 794 of the 2026 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature as well as designation of certain courses as equivalent to those required in the TOPS Core Curricula

Dr. Craig notified the Committee of Legislative Acts of the 2026 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Act 355 allows a former member of the United States Armed Forces who was honorably discharged from a military installation in Louisiana to qualify for a TOPS Tech award if he establishes domicile in Louisiana within one year of discharge on or after January 1, 2020 and eliminates the requirement that a veteran must provide a TOPS Tech qualifying ACT score to be eligible. Act 695 permits students to substitute the specific math sequence courses to satisfy math core curriculum requirements. Act 794 provides amendments to the initial and continuing eligibility requirements for TOPS Tech recipients; and expands the law to allow a student to qualify using two of the following three academic criteria: at least a 2.50 cumulative grade point average on the core curriculum; a minimum ACT score of 17 or a Silver Level score

on the ACT WorkKeys; or successful completion of either at least nine academic or technical early college credits, which may be attained through dual enrollment, or equivalent validated skills and learning measures as approved by the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council. Act 794 also permits continuing TOPS Tech recipients to attend school on a part-time basis. Dr. Craig further explained that this rulemaking adds core equivalents for TOPS, which allow for course equivalents for Financial Literacy and the Computer Science requirement as a Math and Computer Science requirement as a Science.

C. Returning Out-of-State (ROOS) Exception – Request for exception to the TOPS regulatory provision that requires a student to submit supporting documentation for their Application to Return from an Out-of-State College by the deadline set forth in administrative rules

Dr. Craig notified the Committee that TOPS statue requires that a student apply to return to an eligible Louisiana college or university to receive their TOPS award and that the Board of Regents provide a deadline for filing the application. The Board's rules require a student to file the Application to Return from an Out of State College or University (ROOS application) no later than the July 1 following the academic year during which the student returns to an eligible Louisiana college or university and that they must submit all supporting documentation no later than January 15 following the July 1 deadline. The Board's rules currently do not provide for an exception to the ROOS application deadline, but the Board has allowed a student to file the initial application for a TOPS award late under extremely limited circumstances when the student was able to demonstrate that their failure to submit the application was outside of their control. She noted that one request for exception to the ROOS documentation deadline was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on June 25, 2026. The student has presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

D. Home Study Exceptions – Requests 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

Dr. Craig notified the Committee that Act 95 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature implemented a provision which allows the administering agency to grant exceptions to this requirement when a student provides documentation that the transfer to a home

study program later than the statutorily provided time frame was beyond the student's control. She noted that four requests for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on June 25, 2026. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

E. 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

Dr. Craig notified the Committee that Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules require TOPS recipients to continue to enroll full time for the fall and spring semesters of each academic year, to remain enrolled throughout the semester, and to earn a minimum number of credit hours by the end of the academic year. Section 2103.E authorizes the governing body to grant an exception to the full-time, continuous enrollment and annual earned-hour requirements when the "student/recipient has exceptional circumstances that are beyond his immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution." She noted that fifteen requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on June 25, 2026. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Nechaeva, the Statewide Programs Committee voted unanimously to recommend Board approval of the Consent Agenda items.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Craig, Dr. Lupe Lamadrid and Ms. Allison Vicknair provided an informational presentation to the Committee on the Hunger-Free Campus Program, highlighting milestones and successes of the program across the thirty participating public institutions and four private institutions.

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda. The first item consisted of eight license renewal applications from academic degree-granting institutions. All application materials had been reviewed by staff and applicants are institutions accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accreditor and were previously approved as licensed institutions by the Board of Regents.

The second item was recommendations from the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools for approval of one initial license and twenty-nine license renewal applications.

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

A. R.S. 17:1808 - Academic Licensure

1. Renewal Applications
   a. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Daytona Beach, FL
   b. National University - San Diego, CA
   c. Reach University - Oakland, CA
   d. Relay Graduate School of Education - New York, NY
   e. Southern New Hampshire University - Manchester, NH
   f. Texas Wesleyan University - Fort Worth, TX
   g. Upper Iowa University - Fayette, IA
   h. Walden University - Minneapolis, MN

B. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools

1. Initial License Applications
   a. Ivy League Medical Training - Hammond, LA
2. Renewal Applications
   a. Advance Nursing Training-Bogalusa - License #2405 - Bogalusa, LA
   b. CDL Mentors of Baton Rouge Truck Driving School - License #2319 - Baton Rouge, LA
   c. Cooper's Defensive Driving - License #2375 - New Orleans, LA
   d. Delta College of Arts & Technology - Baton Rouge - License #857 - Baton Rouge, LA
   e. Diesel Driving Academy - Baton Rouge - License #717 - Baton Rouge, LA
   f. Diesel Driving Academy - West Monroe - License #2406 - West Monroe, LA
   g. Global Trucking Academy - License #2245 - Marksville, LA
   h. Hands on HVAC School-Shreveport - License #2355 - Bossier City, LA
   i. Holmes Healthcare Training Center - License #2301- New Orleans, LA
   j. Inspire Code Consulting Institution - License #2390 - Slidell, LA

k. Integrated Education Solutions - License #2292 - Violet, LA
l. Louisiana Institute of Massage Therapy - License #2180 - Lake Charles, LA
m. Med-Advance Training - License #2272 - Baton Rouge, LA
n. Moes' Phlebotomy Services - License #2408 - Independence, LA
o. Nashville Auto-Diesel College - License #2051 - Nashville, TN
p. Northeast Maritime Institute - License #2409 - Houma, LA
q. Operation Spark - License #2247 - New Orleans, LA
r. Ouachita Truck Driving Academy - License #2050 - Sterlington, LA
s. Petra College - License #2215 - Hammond, LA
t. Precision Welding Testing & Training - License #2293 - Geismar, LA
u. Remington College - Lafayette - License #2152 - Lafayette, LA
v. Remington College - Shreveport - License #2153 - Shreveport, LA
w. Safe Road Truck Driving School - License #2333 - New Orleans, LA
x. Unitech Training Academy - Alexandria - License #2384 - Alexandria, LA
y. Unitech Training Academy - Baton Rouge - License #2385 - Baton Rouge, LA
z. Unitech Training Academy - Houma - License #2386 - Houma, LA
aa. Unitech Training Academy - Lafayette - License #2387 - Lafayette, LA
bb. Unitech Training Academy - New Orleans - License #2388 - New Orleans, LA
cc. Unitech Training Academy - West Monroe - License #2389 - West Monroe, LA

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Reeves, the meeting was adjourned.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She commended six Board of Regents staff members who were selected through a competitive process to present at the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Policy Conference.

- She mentioned that Louisiana is one of eight states selected by SHEEO to convene around advancing state and system strategies for work-based learning as part of a multi-state initiative designed to help states scale work-based learning.
- She noted the Board's partnership with the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. Doug Dupree, a student, and Liam Doyle, the executive director of the office, participated in a listening session with students with physical disabilities to discuss their experiences on campus. In addition, Brianna Golden, Regents' Director of Government Affairs, invited them to address the Council of Student Body President to talk about the importance of building community and supporting all students.
- She recognized Emily Skaikay for her work with the foster youth project, through which the staff and board contributed supplies for college-going Louisiana foster students. In its first year the project helped fewer than 20 students, while in 2026 backpacks were distributed to 65 college-bound foster youth. A handwritten note from the Governor's Fellows with well wishes for a successful school year was included in each backpack.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. She reminded Board members that the September Board meeting will take place over two days. On Tuesday, September 22, the Board will host its annual higher education budget hearings, and on Wednesday, September 23, Regents will hold committee and board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent Hixson, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

NAME	AFFILIATION
Eric Turner	LAICU
Margaret Finch	LSU A&M
Jessica Lemoine	LSU-Alexandria
Nate Sammons	LSU-Alexandria
Jeannine O'Rourke	UL System
Urania Wilson	Caleb Wilson's mother
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Joe Messina	LSU A&M
Blair LeBlanc	HLS Fiscal
Dianne Olivier	UL - Lafayette
Brian Roberts	LUMCON/BoR
Elizabeth Hornsby	Veritas Global EduConsulting
Christopher Nitsch	Veritas Global EduConsulting
Darrilyn Favorite	OPB
Jakob Ward	OPB
Robert René	SU System
Luria Young	SUBR
Reggie Abraham	SU System