

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

December 10, 2025

The Board of Regents met at 11:25 a.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in the Thomas Jefferson Rooms A&B (1–136), Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Misti Cordell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Emily Skaikay 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  
K. Samer Shamieh  
Collis Temple III  
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board representative present was:

LSU System - Rémy Voisin Starns

Mtg. Board representatives not present were:

UL System  
Southern System  
LCTCS

Not present for the meeting was:

Devesh Sarda (Student member)

Appendix A  
Guest List

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2025 MEETING

Regent May asked that a revision be made to the October 22, 2025 meeting minutes to change a name in the Guest List from Randy Ellis to Friday Ellis.

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2025 meeting as amended.**

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Cordell asked 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 May, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the Committee meetings.**

## MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Dr. Tristan Denley announced a new \$1M grant in partnership with the ECMC Foundation. The program will be called Meauxmentum Champions. This is a two-year project to work with student affairs and student services at campuses across the state. Each campus will nominate up to four individuals to participate in the project. We expect a total of 112 “Meauxmentum Champions” from the areas of financial aid, advising, student support, and childcare services. The Champions will receive training so that they can then lead communities of practice of their campuses. This will mirror Meauxmentum Scholars, a program already in place on the academic side. Both are designed to drive student success in service of our educational attainment goal.

Regent Temple asked when the call for nominations had gone out. Dr. Denley said that call had been issued, giving campuses a full month to respond.

## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell made the following comments:

- She noted that there would be no report from student member Devesh Sarda as he was preparing for and taking final exams.
- She had the opportunity to deliver the commencement speech at her alma mater, Louisiana Tech. Regent Hixson added a comment that he had heard the speech was short, precise, and awesome. In the speech, Chair Cordell remembered her mother, a first-generation graduate who returned to school at the age of 38 to receive a bachelor's degree in nursing.
- She also had the chance to visit Central Louisiana Technical Community College in Alexandria for a dual enrollment meeting. Regent Hixson and Commissioner Reed joined her for the visit.

She highlighted the story of one of the young students she met, who began in high school to pursue becoming an LPN. He financed his education by working for an ambulance company. Most of the students she met already had a plan for continuing their education and had earned credits through dual enrollment.

- She mentioned that the Higher Education Task Force finalized recommendations for alternate accreditors. Regent Sterling asked how changes in accreditation could impact students going to a SACS-accredited schools and then transferring to a school that is not accredited by SACS. She asked if any credit hours would be lost. Chair Cordell said there are still questions about this type of situation. Commissioner Reed added that if Louisiana pursues CPHE, there would be different accreditors across the state. She added that while there is an interest in competition, but it has to be of quality and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; without that recognition, students would not have access to federal financial aid. Dr. Denley added that the new accreditors have a two-year window to demonstrate that they have the necessary standards in place to be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Currently several states are looking at changes in accreditation through CPHE.

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

### CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Denley presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine items including Staff Approvals. Dr. Denley brought to the attention of the Committee the number of program terminations and advised that there will be additional terminations going forward throughout the year.

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Committee received and recommended Board of Regents approval of the items on the Consent Agenda.**

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley presented for approval the Associate of Applied Science in Data Science, Analytics, and AI at SOWELA Technical Community College and the Associate of Applied Science in Technical Studies at River Parishes Community College.

Dr. Denley noted that both institutions have terminated programs to be able to reallocate resources to these new programs.

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

### REPORTS

Dr. Denley then presented for approval the 2025 Articulation and Transfer Report. Dr. Denley advised that the expectations of the initiative have been exceeded. He also noted the use of Universal Transfer Pathways to increase the number of transfer students in the state. Regent Glaser asked if there was information regarding students who transfer from out-of-state. Dr. Denley responded that students from out-of-state who transfer to an institution in Louisiana can transfer courses in alignment with the Transfer Pathways.

**On motion of Regent Glaser, seconded by Regent Creed, the Committee recommended approval of the 2024–25 Articulation and Transfer Report and to authorize the Commissioner of Higher Education to submit the report to the appropriate legislative committees on behalf of the Board of Regents.**

Dr. Denley also presented for approval the 2025 Postsecondary Inclusive Education Report.

Dr. Denley provided an update on the work of the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council (PIEAC). He also featured the growth of Postsecondary Inclusive Education programs in the state and of the number of students served by these programs since the inception of the PIEAC.

**On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Committee recommended approval of the 2024–25 Postsecondary Inclusive Education Report and to authorize the Commissioner of Higher Education to submit the report to the appropriate legislative committees on behalf of the Board of Regents.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

## **RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES**

### **CONVERSION OF ENDOWED FIRST-GENERATION SCHOLARSHIP TO ENDOWED TWO-YEAR WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP: NORTHSORE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Ms. Robison notified the Committee that the Weeks Marine 1st Generation Scholarship at Northshore Technical Community College was initially established as a \$50,000 Scholarship in FY 2021–22. With approval of the original donor, NTCC requests to convert this scholarship into an Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarship named Weeks Marine Endowed Scholarship in Maritime Support Programs, with a corpus of \$50,000 (\$30,000 non-state/\$20,000 BoRSF).

**On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent May, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve Northshore Technical Community College's request to convert the Weeks Marine 1st Generation Scholarship into an Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarship named Weeks Marine Endowed Scholarship in Maritime Support Programs, with a corpus of \$50,000.**

### **BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND (BORSF) PLAN AND BUDGET, FY 2026–27**

Ms. Robison provided an overview of the constitutionally designated Board of Regents Support Fund and the requirement to provide a budget to the Governor and the Legislature for the coming fiscal year for consideration during the 2026 Regular Legislative Session. She reviewed recent trends in revenue generation and summarized the process for identifying a base funding level for the next fiscal year. She

also noted that Act 222 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session, if approved by the voters in May 2026, will repeal the Support Fund effective immediately, so this Plan and Budget may not be enacted.

Following the background review, Ms. Robison indicated that a base budget of \$22 million was recommended by staff and committees advisory to the Board. She noted that the recommended budget is aligned with the official estimate provided by the Revenue Estimating Conference and the Treasury.

Ms. Robison then provided a breakdown of the budget request by program and subprogram, acknowledging prior commitments, administrative costs, and funds for new projects, as well as contingency plans in the event that revenues in FY 2026–27 exceed or fail to meet the base budget level.

Regent Aubrey asked questions about agency plans to absorb the staff of the BoRSF in the event the fund is repealed and expressed interest in seeing an organizational chart of the agency in light of recent changes.

**On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent May, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve the FY 2026–27 BoRSF Plan and Budget, with contingencies, as presented.**

#### FUNDING FOR BORSF EXISTING MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS AND FEDERAL MATCHING COMMITMENTS

Ms. Robison informed the Committee that the BoRSF has, throughout its 39 years of operations, funded grants and federal award matching across multiple fiscal years and is permitted by statute to contract projects for up to six years. Current programs offer up to five years of grant support and federal matching ranges from three to five years.

Ms. Robison reminded the Committee that the proposed repeal of the Support Fund, passed in the 2025 Regular Legislative Session and scheduled for popular vote in May 2026, will eliminate the Board's ability to fulfill current multi-year obligations to these awards and matching pledges, which will have negative consequences for institutions across the state. Currently the BoRSF has 115 competitively selected, multi-year contracts totaling \$8,319,621 awarded in fiscal years beyond the date of repeal and six federal grants (awarded by the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the National Institutes of Health) with an existing \$4,000,000 in BoRSF match commitments. She informed the Committee that sufficient monies are available in the BoRSF's unexpended earnings from prior years ("reserve funds") to cover these obligations in full and noted that, per Act 222 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session, all remaining

funds in the BoRSF account will be available to be liquidated to pay existing unaccrued liabilities in state retirement funds, subject to voter approval of the constitutional amendment.

Regent Pryor asked for a history of the repeal legislation and where it originated. Ms. Robison provided a brief summary of the amendments proposed in 2024's Third Extraordinary Session and the 2025 Regular Session. Regent Aubrey asked about the total unexpended funds currently in the account.

**On motion of Regent Shamieh, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended obligation of \$13,000,000 in unexpended BoRSF monies earned in prior fiscal years to fully fund existing multi-year and federal matching commitments awarded to Louisiana institutions through competitive award processes.**

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Robison informed the Committee that the LASTEM initiative, administered by the Board of Regents for seven years, would be moving to the auspices of LAWorks on January 1, 2026. The initiative is a tri-agency partnership, and Regents will continue to engage actively in the work.

There being no further business to come before the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

### STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

#### CONSENT AGENDA

#### TOPS HOME STUDY EXCEPTIONS

Dr. Susannah Craig, Interim Executive Director of LOSFA and Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, stated that TOPS statute requires that a student begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year. 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 timeframe was beyond the student's control. One request for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on September 17, 2025. The student has presented facts and documentation that the student believes justifies the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

**On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the Statewide Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve the request for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year.**

## TOPS EXCEPTIONS

Dr. Craig informed the Committee about 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. 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 the 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.”

Dr. Craig advised that 24 requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on September 17, 2025. 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 Reeves, seconded by Regent May, the Statewide Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve the 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.**

## STATEWIDE PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT: EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

Dr. Craig introduced Dr. Michelle DeMeulenaere, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success to provide an overview of the work of the Regents and partners statewide around provision of early childhood support across higher education. Dr. DeMeulenaere provided context for the work, including statistics related to student-parents enrolled in higher education and the types of institutions they attend and the challenges they face in progressing in and completing their credentials.

Dr. DeMeulenaere noted that, on average, families pay approximately \$14,000 annually for center-based care and the challenges they face in accessing childcare during college entry and completion can make it more difficult for them to successfully graduate compared to students who are not parents.

She then outlined the work of Regents to address these challenges including the creation of the Campus Early Learning Center Collaborative to address the need for campus-based childcare services and support skill development for staff of these facilities, including business development, enrollment, family support, grant writing, and early childhood capacity building on and near campus. She noted that future priorities include promoting an understanding of how the Louisiana Board of Regents can support

collaborative relationships between campus early learning centers and communities, as well as prioritizing enrollment opportunities for student families in communities across the state. In addition, the Collaborative will support campus early learning centers to maintain strong business models and funding opportunities to sustain quality early learning centers for children.

Regent Glaser asked if data capture how many people do not enroll in postsecondary programs due to a lack of childcare. Upon discussion, staff indicated they would seek available information and report back.

**This presentation was for information only. No action was needed.**

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda. The first item consisted of one initial license application and five license renewal applications from academic degree-granting institutions. The initial applicant, Carrington College, is a health career college with its main campus located in Sacramento, CA and accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The institution intends to pursue a proprietary school license in Louisiana to offer non-degree credentials. All five renewal applicants are institutions accredited by a U.S. Department of Education accreditor and have previously been approved as licensed institutions by the Board of Regents.

The second item included recommendations from the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools approved during its November meeting. The recommendations consisted of the approval of 24 license renewal applications. Regent Reeves asked why Teacher's College of Columbia University submitted a renewal application with zero students. Dr. Craig explained that the institution's long-standing program is a summer offering, and in order to recruit students the institutions must be licensed regardless of current enrollment at time of renewal.

**On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, 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. Initial Applications
    - a. Carrington College – Sacramento, CA
  - 2. Renewal Applications
    - a. Rocky Vista University – Englewood, CO
    - b. South University – Savannah, GA
    - c. Teachers College – Columbia University, New York, NY
    - d. University St. Augustine – San Marcos, CA

- e. Western University of Health Sciences – Pomona, CA
- B. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools
- 1. Renewal Applications
  - a. 160 Driving Academy-New Orleans – New Orleans – License #2340
  - b. Academy of Interactive Entertainment – Lafayette – License #2132
  - c. Ayers Career College – Shreveport – License #828
  - d. Becker Online – Downers Grove, Illinois – License #2368
  - e. Coastal College-Baton Rouge – Baton Rouge – License #2019
  - f. Coastal Truck Driving School of New Orleans – New Orleans – License #2200
  - g. Crescent City School of Gaming & Bartending – New Orleans – License #594
  - h. Delta College-Covington – Covington – License #947
  - i. Delta College-Slidell Branch – Slidell – License #2066
  - j. Diesel Driving Academy-Shreveport – Shreveport – License #369
  - k. Durham Transport Academy – Shreveport – License #2341
  - l. GBR Dental Assistant Academy – Prairieville – License #2394
  - m. Joshua Career Institute of Louisiana – Shreveport – License #2307
  - n. Lafayette Dental Assistant School – Lafayette – License #2251
  - o. Mia's Medical Academy – Baton Rouge – License #2202
  - p. National Aesthetic Laser Institute – Baton Rouge – License #2295
  - q. New Orleans Dental Assistant School – Metairie – License #2252
  - r. Nursing Assistant Network Association (NANA) – New Orleans – License #920
  - s. Over Drive Truck Driving School of Louisiana – Deville – License #2283
  - t. Pelican Chapter, ABC-Baton Rouge Campus – Baton Rouge – License #2172
  - u. Pelican Chapter, ABC-Southwest Campus – Westlake – License #2173
  - v. Shreveport Dental Assistant School – Shreveport – License #2253
  - w. Thomas Training and Development Center – Franklin – License #948
  - x. Unimed Academy – New Orleans – License #2377

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

## **NOMINATING**

### **NOMINATION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2026**

Regent Mire called the Nominating Committee to order. The Nominating Committee, a special committee of the Board of Regents, made the following recommendations regarding the following Board positions for the coming year: Regent Sterling as Vice-Chair and Regent Hixson as Secretary. On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Temple, the Nominating Committee approved the Board Officers for 2026. The Nominating Committee then recommended Regents Creed, David, Shamieh, and Temple to serve as Non-Officer Members on the Executive Committee for 2026. On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Temple, the Nominating Committee approved the Non-Officer Members on the Executive Committee for 2026.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

## PERSONNEL

### APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION AND DATA STRATEGY POSITION

Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed presented the recommendation to appoint Mr. Karthik Poobalasubramanian as Deputy Commissioner for Information and Data Strategy, subject to Board approval. Commissioner Reed shared that Mr. Poobalasubramanian has been with the Board of Regents for 19 years and currently serves as the Assistant Commissioner for Information and Data Services. Mr. Poobalasubramanian began his career at Regents as a graduate assistant while completing his master's degree, gaining early hands-on experience in systems administration and campus technology operations and has worked his way up in the BOR IT unit. Since December 2021, he has provided executive oversight of IT and data systems, driven cross-functional initiatives to modernize infrastructure, and implemented security measures to materially reduce organizational risk.

Commissioner Reed recommended establishment of the position of Deputy Commissioner for Information and Data Strategy and appointment of Mr. Karthik Poobalasubramanian to this position.

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Temple, the Personnel Committee approved the position of Deputy Commissioner for Information and Data Strategy and the appointment of Mr. Karthik Poobalasubramian to the position.**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

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

Commissioner Reed made the following comments:

- She expressed gratitude to Dr. Sujuan Boutte for her service to the state through her work with LOSFA and to Mr. Harold Boutte for his dedication to Louisiana students. Both have announced their retirement.
- She was pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Susannah Craig as the interim executive director of LOSFA. She noted that Dr. Craig has already done an outstanding job given the recent cyberattack. She noted that \$1.8B in 80,000 START accounts was safeguarded and that Dr. Craig had been in communication with the account holders.
- She and Chair Cordell had an opportunity to celebrate two important projects at LUMCON: the laying of the keel for the new RV Pelican 2, a research vessel, and the groundbreaking for the new marine operations center. Both the RV Pelican and an additional new vessel are being built by Louisiana companies in Houma. She thanked Dr. Brian Roberts, LUMCON Executive Director, for the invitation to attend the event.
- Regents hosted the Untapped Talent Summit 2.0 in New Orleans which she and Chair Cordell attended. This summit focused on making sure formerly incarcerated individuals have a strong education to employment pathway. She thanked Northshore Technical Community College and

Dr. Lisa Vosper for facilitating a visit to Rayburn Correctional Center to highlight the commitment to expanding educational opportunities within Louisiana's correctional system.

- She also mentioned the third annual fiscal summit, which brought together finance officers, technology officers, and campus police to discuss cyber security safety, NIL, communications, federal funding, and dual enrollment among other topics. She recognized Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Chris Henry, Chris Herring, and Regents staff for their work on the summit. Two hundred individuals attended as teams from every campus in Louisiana.
- She also expressed her deep appreciation to Chair Cordell and all of the Board members and wished everyone a happy holiday.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell asked if the Board could develop a follow-up resolution for the use of the remaining broadband funding. Commissioner Reed suggested having a resolution drafted for the Board to consider at its January meeting that would request the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Education, and others to support release of the funds to Louisiana.

Chair Cordell asked if there was any other business to come before the Board.

Regent Aubrey asked for a future update on finances within the UL System and indicated that he would like to see how member institutions are managing recent funding adjustments.

Based on a question from Regent Sterling about quarterly budget reports, a discussion ensued about when the 2025 Q4 and 2026 Q1 reports would be available. Ms. Bentley-Smith outlined the new process for publication of quarterly reports which was instituted last year. Regent Sterling asked if Board members could see the information about quarterly reports in a calendar, and Commissioner Reed said that would be done. She added that new system presidents will be meeting with BOR in preparation for budget conversations with Taylor Barras, Commissioner of Administration.

Chair Cordell announced that the next meeting will be Monday, January 26, 2026.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent May, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Appendix A  
Board Meeting Guest List  
Wednesday, December 10, 2025

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Luria Young	SU A&M
Emily Jackson-Osagie	SU A&M
Brian Roberts	BOR-LUMCON
Robert René	SU System