



Notice of Meetings

Louisiana Board of Regents

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Event	Time	Location
Board Development	9:00 AM	Iowa Room 1-153 Claiborne Building, 1st Floor 1201 N. Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Committee Meetings** Finance Audit Legislative Facilities and Property Academic and Student Affairs Research and Sponsored Programs Statewide Programs Planning, Research, and Performance	10:00 AM	Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100 Claiborne Building, 1st Floor
Board of Regents Meeting**	1:00 PM	Louisiana Purchase Room 1-100 Claiborne Building, 1st Floor

ADA Accessibility Requests

If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this meeting, please contact Karlita Anderson five (5) business days before the meeting date via email at Karlita.Anderson@laregents.edu or by telephone at (225) 219-7660 to discuss your accessibility needs.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE AGENDAS MAY BE FOUND AT WWW.LAREGENTS.EDU.

* The meeting may begin later contingent upon adjournment of previous meeting. Meetings may also convene up to 30 minutes prior to the posted schedule to facilitate business.

** The Board of Regents reserves the right to enter into Executive Session, if needed, in accordance with R.S. 42:11 *et seq.*



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.
*Commissioner
of Higher Education*

Misti S. Cordell
*Chair
At-Large*

Terrie P. Sterling
*Vice Chair
At-Large*

Phillip R. May Jr.
*Secretary
1st Congressional District*

David J. Aubrey
2nd Congressional District

Christian C. Creed
5th Congressional District

Blake R. David
3rd Congressional District

Stephanie A. Finley
3rd Congressional District

Ted H. Glaser III
6th Congressional District

Dallas L. Hixson
At-Large

Darren G. Mire
2nd Congressional District

Kennedy M. Orr
Student Member

Wilbert D. Pryor
4th Congressional District

Christy Oliver Reeves
5th Congressional District

K. Samer Shamieh, M.D.
1st Congressional District

Collis B. Temple III
6th Congressional District

Judy A. Williams-Brown
4th Congressional District

Agenda

Board of Regents Meeting*

Wednesday, June 18th, 2025
10:00 AM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2025
- V. Reports and Recommendations of Standing Committees
 - A. Finance
 - B. Audit
 - C. Legislative
 - D. Facilities and Properties
 - E. Academic and Student Affairs
 - F. Research and Sponsored Initiatives
 - G. Statewide Programs
 - H. Planning, Research, and Performance
- VI. Meauxmentum Moment – Work-based Learning
- VII. Chairs Comments
- VIII. Reports and Recommendations by the Commissioner of Higher Education
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment

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DRAFT
MINUTES
BOARD OF REGENTS

April 23, 2025

The Board of Regents met at 10:40 a.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 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. Doreen Brasseaux called the roll, and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner
Misti Cordell, Chair
Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair
Phillip May, Jr., Secretary
David Aubrey
Christian Creed
Blake David
Stephanie Finley
Ted Glaser III
Dallas Hixson
Darren Mire
Kennedy Orr, Student Member
Wilbert Pryor
Christy Reeves
K. Samer Shamieh
Collis Temple III
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgt. Board representatives present were:

LSU System representative, Laurie
Lipsey Aronson
UL System representative, John Noble Jr.
LCTCS representative, Stevie Smith

Mgt. Board representative not present was:

Southern System

Appendix A
Guest List

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 David, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Board voted unanimously to approve all recommendations from the April 23, 2025 Committee meetings.

LEGISLATIVE

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed provided an update of Regents' legislative priorities and other bills of interest under consideration during the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

2025 BOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **Career Office Reform:** Establishes a Career Alignment Task Force to develop a campus scorecard based on findings of best and promising practices, like early-onset career advising (freshman year) and increased work-based learning opportunities, to connect students to employment opportunities and address outmigration.
- **Physician Shortage/TOPS – HB 275, Rep. Berault:** Allows a TOPS-eligible student who had previously opted out of TOPS to receive TOPS if returning to attend an in-state medical school. This priority is specifically designed to address Louisiana's physician shortage.
- **Geaux Teach – HB 109, Rep. Thompson:** Makes this existing scholarship for future educators a first-restricted-dollar award to cover tuition, books, and instructional materials.
- **Financial Aid Alignment – HB 161, Rep. Hughes:** Aligns TOPS Tech Early Start, TOPS Tech and M.J. Foster Promise eligibility based on the critical workforce needs identified by the Louisiana Workforce Commission.
- **TOPS Tech Early College Credit – HB 70, Rep. Brass:** 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/or learning measures.
- **Retirement – HB 24, Rep. Bacala:** Requests that the optional retirement plan (ORP) managed by the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) include provisions for: expansion of participation in ORP; allowing employees to move from ORP to TRSL after seven years of service; allowing persons over 60 to opt out of TRSL; increasing the employer contribution rate to better align with other Southern states; and allowing for an ORP Advisory Committee as a component of the TRSL Board.

- **Job Order Contracting – HB 566, Rep. Turner:** Establishes job order contracting as an alternative project delivery method applicable to deferred maintenance of public facilities by postsecondary education institutions for certain work types.
- **Healthcare Task Force Consolidation – HB 544, Rep. Turner:** Creates a committee/subcommittee structure for the Health Works Commission, Nursing Supply and Demand Council and Simulation Medical Training and Education Council.
- **HBCU Advisory Council – HB 142, Rep. Mena:** Creates additional membership on Council, provides for student member travel payments, and allows for examination of campus safety on HBCU campuses.
- **Dual Enrollment Taskforce – HB 71, Rep. Brass:** Revises the membership of the Dual Enrollment Task Force by removal of two obsolete members and addition of two new members.

Bills of Interest

- **UNO Transfer – SB 202, Sen. Harris:** Transfers UNO to the LSU System.
- **Hazing Training – HB 279, Rep. Boyd:** Requires certain postsecondary education students to complete an anti-hazing course.
- **TOPS Excellence/Equalization – HB 77, Rep. Turner:** Revises Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award amounts and adds an award category for students with an ACT score of 31 or above.
- **LCTCS Bonds – SB 72, Sen. Reese:** Provides relative to the issuance of bonds for financing certain capital improvement projects within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.
- **Deferred Maintenance – HB 335, Rep. Turner:** Requires the treasurer to deposit \$100 M from the State General Fund (Direct) to the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Fund.
- **Support Fund – HB 579, Rep. Emerson:** Transfers funds from the Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF) and repeals the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund.
- **UAL/TRSL – HB 473, Rep. Emerson:** Repeals certain funds in the state treasury and applies the monies from those funds to the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL).
- **Constitutional Funding Changes – HB 472, Rep. Emerson:** Revises Article VII of the Constitution of Louisiana relative to revenue and finance.

- **DEI in State Agencies – HB 421, Rep. Chenevert:** Requires state agencies to abolish all DEI programs, offices, and positions and all DEI performance requirements for employees.
- **State Services and Benefits – SB 100, Sen. Miguez:** Requires each agency defined in proposed law to determine the eligibility of individuals receiving state services and benefits from the agency, including determining which individuals attempting to receive state services and benefits are "illegal aliens" or "unaccompanied alien children."
- **ICE Reporting – HB 307, Rep. Henry:** Requires a state agency or political subdivision to report individuals who seek public assistance and are not citizens of the U.S. to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Regent Aubrey inquired whether, if HB 473 passes, it will move forward as a constitutional amendment. Ms. Uma Subramanian, Executive Counsel, confirmed that the bill would move forward as a constitutional amendment and noted that there would likely be a special election in 2026 to vote on constitutional amendment bills that pass out of the current legislative session. Regent Aubrey asked whether the amendment, if passed, would impact the Board of Regents Support Fund. Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives, responded that the amendment in its current posture would eliminate the funding source for BoRSF and make the fund subject to appropriation. She indicated that, with the vote scheduled in 2026, impacts to the Support Fund will not occur until 2027.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Denley presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of routine items including Staff Approvals.

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley presented for approval the Bachelor of Science in Coastal Meteorology at Louisiana State University A&M, Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering at Louisiana State University A&M, Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Technology at Louisiana State University of Alexandria,

Bachelor of Science in Integrative Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Bachelor of Science in Scientific Visual Communication at Louisiana Tech University, and Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans.

Dr. Denley noted that the Bachelor of Science in Coastal Meteorology at Louisiana State University A&M will meet the requirements for students to enter many master's and doctoral programs at Louisiana State University A&M.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Mire, the Committee recommended Board of Regents approval of the four proposed new programs as presented.

CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND LOUISIANA
CYBERSECURITY TALENT INITIATIVE FUND

Dr. Denley advised the Committee that the Cybersecurity Education Management Council was provided \$1 million in FY 2024–25 by the Legislature to expand cyber education in the state. He informed the Committee that eleven institutions have submitted applications requesting a total of \$1.7 million, so the Council will review applications and develop funding recommendations at their meeting in early May. The Board whether he would return to the Committee to provide an update in June and Dr. Denley responded that he would.

Regent Pryor inquired about the demand for cyber degrees in the state, noting that Grambling State University was the first institution in the state to offer this program. Dr. Denley responded that there is a significant need for cyber programs in the state because workforce demand is high. Regent Finley added that the Committee does consider overlapping in degree programs, including regional impact, when assessing requests for new programs.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Committee received and recommended funding be provided from the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund for applications selected by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) during its May meeting, with a report on CEMC's funding decisions to be provided to the Board in June.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

DIVISION OF ENDOWED CHAIR INTO ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS: LSU AND A&M
COLLEGE

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives notified the Committee that LSU A&M has requested approval to divide the Gordon A. and Mary Cain Chair in Chemical Engineering #2, a \$2 million endowed chair, into three Endowed Professorships, as follows:

- Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #6 with a corpus of \$1 million (\$600,000 non-state/\$400,000 BoRSF)
- Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #7 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non-state/\$200,000 BoRSF)

Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #8 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non-state/\$200,000 BoRSF)

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent May, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve LSU A&M's request to divide the Gordon A. and Mary Cain Chair in Chemical Engineering #2 into three (3) endowed professorships, as follows: (1) Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #6, with a corpus of \$1,000,000 (\$600,000 non-state/\$400,000 BoRSF); (2) Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #7, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non-state/\$200,000 BoRSF); and (3) Gordon A. and Mary Cain Professorship in Chemical Engineering #8, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non-state/\$200,000 BoRSF).

CONVERSION OF ENDOWED SUPERIOR GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP INTO
ENDOWED CHAIR AND APPOINTMENT OF A HOLDER WITHOUT A NATIONAL SEARCH:
PENNINGTON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Ms. Robison informed the Committee that PBRC has requested approval to convert the LPFA Postdoctoral Fellowship, created in FY 2015–16 from a matched Endowed Chair, back into the LPFA Endowed Chair in Nutrition, with a \$1 million corpus, and fill the endowment with Dr. Leanne Redman via internal appointment. She noted that Dr. Redman is recognized as an international leader in obesity research and her curriculum vitae has been reviewed and determined to align well with all expectations of a chairholder outlined in the Endowed Chairs policy.

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent May, the Research and Sponsored Programs Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve Pennington Biomedical Research Center's request to revert the LPFA Postdoctoral Fellowship back to LPFA Endowed Chair in Nutrition, with a corpus of \$1 million (\$600,000 non-state/\$400,000 BoRSF) and appoint Dr. Leanne Redman to the Chair.

FY 2024–25 BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Robison highlighted the process for developing external evaluations for proposals submitted to the constitutionally prescribed program components of the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) and specific award recommendations for FY 2024–25. She noted that the current Revenue Estimating Conference projection is aligned with the budget approved during the 2024 Regular Legislative Session and sufficient funds are available in the Support Fund to accommodate the recommendations. She then specified the following nine (9) recommendations for FY 2024–25 across all BoRSF subprograms, to be funded with earnings distributed during the fiscal year. By these recommendations, the Board was asked to authorize 186 awards, with contingencies, as follows:

I. Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars

Board action completes the endowments for proposals ranked 1–5 in the Consultants’ Report (i.e., proposals 009EC, 010EC, 004EC, 001EC, and 017EC).

II. Enhancement of the Quality of Academic, Research, and Agricultural Departments and Units

Board action approves the following:

- A. Departmental Enhancement: Disbursement of \$2,313,356 estimated to be available in Departmental Enhancement for FY 2024–25 to fund the first year of twenty-one (21) new proposals at the funding levels and with the funding stipulations recommended by consultants.
- B. BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative: Funding for five (5) proposals, ranked 1–5, submitted in the FY 2024–25 cycle to the BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative for the durations and at the levels recommended.
- C. Endowed Professorships: A total of \$1,980,000 from the Support Fund for the Endowed Professorships subprogram, including First-Generation Undergraduate Scholarships, to match new and prior-year requests at 17 campuses.
- D. Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships: \$850,000 from the Support Fund to match eighteen (18) applications submitted in FY 2024–25 under the Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships subprogram.

III. Targeted Research & Development

Board action approves disbursement of \$2,237,817 estimated to be available in FY 2024–25 to fund the first year of new RCS, ITRS, PoC/P, and ATLAS projects as follows:

1. Research Competitiveness Subprogram: \$1,249,973
2. Industrial Ties Research Subprogram: \$637,844
 - A. Industrial Ties: \$477,906
 - B. Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative: \$159,938
3. Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars: \$350,000

Approved R&D proposals shall be funded at the levels and with the stipulations recommended by consultants; Support Fund money shall be awarded to fund at recommended levels the top twenty-three (23) RCS proposals, four (4) ITRS proposals, four (4) PoC/P proposals, and eight (8) ATLAS proposals. Should the amount of money ultimately available to fund first-year activities in all R&D projects be less than the \$2,237,817 disbursed herein, adherence to the following principles shall be uniformly enforced: (1) should an institution refuse or be denied an award, or should FY 2024-25 money be returned from previously funded R&D contracts, that money shall be offered to the next-ranked proposal which the consultants recommended for Priority I or II funding within the respective subprogram (ranks 9–10 in ATLAS), subject to availability of funds; (2) if the remaining money in the budget for a particular component is insufficient to fully fund the next-ranked recommended proposal for that component, the remaining funds shall constitute the total award for that proposal; and (3) if there are no remaining Priority I proposals in a particular subprogram, the money shall be awarded in descending rank order to Priority I or II proposal(s) in another R&D subprogram in accordance with restrictions applicable to allocation of funds for multi-year projects. R&D Priority I and II proposals shall be funded in rank order at the levels and durations and with the stipulations recommended by consultants until the funds designated for each component have been exhausted.

IV. Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students

Board action approves disbursement of \$1,000,000 from the Support Fund to match twelve (12) applications, ranked 1–12, submitted in FY 2024–25 under the Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships subprogram.

V. Contingency Plan for Budgetary Shortfall

Board action approved the following contingency plan for a budgetary shortfall: Should available FY 2024–25 Support Fund revenues not achieve the amount cited herein during FY 2024–25, any shortfall shall be accommodated through a proportionate reduction in the amounts allocated for proposals in the competitive non-endowment Enhancement and Research and Development program components.

On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the FY 2024–25 BoRSF funding recommendations, with contingencies, as presented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Robison noted that a question had been asked about the disposition of an endowments matched at the University of New Orleans if the institution moves from the UL System to the LSU System. She informed the Committee that, for any institution undergoing such a change, all matched endowments must remain with the institution and any transfer would require approval of the original donor (or donor's authorized representative), the system's Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Regents.

There being no further business to come before the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee, on motion of Regent Glaser, seconded by Regent May, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Final Rulemaking – Implements provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 which provide that the Chafee ETV shall be awarded without regard to financial need

Dr. Sujuan Boutté, Executive Director for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), explained that at its December 11, 2024, meeting, the Board of Regents authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to implement guidance from the U.S. Department of Education, which stated that the Chafee ETV is not to be included as other financial assistance when determining a student's eligibility for federal financial aid. More recent clarification also indicates that a student may receive the full Chafee ETV award amount even if they have other sources of financial aid that meet their full cost of attendance. Dr. Boutté noted that these changes apply only to the awarding of federal financial assistance.

B. TOPS Home Study Exceptions – TOPS statutory provision that requires a student to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that one request for an exception to the deadline to begin a home study program was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of March 13, 2025. The student has presented facts and documentation that the student believes justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance, and the LOSFA Advisory Board recommends Board of Regents approval.

C. TOPS and M.J. Foster Promise Exceptions – TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year and to the M.J. Foster requirement that a student maintain continuous enrollment in school

Dr. Boutté informed the Regents that three requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting of March 13, 2025. In addition, at

the same meeting, the LOSFA Advisory Board reviewed and approved three requests for exception to the M.J. Foster Promise requirements. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance, and the Advisory Board recommends Board of Regents approval.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Pryor asked about campus-related hazing incidents and what is being done to address the issue. Commissioner Reed responded that this issue would be discussed later, during the Board of Regents meeting.

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda, starting with the recommendation of two renewal applications for academic licensure. The next item was recommendations for approval of six initial and sixteen renewal applications, as recommended by the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools.

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Glaser, 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. Chamberlain University – Chicago, IL
 - b. Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Louisiana Campus, Monroe, LA
- B. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools
 - 1. Initial License Applications
 - a. Community Helpers Early Learning Professionals, Lake Charles, LA
 - b. Delta College West, Lake Charles, LA
 - c. Dental Assisting Solutions, Shreveport, LA
 - d. Lake Charles Dental Assistant School, Lake Charles, LA

- e. Top Tier Dental – New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- f. Top Tier Dental – Slidell, Slidell, LA
- 2. Renewal Applications
 - a. Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2083
 - b. Beso Beauty, Metairie, LA - License #2264
 - c. Carter's Career Center, Monroe, LA - License #2286
 - d. Coastal College – Hammond, Hammond, LA - License #791
 - e. Hospitality Opportunity and Service Training (HOST) Program, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2312
 - f. ITI Technical College, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2007
 - g. LifeShare Phlebotomy School, Shreveport, LA - License #2313
 - h. Louisiana Dental Assistant School, Zachary, LA - License #2073
 - i. Louisiana Dental Institute, Monroe, LA - License #2287
 - j. Next Level Educational Services, LaPlace, LA - License #2331
 - k. Rosebud Training Academy, Baker, LA - License #2369
 - l. The H.E.A.R.T. Academy, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2348
 - m. Tulsa Welding School – Jacksonville Campus, Jacksonville, FL - License #2123
 - n. United Dental Institute – Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA - License #2328
 - o. United Dental Institute – Lafayette, Lafayette, LA - License #2329
 - p. United Dental Institute – New Orleans, New Orleans, LA - License #2330

Following the Consent Agenda, Dr. Craig provided a high-level overview of the 2024 Health Works Commission Annual report, one of the Board of Regents' annual legislative submissions. She summarized the roles of the three healthcare workforce groups staffed by the Board: the Health Works Commission (HWC), Nursing Supply and Demand Council (NSDC), and Simulation Medical Training and Education Council (SMTEC). Dr. Craig noted House Bill 544 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session, which proposes consolidating NSDC and SMTEC into two committees under HWC to improve efficiency. She highlighted continued progress in healthcare workforce development, with notable increases in licensed professionals: Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (9,670, up 9%), Registered Nurses (66,594, up 10%), and Licensed Practical Nurses (22,065, up 4%). Despite recent gains, demand remains high, with thousands of open positions statewide. Though workforce demands are present, Louisiana reports a low nursing staff turnover rate (5.4%) compared to the national average of 18.4%.

Dr. Craig concluded by sharing the 2025 HWC recommendations, which aim to strengthen the nursing and healthcare workforce pipeline. These include creating faculty stipends using H.E.R.O. Fund dollars, standardizing course transferability, advocating for academic-practice partnership funding, offering financial support to underrepresented nursing students, continuing capitation funding to expand program capacity, and addressing faculty salary competitiveness. She emphasized the importance of continued investment and collaboration to meet Louisiana's growing healthcare demands. There were no questions following this informational presentation and no action was requested.

FINANCE

APPROPRIATION BILLS – LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, informed the Committee that, at this time, House Bills 1 (General Appropriations Bill) and 460 (Supplemental Appropriations Bill) are referred to House Appropriations Committee but have not yet been heard. She stated that it is anticipated they will be presented the week of April 28 or May 5. HB 1 is the legislative adoption of the Governor's Executive Budget and appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. HB 460 appropriates additional funds for the current fiscal year, 2024–25. Ms. Bentley-Smith reported that she would keep the Board apprised of any changes to the bills as they move through the legislative process.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

HOUSE BILL 2 UPDATE

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, informed the Board of the posture of House Bill 2 (HB 2), the state's capital outlay bill, after the introduction of the bill by the Louisiana House of Representatives. He noted that 44 projects, totaling approximately \$341M across all public postsecondary institutions and LUMCON, were included in the bill to receive new funding for fiscal year 2026, Mr. Herring noted that he would keep the Board informed as the bill moves through the legislative process.

ACT 751 UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided an update on Act 751 passed during the 2024 Regular Legislative Session. He informed the Board of the intent of the legislation, the initial funding distribution by system, the number of projects approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the breakdown of projects underway by system and by project type.

Regent Temple asked if the perception of the deferred maintenance backlog issue has changed over the last ten years and if any progress had been made over that period. Mr. Herring responded that awareness of the issue has increased over the past decade and Act 751 will provide a reliable, predictable funding mechanism to allow higher education postsecondary institutions to begin to meaningfully address the backlog. He noted that deferred maintenance funding has not been appropriated consistently over the last ten years, which hinders an institution's ability to repair and replace equipment and systems appropriately to keep pace with the rate of decline for these items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2025 MEETING

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Chair Cordell attended the third annual Meauxmentum Summit hosted by the Academic Affairs led by Dr. Tristan Denley in Lafayette at the Cajundome. She commented that seeing so many of Louisiana's higher education leaders so actively engaged was inspiring.

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, began his discussion about the summit by thanking his staff for their hard work organizing the event.

Representatives from 28 institutions throughout the state gathered in Lafayette to participate in numerous workshops led by leaders in the state, as well as representatives from several national organizations, including philanthropy groups. It was a showcase to talk about work being done in Louisiana. The focus was the work involved in the grant from the Ascendium Foundation to support scaled implementation of student success in Louisiana. This work targets two of the strands in the Meauxmentum Framework—choice and pathways. Choice centers on adopting strategies that help students make purposeful choices by embedding early career advising and exploration in the curriculum. Pathways are then established to help students navigate to their ultimate goals by identifying classes that help them get from admission to graduation. Involved in the process is the identification of “catapult” classes that deepen learning and improve the odds of students obtaining the credentials they seek. As part of this project, every campus has been awarded \$100,000 for implementation of the plan. They are developing their plan of action. The final report of the summit was a gallery walk of plans shared by each campus.

CHAIR’S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell made the following comments:

- She noted that April and May are busy months for Regents and higher education, from the legislative session to graduations across the state.
- She recognized “the best of the best” and said that it has been an honor to have Regent Kennedy Orr serve as student member for the past year. She praised Regent Orr for her tenure on the Board and urged her to stay in touch after she graduates from Southern University A&M in May. Commissioner Reed presented the Regents stole to Regent Orr, who also received a gift from Chair Cordell on behalf of the entire Board.
- In her student member report, Regent Orr thanked everyone for their support and noted how appreciative she is of all the small things that have helped mold her thinking about the future, which still holds questions for her. She plans to use her connections to continue to serve in some capacity in Louisiana and to help shape decisions about what she will do next. A new student member from the LSU System will be elected May 2. Regent Orr mentioned a resolution passed by the Council of Student Body Presidents to support student voting rights in presidential elections by eliminating barriers to voting with regards to conflict with classes, exams, and work schedules, having information about elections readily available, and possibly making presidential election days university holidays.
- Chair Cordell mentioned that HBCU Day at the Capitol will be held on Monday, April 28. In the evening, attendees will gather at the Capitol Park Museum from 5–7 p.m., where the HBCUs will showcase the best of their campuses. Mascots will be in attendance.

- She noted that April is Community College Month and Louisiana is proud to be home to 14 institutions across three systems. All these institutions play a critical role in developing Louisiana's workforce. Throughout the coming month, each of these institutions will be spotlighted on social media.
- She mentioned highlights of Regents' recent tour of the Lafayette area, including visits to UL and SOWELA, where members witnessed the success of the Metallica Scholarship, an award sponsored by the rock group Metallica. She thanked Regents Sterling, Hixson, Reeves, Aubrey, Finley, and David for being part of these visits.

Regent Sterling commented that students bring "color commentary" to the work of BOR, so it is worth the Regents' time to visit these sites. Regent Hixson enjoyed seeing non-traditional students in school (e.g., students over 55 going back to school later in life), and shared his thoughts on the use of medical simulation dolls.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She noted the passing of Denise Latour this month and praised Ms. Latour for her extraordinary commitment as a member of the Dual Enrollment Task Force. She was also a Ponchatoula High School teacher and counselor.
- She mentioned the senior team's recent visit to a United Way Prosperity Center. Prosperity Centers provide family, job, and home ownership support. During that same visit, the team had a chance to learn more about the world of work for students who are 16–24 years old at Café Reconcile in New Orleans.
- She reminded the Board that every year outstanding future educators are recognized at the Future Educator Honor Roll on National Teacher of the Year Day, which will be held on May 6 this year. On that day the education community will recognize the top two future educators from every college and university in Louisiana that has a College of Education and from high schools that have a Rising Educator program. The program will take place at the Old State Capitol. The state Teacher of the Year and Ms. Frances Shaw, a chemistry teacher who at the age of 80 came back from retirement to fill a need in her district, will address the gathering.
- She asked Chair Cordell to recognize the BOR's administrative assistants in honor of Administrative Professionals Day. In addition to being presented with a bouquet of flowers, Commissioner Reed indicated that they will be celebrated at a luncheon on Friday, April 25, 2025.
- She commended Board members for their support, noting that five Board members took time to attend a dinner in Lafayette recently for various foundations. She said that the members' presence sent a clear message that Louisiana has a sustained commitment to the work.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. Regent Aubrey made a comment about Regents Temple's and Pryor's level of participation in the meeting. He requested

a continuing Board development discussion of finances, particularly related to institutions that may face challenges.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, April 25, 2025

NAME	AFFILIATION
Angela Amedee	LSUHSC – New Orleans
Robert Rohli	LSU A&M
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Chuck Berryman	LSU A&M
Helen Taylor	LSU - Shreveport
Liz Beard	LSU - Alexandria
Nate Simmons	LSU - Alexandria
Laurie Lipsey Aronson	LSU Board of Supervisors
Dagoberto Diaz	LSU A&M
Robert René	SUS - BR
Brian Roberts	BOR - LUMCON
William Tulak	LCTCS
Stephanie Styles	



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Agenda

Finance

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
10:00 AM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Approval of the FY 2025-26 Operating Budget
 - A. Update on FY 2024-25 Supplemental Funding
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment

Committee Members: Blake R. David, Chair; Darren G. Mire, Vice Chair; Christian C. Creed; Dallas L. Hixson; Collis Temple III.; Judy Williams-Brown; LCTC System Representative; LSU System Representative; SU System Representative; UL System Representative
Staff: Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration

AGENDA ITEM III.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Review and Approval of the FY 2025-2026 Operating Budget Distribution

An update is forthcoming on the FY 2025-2026 Operating Budget Distribution and FY 2024-2025 Supplemental Funding adjustments impacting higher education following Final Adjournment of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session (unless extended pursuant to the La. Const. Art. III, Section 2).



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Agenda Audit

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
10:15 AM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. EisnerAmper Internal Audit Presentation
 - A. Internal Audit Status Update
 - i. Board of Regents Agency Human Resources
 - ii. Internal Audits Follow-Up
- IV. Louisiana Legislative Auditors Management Letter
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: Judy Williams-Brown, Chair; Christian C. Creed, Vice Chair; Blake R. David; Stephanie A. Finley; Dallas L. Hixson; Samer Shamieh
Staff: Kim Hunter-Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education

AGENDA ITEM III.

Executive Summary

III. EisnerAmper Internal Audit Presentation

A. Internal Audit Status Update

i. Board of Regents Agency Human Resources

EisnerAmper (EA) conducted an internal audit of the Board of Regents Agency Human Resources to evaluate the office's processes and internal controls. The exit interview will be held Friday, June 13 in which any reportable findings will be discussed.

ii. Internal Audits Follow-Up

EisnerAmper will provide status updates regarding the following previously completed internal audits that required follow-up with Fiscal Year 2025:

- LOSFA and LUMCON Information Technology
- BOR, LOSFA, and LUMCON LaCarte Procurement and Travel Card Program
 - Note: This internal audit was completed prior to fiscal being transferred to the Board of Regents.

No motion is required.

AGENDA ITEM IV.

Executive Summary

IV. Louisiana Legislative Auditor Management Letter dated May 14, 2025

The Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) completes an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the State of Louisiana, Single Audit of the State of Louisiana, for all state agencies to evaluate the accountability over public funds. The annual Legislative Auditor Management Letter was issued May 14, 2025, for the Board of Regents. During the annual single audit for FY2023-24, the LLA reported one finding titled Inadequate Controls over Travel Expenditures for the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) program, under the BOR agency. After reviewing 20 travel expenditure documents, the LLA found one international travel expenditure that was not fully allowable under state travel regulations nor appropriately approved.

When Fiscal transitioned to the Board of Regents, we had already put in place corrective actions to travel processes and procedures and therefore we concurred with the LLA finding. As noted in the attached Management Response Letter, the Board of Regents' corrective actions include the following:

- 1) All LUMCON employees who participate in international travel will be required to complete additional travel training. This training was held on Thursday, May 8 and hosted by the Office of

State Travel. Further, we recorded the webinar and will be sending out to all employees within the BOR agency.

- 2) All international travel expenditures will continue to require approval of the Commissioner for Higher Education. During the audit, the international travel expenditure that was reviewed did not have the Commissioner's signature as approval. To ensure compliance, we have worked with the LUMCON Budget and Finance Manager to put in place specific action steps; following the supervisor's approval for the travel, the travel must then move to the LUMCON Budget and Finance Manager for her approval, with final approval by the Commissioner. Until all three signatures are accounted for, no international travel may be booked.
- 3) Finally, it was determined that the LUMCON employee who traveled received an overpayment of \$2,437. This employee has worked out a payment plan with HR and the return of this overpayment is underway.

All corrective actions as noted will be completed by June 30, 2025.

No motion is required.

LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS

STATE OF LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES

Management Letter
Issued May 14, 2025

**LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
1600 NORTH THIRD STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 94397
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9397**

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
MICHAEL J. "MIKE" WAGUESPACK, CPA

FIRST ASSISTANT LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
BETH Q. DAVIS, CPA

Under the provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of this report has been submitted to the Governor, to the Attorney General, and to other public officials as required by state law. A copy of this report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and online at www.la.la.gov. When contacting the office, you may refer to Agency ID No. 3306 or Report ID No. 80240094 for additional information.

This document is produced by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, Post Office Box 94397, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9397 in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513. One copy of this public document was produced at an approximate cost of \$0.23. This material was produced in accordance with the standards for state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance relative to this document, or any documents of the Legislative Auditor, please contact Jenifer Schaye, General Counsel, at 225-339-3800.

Louisiana Legislative Auditor

Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA

Louisiana Board of Regents



May 2025

Audit Control # 80240094

Introduction

As a part of our audit of the State of Louisiana's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and our work related to the Single Audit of the State of Louisiana (Single Audit) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, we performed procedures at the Louisiana Board of Regents (Regents) to provide assurances on financial information that is significant to the state's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report; evaluate the effectiveness of Regent's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance; and determine whether Regent's complied with applicable laws and regulations.

In addition to the procedures noted above, we also performed certain other procedures for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

We also determined whether management has taken actions to correct the finding reported in the prior year.

Results of Our Procedures

Follow-up on Prior-year Finding

Our auditors reviewed the status of the prior-year finding reported in the Regents management letter dated June 12, 2024. We determined that management has resolved the prior-year finding related to Inadequate Controls over Monies Held Outside State Treasury.

Current-year Finding

Inadequate Controls over Travel Expenditures

Regents, which includes the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), lacks adequate controls over travel expenditures. Expenditures for an international trip failed to follow established state travel regulations, including obtaining appropriate approvals. Failure to establish adequate internal controls to ensure compliance with state travel regulations, increases the risk of fraudulent, wasteful, or unauthorized expenditures.

Based on our review of 20 travel expenditures totaling \$12,720 for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2024, we identified one international travel expenditure for \$7,571 was not fully allowable under state travel regulations, nor appropriately approved, resulting in an overpayment of \$2,437.

The State of Louisiana Policy and Procedures Memorandum No. 49 requires international travel to be reimbursed based on the U.S. Department of State per diem rates for meals and lodging and to be approved by the commissioner of higher education or his/her designee.

Regents should provide additional training and oversight of travel expenditures to ensure compliance with state travel regulations, including obtaining appropriate approvals. Management concurred with the finding and provided a corrective action plan (see Appendix A).

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report – State of Louisiana

As a part of our audit of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2024, we considered internal control over financial reporting and examined evidence supporting the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students expenditures.

Based on the results of these procedures, we did not report any findings. In addition, the account balances and classes of transactions tested are materially correct.

Other Procedures

In addition to the follow up to prior year finding and Annual Comprehensive Financial Report procedures noted above, we performed certain procedures that included obtaining, documenting, and reviewing internal control and compliance with related laws and regulations over payroll and travel expenditures for Regents, including the LOSFA and LUMCON programs of Regents.

Based on the results of these procedures, we reported a finding related to Inadequate Controls over Travel Expenditures, as described previously.

Trend Analysis

We compared the most current and prior-year financial activity using Regents' Annual Fiscal Reports and/or system-generated reports and obtained explanations from Regents' management for any significant variances.

The recommendation in this letter represents, in our judgment, that which will most likely bring about beneficial improvements to the operations of Regents. The nature of the recommendation, its implementation costs, and its potential impact on the operations of Regents should be considered in reaching decisions on courses of action.

Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this letter is a public document, and it has been distributed to appropriate public officials.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. "Mike" Waguespack, CPA
Legislative Auditor

DPT:EBT:BH:BQD:aa

REGENTS2024

APPENDIX A: MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE



BOARD of REGENTS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

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May 7, 2025

Michael J. Waguespack, CPA
Louisiana Legislative Auditor
1600 North Third Street
P.O. Box 94397
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Inadequate Controls over Travel Expenditures

Dear Mr. Waguespack,

Below is the response by the Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR) to the one audit finding for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Finding: Inadequate Controls over Travel Expenditures

The Louisiana Board of Regents' response and corrective action plans are as follows:

- International Travel – Management concurs with this exception.
 - Corrective Action Plan: Amanda Cain, CPA, Associate Commissioner for Finance and Compliance, will be responsible for implementing the corrective action plan, which will include:
 - All LUMCON employees who participate in international travel will be required to complete additional travel training as provided by the Office of State Travel (Scheduled for May 8, 2025).
 - All international travel expenditures for the agency continue to require approval of the Commissioner of Higher Education or his/her designee. To ensure compliance, the BOR/LUMCON Budget and Finance Manager has been made the “Department Head Signature” for all LUMCON travel expenditures.
 - Reimbursement by the employee of the total overpayment of \$2,437 is underway.
 - Anticipated completion date: June 30, 2025

We appreciate the professionalism and diligence of your staff during this audit.

Sincerely,

Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education

APPENDIX B: SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

We performed certain procedures at the Louisiana Board of Regents for the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, to provide assurances on financial information significant to the State of Louisiana's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and to evaluate relevant systems of internal control in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our procedures, summarized below, are a part of the audit of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and our work related to the Single Audit of the State of Louisiana (Single Audit) for the year ended June 30, 2024.

- We evaluated Regents' operations and system of internal controls through inquiry, observation, and review of its policies and procedures, including a review of the laws and regulations applicable to Regents.
- Based on the documentation of Regents' controls and our understanding of related laws and regulations, we performed procedures to provide assurances on certain account balances and classes of transactions to support our opinions on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.
- We compared the most current and prior-year financial activity using Regents' Annual Fiscal Reports and/or system-generated reports to identify trends and obtained explanations from Regents' management for significant variances.

In addition, we performed certain other procedures for the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Our objective was to evaluate certain controls Regents uses to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations and accountability over public funds. The scope of these procedures was significantly less than an audit conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our work at Regents, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Regents' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. Accordingly, this report is not intended to be, and should not be, used for any other purposes.

We did not audit or review Regents' Annual Fiscal Report, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion on that report. Regents' accounts are an integral part of the State of Louisiana's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, upon which the Louisiana Legislative Auditor expresses opinions.



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Agenda Legislative

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
10:25 AM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. 2025 Legislative Update
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment

Committee Members: Collis B. Temple III, Chair; Phillip R. May Jr., Vice Chair; David J. Aubrey; Stephanie A. Finley; Wilbert D. Pryor; Christy Oliver Reeves; Devesh Sarda (Student Member); LCTC System Representative; LSU System Representative; SU System Representative; UL System Representative
Staff: Brianna Golden, Director of Governmental Affairs

AGENDA ITEM III.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2025 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

An update will be provided on legislative priorities in addition to legislation impacting higher education for informational purposes only.



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Agenda

Facilities and Property

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
10:50 AM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Board of Regents Facilities Policy Revision

IV. House Bill 2/Deferred Maintenance Funding Update

V. Campus Safety Assessment Update

A. National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) Presentation

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjournment

Committee Members: Phillip R. May Jr., Chair; Collis B. Temple III, Vice Chair; David J. Aubrey; Ted H. Glaser III; Darren G. Mire; Christy Oliver Reeves; Terri P. Sterling; LCTC System Representative; LSU System Representative; SU System Representative; UL System Representative
Staff: Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning & Emergency Management

AGENDA ITEM III.

Consent Agenda

Board of Regents Facilities Policy Revision

The passage of legislation during the 2024 and 2025 Regular Sessions of the Louisiana Legislature requires changes to the current Board of Regents (BOR) Facilities Policy. Prior to the revisions proposed herein, the last update to the Board of Regents' Facilities Policy occurred in April of 2019.

The three primary changes to the policy involve the passage and implementation of Act 751 of the 2024 Regular Session, passage of the Job Order Contracting project delivery method in the 2025 Regular Session, and the acknowledgment of the facilities condition assessment initiated this year to assist with deferred maintenance project planning.

First, the policy creates a section devoted to Act 751 of 2024. Act 751 created the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program to address the deferred maintenance and capital improvement needs that exist for facilities located at public postsecondary education institutions across the state of Louisiana. Within the last year, the Office of Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) developed policies and procedures related to the implementation of the program that deviate from Major Repair and Reroofing (deferred maintenance) funds provided in prior years. The current revision provides guidance as to the implementation of the Program.

The second newly created section involves the passage of the Job Order Contracting (JOC) project delivery method. The JOC legislation passed in the 2025 Regular Session to support the implementation of Act 751. JOC offers a flexible and efficient framework for completing projects by using competitively awarded, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts with pre-priced construction tasks. This approach allows institutions to respond rapidly to facility needs, reduce procurement lead times, and ensure cost transparency while maintaining compliance with public contracting standards.

The BOR is statutorily responsible for establishing standard procedures and templates, certifying institutional readiness to implement the JOC program, approving procurement frameworks, and monitoring JOC program compliance and outcomes. To augment the additional policy, BOR staff also created a JOC Policy and Procedures Manual which is included as Appendix A to the BOR Facilities Policy. BOR staff requests Board approval to create the templates included as appendices to the JOC Policy and Procedures Manual upon approval of the Facilities Policy revision.

The final substantial revision to the current policy involves modifications to the section related to the facilities condition assessment. The current policy highlights efforts to assess the state of Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions over 20 years ago. During discussions around the implementation of Act 751, each management board expressed the need for an updated facilities condition assessment. The policy revision addresses the current assessment that was

initiated in the Spring of 2025.

The policy revision also addresses the increase to projects authorized through Act 959 of 2003 and technical changes throughout the document.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends approval of the revisions to the Board of Regents Facilities policy, including the Job Order Contracting manual, and authorizes staff to finalize the appendices within the manual before any institution, or management board, issues a Request for Qualifications for a Job Order Contractor.

AGENDA ITEM V.

National Center for Biomedical Research and Training Campus Safety Update

The BOR received a total of \$2M from the Louisiana Legislature during the 2023 and 2024 Regular Sessions to perform campus safety assessments across all public postsecondary institutions, including specialized facilities, within the state. The BOR partnered with the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) to conduct these assessments, which began with Delgado Community College in December 2023 and concluded with Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Sciences Center New Orleans in June 2025. NCBRT is a nationally recognized center for emergency preparedness and response training located on LSU's flagship campus. The team, comprised of twenty subject matter experts, visited every institution campus, satellite facility, and specialized research center during the project.

Each assessment consisted of an initial review of each institution's public-safety-related policies, structured interviews with campus and student leadership, conversations with campus police departments where applicable, informal conversations with faculty, staff, and students during the onsite visit, a physical assessment of every building on campus, and an exit interview to ensure transparency. During the evenings NCBRT conducted lighting surveys, often walking campuses with students and leadership to gain perspective from the campus community regarding evening safety challenges.

The NCBRT team will attend the June board meeting to share their observations and suggestions during their campus safety presentation. The most common recommendations made across higher education involved additional training for faculty, staff and students, improvements to infrastructure and communication, and staffing levels related to campus police departments.

In the coming months, NCBRT will provide the BOR with a comprehensive final report containing recommendations for higher education as an enterprise. The team also developed eleven training modules to address gaps and build institutional capacity. The BOR intends to continue to engage the NCBRT team in strengthening public safety across the state with the goal of helping campuses not only to respond to emergencies but also to prevent and recover from them more

effectively.

This item is for informational purposes.



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Agenda

Academic and Student Affairs

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

11:10 AM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. Routine Staff Approvals
 - B. Program Reconfiguration
 - C. 2025 ACT Policy Statement
 - D. Louisiana Extension Academies
- IV. Academic Programs
 - A. AAS Diesel Equipment Technician – Delgado Community College
 - B. BS Applied Data Science – Louisiana State University and A&M College
 - C. BS Disaster Preparedness and Response – Louisiana State University of Alexandria
 - D. MS Medical Laboratory Science – Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans
 - E. BA Social Work – Nicholls State University
 - F. BA Recording Arts – University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 - G. PhD Applied Computing and Information Sciences – University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- V. New Aquatic Germplasm and Genetic Resources Research Center of Excellence – Louisiana State University A&M and Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
- VI. Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund Update
- VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

Committee Members: Terri P. Sterling, Chair; David J. Aubrey, Vice Chair; Christian C. Creed; Ted H. Glaser III; Darren G. Mire; Samer Shamieh; Devesh Sarda (Student Member); LCTC System Representative; LSU System Representative; SU System Representative; UL System Representative
Staff: Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation

AGENDA ITEM III.A.

Routine Academic Requests & Staff Approvals

Institution	Request
LSU HSC Shreveport	Request to change the name of the School of Allied Health Professions to the School of Health Professions and Sciences. Approved.
McNeese	Request to merge the College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics and the College of Agricultural Sciences into the College of Engineering and Sciences. Approved.
McNeese	Request to offer the BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences (CIP 51.1005) 100% online. Approved.
Nicholls	Request to change the name of the BS Human Performance Education to the BS Human Performance Education and Kinesiology. Approved.
UL Lafayette	Request to make the following changes to better reflect program content: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MS in Systems Technology (CIP 15.1701) to MS Engineering and Technology Management (CIP 15.1501)• Department of Engineering Technology to Department of Engineering and Technology Management Approved.
Delgado	Request to change the name of the AAS Computer Network Technology (CIP 11.0901) to Computer Networking and Cybersecurity to more accurately reflect the content of the program and align with commonly used terminology. Approved.
SOWELA	Request to change the name of the AAS in Accounting Technology (CIP 52.0302) to Accounting to more accurately reflect the program's content and transferability. Approved.
SOWELA	Request to offer the AAS in Criminal Justice (CIP 43.0104) 100% online. Approved.

AGENDA ITEM III.B.

Proposed Academic Program Reconfiguration Convert the MA in Psychology into the MS in Applied Behavior Analysis McNeese State University

Background Information

McNeese State University (MSU) has requested Board of Regents' approval to reconfigure the existing MA in Psychology into the MS in Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814). Applied Behavior Analysis is currently a successful concentration within the MA in Psychology. The University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors approved McNeese's proposal to convert the MA in Psychology to a MS in Applied Behavior Analysis and submitted the request to Regents for consideration. Implementing the conversion requires no changes to curriculum, course offerings, or faculty and no additional resources.

Staff Summary

MSU currently offers two concentrations under its MA in Psychology: Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and General/Experimental. The ABA concentration is the more substantive of the two and is accredited by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI). Following an ABAI site visit last summer, the Department of Psychology and Counseling indicated in its follow-up report that it would seek approval to transition the concentration into a standalone degree program.

Enrollment in the ABA concentration for the last three years has been as follows: Fall 22: 19, Fall 23: 12, and Fall 24: 16. The three-year completer average for the ABA concentration is 10.3, well above the low completer viability threshold for a master's program. In Spring 2025, there were 17 students enrolled in the MA in Psychology. Of those, 13 were in the ABA concentration. Students currently in the program will have the option to either complete their studies within the existing MA in Psychology or transition to the MS in ABA. Students opting for the teach-out option would complete the program by Spring 2027, with no additional fees or expenses incurred as a result of the transition.

The University currently offers all courses required for the intended degree, taught by existing full-time and part-time faculty. The department already has the necessary curriculum, faculty, staff, equipment, software, facilities, and student interest to administer the proposed MS in ABA without requiring additional funding. All necessary resources are in place to separate the ABA concentration from the MA in Psychology without modifying curriculum, course offerings, faculty, or support.

Staff Analysis

The proposed reconfiguration of the MA in Psychology to a MS in Applied Behavior Analysis requires no change in curriculum, faculty, or administration and will require no additional resources. MSU is realigning its graduate program offerings to increase enrollment and retention through the establishment of the MS in ABA, which is currently a successful concentration under the MA Psychology program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends approval of the proposed reconfiguration of the MA in Psychology into the MS in Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814) at McNeese State University, with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution's 2025-2026 Academic Plan.

LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS
Enhanced ACT EMR (2025)
Policy Statement

Background

The Board of Regents establishes minimum admission and placement standards for dual enrollment, early college, first-year, and transfer students at Louisiana public colleges and universities. Two-year institutions are open admission and, therefore, establish no academic requirements for entry. Four-year institutions may adopt additional, more specific, or more rigorous requirements for admission.

The minimum standardized test requirements applicable to many financial aid programs administered by LOSFA are set by legislative statute.

Scores on standardized tests such as the ACT or SAT combined with a student's GPA in the high school core course curriculum comprise eligibility standards for admission and placement in several Board of Regents and LOSFA policies.

Effective 2025

ACT has announced that, beginning in April 2025, the test's Science section will become optional and students may choose to take the ACT national test with or without it. The ACT will consist of the required English, Math, and Reading (EMR) sections.

ACT has released the following schedule of effective dates for the new Enhanced ACT:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| ▪ April 2025 | ACT National Online Only | Science choice begins |
| ▪ September 2025 | ACT National Paper Tests | Updated composite score for all ACT Tests |
| ▪ Spring 2026 | State & District | Spring Testing in the new format |

The new ACT Composite score will be calculated using the English, Math, and Reading scores.

ACT has announced that the following **will not** change:

- The test's scale will remain 1–36 with no changes to ACT benchmarks or state-specific achievement standards.
- Scores on tests taken **prior to** the rollout of the new Composite score **will not** change.
- Both paper-and-pencil and online tests will continue to be available.

Board of Regents Response Effective April 2025

Current statutory provisions cover the use of the new Enhanced ACT EMR for financial aid programs governed by LOSFA. The BOR will recognize the Enhanced ACT EMR Composite Score for placement and admission to the state's public postsecondary institutions. Scores on ACT tests taken prior to April 2025 will also be honored.

AGENDA ITEM III. D.

Louisiana Extension Academy Programs

Background Information

Under the authority of R.S. 17:151.1, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and the Board of Regents (BOR) released a request for applications for Louisiana Extension Academy programs beginning in September 2019. This legislation was adopted in response to the need for greater connection among high schools, colleges, and employers.

Extension Academy programs are designed to support students on track to graduate but not on track to participate in a high-value postsecondary college or training program that leads to an associate's degree, a registered pre-apprenticeship, or an advanced Industry-Based Credential (IBC).

Staff Summary

Extension academies specifically support students on track for high school graduation but not on track to participate in a high-value postsecondary college or training program: for example: 1) students graduating on a TOPS University diploma pathway who are not eligible for TOPS or 2) students graduating on a Jump Start TOPS Tech diploma who are not on track to earn an advanced credential and who are not eligible for TOPS Tech. Schools implementing these programs are authorized by BESE and the Board of Regents for three years.

Currently, two Extension Academy programs exist, one in Caddo Parish (up for renewal) and one in Orleans Parish (approved 2024–2027). An additional program, the Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy in Baton Rouge is proposed for approval.

Staff Analysis

The Louisiana Extension Academy programs accomplish the following:

- Provide a debt-free, accelerated, dual-enrollment college experience;
- Increase employment readiness through employer-driven work-based learning experiences;
- Ensure significant work toward Regents-recognized degrees or participation in registered apprenticeships; and
- Facilitate student success through postsecondary transitional coaching.

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the following extension academy school sites for the 2025–2026 through 2027–2028 school years at their June meeting.

School Site	Application Type
a. Caddo Parish Extension Academy	Renewal
b. Helix Community Schools Extension Academy	New

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends approval of the Extension Academy school sites for the 2025–2026 through 2027–2028 school years, as outlined.



Office of the Superintendent

LaMont Cole

May 21, 2025

Subject: Approval of Extension Academy

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to officially approve the establishment and implementation of the Extension Academy for Helix Mentorship STEAM Academy, effective August 2025. This strategy aligns with our district's strategic goals to expand academic opportunities, provide flexible pathways for student success, and support students through the post-secondary transition.

The Extension Academy is designed to offer students who are on track to graduate, but do not currently qualify for low-cost, high-value, post-secondary credentials, to participate in a low-cost, post-secondary college or training program to attain a Regents-recognized associate degree, a registered pre-apprenticeship, or an advanced Industry Based Credential.

I believe that this academy will offer significant benefits to our scholars, including:

- Providing a debt-free, accelerated, dual enrollment college experience
- Preparing students for work, through employer driven work-based learning experiences, internships, or apprenticeships
- Ensuring the attainment of Regents-recognized associate degrees, registered apprenticeships, or an advanced Industry Based Credential; and
- Facilitating student success after graduation through post-secondary transitional coaching.

I recognize the importance of adapting to the evolving needs of our students and community and providing innovative programs that respond to those needs. The Extension Academy represents a significant step in that direction, and I commend the Helix team and staff who have contributed to its development.

Sincerely,

LaMont Cole, Superintendent
East Baton Rouge Parish School System





Office of the Superintendent

LaMont Cole

May 21, 2025

Subject: Approval of Extension Academy

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I believe that this academy will offer significant benefits to our scholars, including:

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- Ensuring the attainment of Regents-recognized associate degrees, registered apprenticeships, or an advanced Industry Based Credential; and
- Facilitating student success after graduation through post-secondary transitional coaching.

I recognize the importance of adapting to the evolving needs of our students and community and providing innovative programs that respond to those needs. The Extension Academy represents a significant step in that direction, and I commend the Helix team and staff who have contributed to its development.

Sincerely,

Shashonnie Steward, President
East Baton Rouge Parish School Board





CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

1961 MIDWAY AVENUE · SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71108

AREA CODE 318 · Telephone 603-6300 · Fax 631-5241

Theodis Lamar Goree, Ph.D.
Superintendent

March 31, 2023

Stephanie Hernandez Marcum
Executive Director of Postsecondary Readiness
Office of Career and College Readiness
Louisiana Department of Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Mrs. Marcum,

Caddo Parish School Board is requesting the continuation of the Caddo Extension Academy Program (CEAP). Since the inception of the Caddo Extension Academy in the 2020-21 school year, graduating students have benefited with the post-secondary opportunities that would not have been possible without the approved grant from the Louisiana Department of Education. Although our enrollment has been low each year, the committed students have made significant progress with earning industry-based credentials and dual enrollment credit hours. Noting a few accomplishments, Caddo had 1 student in the first year complete the program in Nursing Assistance from Ayers Business College and a current student in his second year at Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College scheduled to complete his program in Diesel Powered Equipment Technology in May 2023.

Although the CEAP is funded for students for a year, Caddo follows them until they have completed their programs. Most programs that students are enrolled in are 18-24 months and sometimes longer depending on the remedial courses that must be taken by the student. In addition to the recruitment plan that is in place, we will add additional recruitment strategies and continue networking with the other programs in the state. One strategy we will add is the collaboration with Career Compass to identify potential students and communicate the same message for CEAP opportunities. Caddo has an identified educator who ensures barriers are removed to increase the students' success. We will continue to collaborate with the Caddo leadership team for additional suggestions, ideas, and training to enhance the program.

Thank you for giving Caddo Parish consideration to continue to fund the Louisiana Extension Academy Grant to help students have post-secondary opportunities to be independent, productive citizens of society.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Lamar Goree".

T. Lamar Goree, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Caddo Parish School Board

AGENDA ITEM IV.A.

Proposed Associate of Applied Science in Diesel Equipment Technician Delgado Community College

Background Information

Delgado Community College (DCC) has requested the Board of Regents' approval to offer an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Diesel Equipment Technician. The proposal was approved by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) Board of Supervisors and then submitted to Regents for consideration. Because the proposed program was not included in year one of the 2024–2025 Academic Plan, the institution was required to submit an off-cycle review request, including justification for the program's urgency and readiness for implementation. Staff approved the request, and Chief Academic Officers statewide reviewed the program proposal.

Staff Summary

The Diesel Equipment Technician AAS will equip students with the skills needed for entry-level employment as diesel technicians. The proposed 63-credit hour Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Diesel Equipment Technician includes stackable exit points, allowing students to earn a 9-credit hour Career and Technical Certificate (CTC) in Diesel A/C Technician, a 27-credit hour Certificate of Technical Studies (CTS) in Diesel Engine Technician, and a 48-credit hour Technical Diploma (TD) in Diesel Equipment Technician. The program provides both classroom instruction and hands-on shop experience, covering diagnosis and repair of engines, fuel systems, electrical systems, cooling systems, brakes, drive trains, and suspensions while ensuring proficiency in the safe use of tools and hoisting equipment. The degree will also improve graduates' competitiveness for available supervisory positions that require technical skills as well as evidence of analytical, communication, and problem-solving skills. It will also expand educational opportunities for graduates as the general education courses will transfer to baccalaureate degree programs should the student wish to pursue further education.

1. Value: Per Regents' policy, this program meets the criteria of a Quality Credential of Value.

- a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** The demand for diesel equipment technicians is expected to remain robust due to the continued reliance on diesel-powered equipment across various industries, advancements in diesel technology, and an aging workforce. The information in the chart below represents Regional Labor Market Areas 1, 2, and 3, which include the New Orleans, Houma, and Baton Rouge areas.

Occupation	LWC Star Rating ¹	Current Jobs ²	Projected Jobs 2034 ²	% Change ²	Average Salary ²
Diesel Engine Specialists	4-star	870	910	5%	\$58,662
Heavy Equipment Mechanics	4-star	1702	1899	12%	\$56,773

¹Source – LWC

²Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** The program was developed in response to industry demand for diesel mechanics for all vehicle sizes. Industry partners, including Terrebonne Ford/Lincoln, Hollingsworth Richards Ford, and Premier Ford, have expressed the need for trained personnel in Diesel Equipment Technology. The proposed program aligns with industry needs, providing students with

hands-on instruction and technical training.

- c. **Same or Similar In-state Programs:** Although similar AAS programs have been implemented around the state, the nearest Diesel Mechanic technical program is offered at Northshore Technical Community College, which is over 40 miles away. This program will specifically serve students located in the southeast region of Louisiana.
- d. **Student Enrollment and Completion:** Upon admission to DCC, students interested in the Diesel Equipment Technician program will have access to enrollment support through the School of Construction Arts and Technical Studies. Prospective student and applicant data are shared with program deans, who engage in outreach efforts to connect with those interested in the field. Retention rates for the program may vary slightly due to the availability of exit points, which allow students to earn credentials as they progress. Enrollment estimates are based on student interest and industry demand for trained diesel technicians.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	35	60	76	86
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	2	5	11

2. **Resources:** The AAS in Diesel Equipment Technology can be implemented immediately without the need for new faculty or additional resources. If enrollment grows substantially, the program may require additional faculty positions. Existing student services and administrative staff are sufficient to support the program, and no additional support staff will be needed.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
Faculty	Program can be implemented with current faculty.	No additional faculty are needed currently.	\$0
Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, & Technology)	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	No additional equipment, technology, or facilities are needed.	\$0
Student Support	Existing resources will meet the needs of the program for the foreseeable future.	No additional resources are needed.	\$0

3. **Master Plan Priorities:** The following aspects of the proposal directly address priorities or goals of the statewide attainment goal and 2030 Master Plan.
 - **Accessibility:** The curriculum will incorporate both in-person and hybrid course schedules. This approach will expand access to content delivery and scheduling options, particularly benefiting those balancing work and other commitments.
 - **Affordability:** Open Educational Resources (OER) will be integrated into the curriculum to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for students. Those with previously earned IBCs, military credit, certifications, or work experience can submit documentation for evaluation, potentially earning credit toward the degree. Students may also use MJ Foster if eligible to help cover costs.
 - **Partnerships:** The program will be offered in partnership with Kenworth of Louisiana, Cummins Diesel, Waste Management, LA Caterpillar, Mack Trucks, New Orleans Regional Transit Authority, and Jefferson Parish Public Schools to support hands-on training and industry collaboration.
 - **Work-based learning:** Students will participate in externship experiences as part of both the Technical Diploma and Associate Degree programs, allowing them to apply their knowledge in real-world settings. Throughout their enrollment and after graduation, they will have access to career resources, including resume critiques, interview preparation, and job search strategies through

Delgado's Career Services. These students will work alongside industry professionals, gaining hands-on experience and opportunities to earn certifications.

- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations:** DCC will target underserved populations, including first-generation students, through a marketing approach that highlights hands-on learning opportunities and flexible class offerings, such as in-person, online, and hybrid formats. These options will accommodate students who are balancing multiple roles outside the classroom. DCC will also offer academic support through professional and faculty advisors, tutoring services, writing workshops, and career resources via Handshake. Additionally, the program will be available to high school students through dual enrollment.

Staff Analysis

The proposed AAS in Diesel Equipment Technician was developed to provide students with both hands-on technical experience as well as analytical, communication, and problem-solving classroom instruction. The program will expand employment opportunities for students with greater earning potential and career advancement in the field while serving to fill regional and state workforce needs. The program will also expand educational opportunities for graduates who wish to pursue further education at the baccalaureate level and beyond.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed AAS in Diesel Equipment Technician (CIP 47.0604) at Delgado Community College, with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution's 2025–2026 Academic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM IV.B.

Proposed Bachelor of Science in Applied Data Science Louisiana State University and A&M College

Background Information

Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU) requests Board of Regents approval to offer a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Applied Data Science. The proposal was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors then submitted to Regents for consideration. Because the proposed program was not included in year one of the 2024–2025 Academic Plan, the institution was required to submit an off-cycle review request, including justification for the program’s urgency and readiness for implementation. Staff approved the request and Chief Academic Officers statewide reviewed the program proposal.

Staff Summary

There is a growing need within the state and nationally for professionals with expertise beyond statistics and computer science skills to transform complex data into valuable products. The proposed BS in Data Science will equip students with a strong academic foundation in mathematics, computing, data analysis, databases, and artificial intelligence, while also offering exposure to applied domains such as natural and social sciences. It is structured to be flexible and responsive to student interests and emerging workforce needs, with a substantial number of credit hours available for directed or free electives.

The BS in Applied Data Science is designed to be practical, project-based, and career-focused, preparing students to solve real-world problems using data. Students will engage in the full data science process, including data collection, analysis, interpretation, and ethical decision-making. Core focus areas include business analytics, coastal modeling, educational analytics, social analytics, healthcare analytics, and quantitative biology, with future opportunities to expand into precision agriculture and artificial intelligence. Graduates of the program will be well-positioned to pursue careers as data scientists, analysts, and research specialists in settings such as hospitals, school systems, government agencies, universities, and research institutions.

1. **Value:** Per Regent’s policy, this program meets the criteria of a Quality Credential of Value.

a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** Louisiana is showing a rising demand for professionals to manage high volumes of data with multiple four- and five-star job areas in the sector, according to the Louisiana Workforce Commission. The proposed program will prepare students for data science and analytics careers throughout industry.

Occupation	LWC Star Rating ¹	Current Jobs ²	Projected Jobs 2034 ²	% Change ²	Average Salary ²
Management Analyst	5-star	4,489	5,257	17%	\$106,412
Data Scientist	4-star	1,352	1,900	41%	\$71,739
Operations Research Analyst	5-star	872	1,043	20%	\$70,969

¹Source – LWC

²Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** LSU faculty engaged with alumni, community representatives, and prospective employers to develop the proposed program. The program aligns with

local, regional, and state workforce strategies by focusing on high-demand data science skills essential across various Louisiana industries, including healthcare, energy, finance, and information technology. By producing graduates with the analytical and technical skills needed to work with data, extract insights, and solve complex problems, the program helps meet local employers' needs and attract new businesses to the area, creating new jobs and supporting economic growth in the region.

- c. **Same or Similar In-State Programs:** Despite the rising need for skilled data science professionals, there remains a limited number of in-state programs producing graduates with the depth and breadth of training required to meet workforce expectations. SUNO currently offers the only standalone bachelor's degree in data science. LSU's BS in Applied Data Science will expand access to high-demand skills, support statewide economic development, and help retain talent by offering students more in-state educational pathways aligned with current and future job market needs.
- d. **Student Enrollment and Completion:** LSU anticipates strong interest in the proposed program among current and prospective students, attracting students with interests in mathematics, computer science, and artificial intelligence.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	25	50	105	160
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	0	0	23

2. **Resources:** Existing faculty, graduate teaching assistants and program leadership are currently in place to support program operations.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
Faculty	Existing faculty will be used to implement and support the program.	No new faculty are needed.	\$0
Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, & Technology)	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	No new facilities or equipment are needed.	\$0
Student Support	Existing resources will meet the needs of the program for the foreseeable future.	No additional resources are needed.	\$0

3. **Master Plan Priorities:** The following aspects of the proposal directly address priorities or goals of the statewide attainment goal and 2030 Master Plan.
 - **Accessibility:** The program will initially be offered on-campus, but plans are already underway to provide an online option as well. This will enable online students, some of whom live in remote areas and/or have family or job responsibilities, to pursue post-secondary education without disrupting employment or requiring travel to the LSU A&M campus.
 - **Affordability:** Open Educational Resources (OER) will be promoted in all courses where applicable to reduce student costs and increase access to course materials. The department will also align with LSU transfer agreements and recognize learning assessments from accredited institutions, including community colleges.
 - **Partnerships:** The proposed program has received strong backing from community-based organizations and industry partners. INTEGER, a Columbia, South Carolina-based applied technology research company; NVIDIA Higher Education and Research, an American multinational technology corporation headquartered in Santa Clara, California; and Our Lady of the Lake Health, a

large regional medical center located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have submitted letters of support. These letters reflect a shared interest in future collaboration and internship development.

- **Work-based Learning**: The proposed program offers students the opportunity to engage in undergraduate research that aligns with their academic interests. Students are encouraged to participate in research projects across various departments such as biology, mathematics, sociology, and geology, and can earn academic credit for their work. When funding is available, faculty may also provide paid research positions.
- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations**: The LSU Department of Mathematics participates in the College of Science freshman seminar series (SCI 1001), which was designed to foster a sense of belonging among first-year students and address success gaps among populations of students. This course is strongly suggested in the Applied Data Science BS curriculum during a student's first semester and will count toward free elective credits.

Staff Analysis

LSU's proposed Bachelor of Science in Applied Data Science is designed to prepare students for careers in high-demand fields across Louisiana and beyond. Built with input from industry and aligned with workforce needs, the program combines training in mathematics, computing, data analysis, and artificial intelligence with applications in healthcare, education, social science, and environmental modeling. The curriculum is structured around practical, project-based learning to ensure that graduates are equipped to collect, analyze, and interpret data to solve real-world problems and make informed, ethical decisions in professional settings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Applied Data Science (CIP 30.7001) at Louisiana State University and A&M College, with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution's 2025–2026 Academic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM IV.C.

Proposed Bachelor of Science in Disaster Preparedness and Response Louisiana State University of Alexandria

Background Information

Louisiana State University of Alexandria (LSUA) requests Board of Regents approval to offer a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The proposal was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors then submitted to Regents for consideration. The program was favorably reviewed by Chief Academic Officers statewide and was included in the institution's 2024–2025 Academic Plan.

Staff Summary

Disaster Preparedness and Response is a rapidly growing academic discipline that helps students develop the essential leadership, strategic, and tactical skills that are required for effective crisis planning and for mitigating the effects of actual disasters, both natural and man-made. The need for competent, well-trained, and ethical professionals in this area is becoming more evident each year, given the rising costs and frequency of disasters and the fact that they are becoming more variable, complex, and difficult to predict. The proposed BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response is designed to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to acquire the critical knowledge and skills necessary to effectively plan for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters, and, thus, increase the number of trained professionals capable of assisting communities, non-profit organizations, businesses, and local, regional, and state agencies during times of crisis.

1. **Value:** Per Regent's policy, this program meets the criteria of a Quality Credential of Value.
- a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** With the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and emergencies, the demand for professionals skilled in planning and response has grown. Greater attention to disaster and emergency management in recent years has also led to increased investment in the field. The information in the chart below is specific to parishes located in Louisiana Regional Labor Market Area (RLMA) 6, where LSUA is located.

Occupation	LWC Star Rating ¹	Current Jobs ²	Projected Jobs 2034 ²	% Change ²	Average Salary ²
Emergency Management Director	4-star	134	139	4%	\$88,631
Compliance Officer	4-star	188	196	4%	\$70,000

¹Source – LWC

²Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** Faculty in the Department of Criminal Justice and Civic Sciences, the academic unit in which the proposed program will be housed, are heavily engaged with employers, community representatives, alumni, regional economic development organizations, and other external stakeholders. Conversations among faculty, along with input from local and regional law enforcement, emergency services, and relevant state agencies, including the Governor's Office Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOSHEP), Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office, and the Winn Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, helped shape the program's design and demonstrated its relevance to Louisiana's workforce.
- c. **Same or Similar In-State Programs:** Although a similar program (BS in Disaster Management) was recently approved at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, this proposed degree is specifically focused

on disaster preparedness and response, two specific components of the broader process. Moreover, this would be the first program of its kind in central Louisiana.

- d. **Student Enrollment and Completion:** Since 2015, LSUA has offered a Disaster Science and Emergency Management concentration within the Bachelor of General Studies. That program has seen steady enrollment and graduation rates, with a growing interest in disaster management education. A recent student survey found that 74% of respondents were interested in the proposed BS in Disaster Preparedness and Response, with 42% likely to switch from the current concentration.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	20	38	59	79
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	0	4	8

2. **Resources:** The program would benefit from hiring an additional tenure-track faculty member; however, the college has a plan for proceeding with the program if approval to make the hire is not granted right away. This includes utilizing strong adjunct faculty members and a full-time faculty member in Political Science who also teaches Disaster Science courses each semester.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
Faculty	Existing faculty will support the proposed program.	One full-time instructor	Yr. 1+: \$84,000
Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, & Technology)	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	No additional facilities are needed.	\$0
Student Support	Existing student support resources will support the program.	No additional resources are needed.	\$0

3. **Master Plan Priorities:** The following aspects of the proposal directly address priorities or goals of the statewide attainment goal and 2030 Master Plan.

- **Accessibility:** The proposed program will be offered both fully online and on campus to provide flexible options for a diverse student population. Online students will complete courses in accelerated seven-week sessions to accommodate work and family responsibilities. On-campus students will have access to traditional 15-week semesters, as well as the option to enroll in online seven-week courses, allowing them to tailor their schedules to meet academic and personal needs.
- **Affordability:** The proposed program will prioritize affordability by using Open Educational Resources (OER) whenever possible to reduce or eliminate textbook costs for students. LSUA's existing Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Policy allows students to earn credit for military training, FEMA certifications, EMT credentials, and other documented professional experience. Transfer agreements with community colleges across the state will expand access to the program, especially for students with associate degrees.
- **Partnerships:** LSUA has long-standing relationships with local and regional industries, community-based organizations, and other institutions, many of whom have pledged support for the proposed program by providing training opportunities for current students and job opportunities for program graduates. Examples include Fort Johnson, Rapides Regional Hospital, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, the Louisiana Department of Health, and the American Red Cross. Collaborations

with agencies such as the Alexandria Fire Department, the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security, and CLECO will further support real-world learning and professional connections for students.

- **Work-based Learning**: The proposed degree will include an internship course that will be required of all students in the program and is designed to provide practical experience in the field. The course involves supervised work in national, state, or local government or private agencies concerned with disaster preparedness and response. Recent internship venues for LSUA students enrolled in the BGS concentration include GOHSEP and local and state Offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.
- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations**: The proposed degree program will focus on increasing access to a growing field for a diverse student population. Every student admitted to LSUA is automatically considered for available university scholarships and invited to apply for any of the scholarships provided through the LSUA Foundation. Many foundation scholarships are designed to meet the needs of first-generation college students and/or students who can demonstrate financial need.

Staff Analysis

The proposed BS in Disaster Management is designed to address the increasing demand for professionals trained to manage natural and human-made disasters. This program will prepare students to mitigate, respond to, and aid in the recovery from emergencies through coursework focused on contingency planning, hazard assessment, emergency operations, and recovery strategies.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Disaster Preparedness and Response (CIP 43.0302) at Louisiana State University of Alexandria with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution’s 2025–2026 Academic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM IV.D.

Proposed Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Science LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans

Background Information

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans (LSUHSC-NO) requests Board of Regents' approval to offer a Master of Science (MS) in Medical Laboratory Sciences. The proposal was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors then submitted to Regents for consideration. The proposal was reviewed by external consultant, Dr. Cliff Cymrot, Program Director for Medical Laboratory Sciences at George Washington University, who was very supportive of the proposed program. The program was favorably reviewed by Chief Academic Officers statewide and was included in the institution's 2024–2025 Academic Plan.

Staff Summary

The proposed Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Science (MSMLS) is a 62-credit hour graduate program designed for individuals with a bachelor's degree seeking to enter the medical laboratory science profession. While LSUHSC-NO already offers an undergraduate pathway in this field, the MSMLS provides a more advanced educational experience that prepares students for national certification and careers in clinical laboratories. Through intensive coursework and hands-on training, students will develop competencies in diagnostic testing, laboratory management, and quality assurance. The curriculum also includes leadership development and a practicum, equipping graduates for supervisory roles in hospitals and reference laboratories. This program supports a steady pipeline of credentialed professionals to address the healthcare lab manager system's staffing needs.

1. **Value:** Per Regent's policy, this program meets the criteria of a Quality Credential of Value.
 - a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** The demand for qualified laboratory professionals continues to outpace supply nationwide. This program will address that shortage by providing focused training in laboratory science, equipping graduates with the skills needed to contribute across healthcare, research, diagnostics, and public health settings.

Related Occupation	LWC Star Rating ¹	Current Jobs ²	Projected Jobs 2034 ²	% Change ²	Average Salary ¹
Medical Scientist/Clinical Lab Scientist	4-star	840	939	12%	\$76,444

¹Source – LWC

²Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** The healthcare sector is currently facing a critical shortage of medical laboratory professionals across the country and in Louisiana, with vacancy rates in the Greater New Orleans region reaching 18–20%. Local hospitals and labs are struggling to meet rising demand for diagnostic testing, especially as public health needs expand. The existing bachelor's program in Medical Laboratory Science enrolls many students who already hold a bachelor's degree, signaling demand for a more advanced degree option. The proposed program would create a career ladder to develop future leaders in a field that continues to grow as the instruments and technologies used to detect disease and monitor treatment become more sophisticated.

- c. Same or Similar In-State Programs: This would be the first master's-level program in Medical Laboratory Science in the state. Currently, LA Tech, McNeese, ULM, LSUA, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, and LSUHSC-NO offer bachelor's degrees in medical laboratory science, which this program could serve for students wishing to pursue further education.
- d. Student Enrollment and Completion: Advising conversations with students in LSUHSC-NO's undergraduate Medical Laboratory Science program revealed that seventy-two percent already hold a bachelor's degree. Many of these students expressed interest in pursuing further education through a more advanced and financially accessible option. Their academic backgrounds and future goals suggest a strong demand for a graduate program that builds on their existing training and meets a need not currently addressed by available programs. The program will enroll a cohort of 10 new students every spring semester.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	10	20	20	20
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	10	10	10

2. **Resources:** The MSMLS will require one new full-time faculty member to support teaching and thesis support. Existing departmental facilities and technology will support the new degree.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
Faculty	Existing faculty in the department will support the program.	One new full-time faculty member will be hired to assist in teaching laboratory courses.	Yr 1: \$106,400 Yr 2: \$110,656 Yr 3: \$115,083 Yr 4+: \$119,658
Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, & Technology)	Existing offices and classrooms are sufficient to support the program.	Minimal costs for classroom lab supplies will be needed.	Yr 1+: \$9,670
Student Support	Existing resources will meet the needs of the program for the foreseeable future.	No additional resources are needed.	\$0

3. **Master Plan Priorities:** The following aspects of the proposal directly address priorities or goals of the statewide attainment goal and 2030 Master Plan.

- Accessibility: The proposed MSMLS program is designed to combine the convenience of online coursework with the hands-on benefits of in-person laboratory training. While the majority of the curriculum will be delivered remotely to support flexibility for students, essential laboratory components will take place in person to ensure the development of practical skills in a controlled setting.
- Affordability: The program will use Open Educational Resources (OER) to replace traditional textbooks and reduce the overall cost of course materials. Additionally, the department will pursue employer-funded tuition support similar to its existing partnership with LCMC Health, which currently offers up to three semesters of paid tuition and fees for eligible undergraduate students. A similar funding model will be developed for students enrolled in the MSMLS program.

- **Partnerships:** LSUHSC-NO Department of Medical Laboratory Science has well-established partnerships with over 15 local and surrounding hospitals where students will complete clinical practicums and gain hands-on training in professional healthcare settings. The proposed program also received letters of support from Ochsner Health System Laboratory leadership and the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health Laboratory Director.
- **Work-based Learning:** The proposed program includes experiential learning practicum courses that are discipline-specific, placing students in affiliate hospital laboratories where they apply classroom knowledge in a professional setting to develop additional practical skills and real-world applications.
- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations:** The proposed program offers a hybrid model providing a more flexible schedule for students with financial, work, or family obligations.

Staff Analysis

The proposed MS in Medical Laboratory Science (MSMLS) will offer advanced training in diagnostic testing, laboratory management, and quality assurance. With a curriculum that includes leadership development and a practicum, the MSMLS prepares graduates for supervisory roles in hospital and reference laboratories. External reviewer Dr. Cliff Cymrot of George Washington University described the program as realistic in terms of financial sustainability and curriculum logistics and noted that it meets a clear regional and state need.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences (CIP 51.1005) at LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution’s 2025–2026 Academic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM IV.E.

Proposed Bachelor of Arts in Social Work Nicholls State University

Background Information

Nicholls State University (Nicholls) requests Board of Regents approval to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. The proposal was approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System (ULS) and submitted to the Board of Regents for consideration. The proposal was reviewed by Chief Academic Officers statewide, and the proposed program was included in the institution's 2023–2024 Academic Plan.

Staff Summary

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Social Work is designed to develop evidence-based, generalist social work practitioners prepared for entry-level professional roles serving individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. The degree will meet the standards set by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), which is required for licensure in Louisiana and many other states. The proposed program will include more than 400 internship hours to integrate academic knowledge with practical experience and prepare students for graduate-level study. Graduates will be eligible for advanced standing in Master of Social Work (MSW) programs, significantly reducing the time and financial cost of obtaining the MSW, which is required for clinical licensure.

1. **Value:** Per Regent's policy, this program meets the criteria of a Quality Credential of Value.
- a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** The southern parishes in which Nicholls primarily serves have higher poverty rates and lower educational attainment rates than the national average. Coupled with poverty and poor education are the high rates of obesity and medical issues. The BA in Social Work will focus on resource development and community organization skills that would facilitate services to the above-mentioned populations. The data in the chart below is reflective of Regional Labor Market Area (RLMA) 3, where Nicholls is located.

Occupation	LWC Star Rating ¹	Current Jobs ²	Projected Jobs 2034 ²	% Change ²	Average Salary ²
Social and Community Service Managers	4	80	94	18%	\$77,452
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	3	109	140	28%	\$49,612
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	3	479	534	11%	\$42,321

¹Source – LWC

²Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** The Social Work Advisory Board is composed of regional Social Workers, retired and employed, within the tri-parish area who provide guidance in curriculum development, employment needs, and field work. This board has provided consultation to the Nicholls Sociology program's Social Work Concentration since 2017.
- c. **Same or Similar In-State Programs:** Currently, seven public postsecondary institutions in Louisiana (SLU, ULM, SUBR, GSU, LSU, NSU and SUNO) offer undergraduate degrees in social work and collectively

graduate a 3-year average of 233 students. According to the Louisiana Workforce Commission, there are 279 current job openings for social service providers at the bachelor's level. The program proposed by Nicholls would complement the existing programs and help meet the growing need for social services workers, with particular emphasis on rural, southern Louisiana. The program would be the first in the institution's primary service area of Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St. Mary parishes.

- d. **Student Enrollment and Completion:** The proposed program responds to growing student interest and workforce demand in social work. Currently, over half of the sociology majors at Nicholls are pursuing the social work concentration. Based on the results of a student survey, current students in this concentration would pursue this new program.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	13	28	44	56
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	0	0	13

2. **Resources:** The proposed program will be supported by existing faculty during years one and two, requiring no new hires during this period. In year three, one full-time faculty member may be added to meet instructional needs if enrollment grows, expanding the responsibilities of the Field Supervisor.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
Faculty	Existing faculty in the department will support the program.	One additional full-time faculty may be hired in Year 3.	Yr. 3+: \$50,000
Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, & Technology)	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	Funding for Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accreditation fees will be needed.	Yr. 1: \$12,500 Yr. 2: \$7,500 Yr. 3: \$7,000 Yr. 4: \$10,500
Student Support	Existing resources will meet the needs of the program for the foreseeable future.	No additional resources needed.	\$0

3. **Master Plan Priorities:** The following aspects of the proposal directly address priorities or goals of the statewide attainment goal and 2030 Master Plan.

- **Accessibility:** The proposed program will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face instruction, hybrid, and asynchronous online courses.
- **Affordability:** Nicholls will support affordability in the program by using Open Educational Resources (OERs) when available and minimizing textbook costs. The program will align with Louisiana Transfer Pathways and approved General Elective courses to ensure transferability and cost efficiency. Efforts are underway to work with stakeholders to establish scholarships and additional program funding to further reduce financial barriers for students.
- **Partnerships:** The Department of Social Sciences at Nicholls has developed strong partnerships with regional agencies, including the Department of Public Health, Terrebonne General Hospital, Start Corporation, and the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office. These collaborative relationships support curriculum alignment with local workforce needs. Faculty regularly engage with community partners through the Social Work Advisory Board, composed of local professionals who help assess emerging trends and provide input on program development. In addition, students benefit from the annual

Social Work Panel held each March, where they gain insight into the profession through direct interaction with practitioners in the field.

- **Work-based Learning:** As part of the program, each student will be required to complete a 480-hour internship and participate in service-learning and community-based activities.
- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations:** As a First Generation and Veteran-friendly university, Nicholls supports students through faculty participation in First Generation initiatives and collaboration with the university's veteran coordinator. Each student in the program will be assigned a dedicated advisor who provides academic guidance, mentorship, and assistance with financial planning and scholarships when needed. The program will also allow students currently employed in the social service field to complete their required internship hours at their place of employment, offering flexibility for working professionals.

Staff Analysis

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Social Work program will qualify graduates for advanced standing in Master of Social Work programs, accelerating their path to licensure in Louisiana. These professionals will be well-positioned to strengthen social services and improve community well-being across the state. The addition of a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work program at Nicholls State University would further expand the pipeline of Licensed Master Social Workers and Licensed Clinical Social Workers, particularly benefiting underserved rural areas in southern Louisiana.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (CIP 44.0701) at Nicholls State University, with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution's 2025–2026 Academic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM IV.F.

Proposed Bachelor of Arts in Recording Arts University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Background Information

University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) requests Board of Regents' approval to offer a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Recording Arts. The proposal was approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System (ULS) then submitted to Regents for consideration. The program was reviewed by Chief Academic Officers statewide and- included in the institution's 2024–2025 Academic Plan.

Staff Summary

The proposed BA in Recording Arts will be created from an existing successful concentration within the BA in Music. The proposed degree is a specialized program developed to serve students interested in commercial music production, live sound, and computer-based music creation. The program was created in response to a growing demand for focused training in the recording arts, as students seek preparation for the practical and technical aspects of music production in an evolving industry. Utilizing existing resources from the institution's music and recording arts programs, the curriculum emphasizes technical proficiency, hands-on experience, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Students will gain real-world skills through studio work, live sound production, and industry-engaged projects.

1. **Value:** Per Regent's policy, this program meets the criteria of a Quality Credential of Value.
- a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** With the advancement of technology, the demand for skilled individuals is steadily increasing. The proposed program is designed to prepare graduates for careers including Producers and Directors, Sound Engineering Technicians, and Audio and Video Technicians.

Occupation	LWC Star Rating ¹	Current Jobs ²	Projected Jobs 2034 ²	% Change ²	Average Salary ²
Film and Video Editors	3-star	63	79	25%	\$52,873
Audio and Video Technicians	3-star	703	808	5%	\$45,468

¹Source – LWC

²Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** Industry leaders have emphasized the need for graduates with both creative and technical expertise in music production. The proposed program aligns its curriculum with these employer expectations by focusing on hands-on training in recording technology, software proficiency, and industry-relevant practices.
- c. **Same or Similar In-State Programs:** The proposed program would be the first of its kind at a public post-secondary institution in Louisiana. The only similar program is a BA in Music Industry Studies offered by Loyola University in New Orleans.
- d. **Student Enrollment and Completion:** Survey results from current and prospective students, along with flourishing enrollment in the Recording Arts concentration, indicate a strong interest in courses focused on music production and related content. Some students currently enrolled in the Recording Arts concentration could become graduates of the proposed program during the first year of implementation.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	59	63	64	67
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	35	45	46	48

2. **Resources:** To support full implementation of the proposed program, the institution anticipates adding one new faculty line at the Assistant Professor level. This position will provide dedicated leadership and instructional capacity as the program grows. Start-up costs for technology and equipment are expected, along with annual software license renewals.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
Faculty	There is currently staff supporting the program.	One new faculty member will be hired.	Yr. 1+: \$62,000
Physical Facilities, Equipment, Library, & Technology	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	Recording studio equipment will be needed along with several pieces of technology and license renewals.	Yr. 1: \$201,000 Yr. 2+: \$25,000
Student Support	Existing resources will meet the needs of the program for the foreseeable future.	No additional resources are needed.	\$0

3. **Master Plan Priorities:** The following aspects of the proposal directly address priorities or goals of the statewide attainment goal and 2030 Master Plan.
- **Accessibility:** The proposed program's courses will be offered during the day and evenings using the traditional face-to-face instruction format.
 - **Affordability:** The proposed degree was designed with affordability in mind. All discipline-specific courses are designated as Affordable Educational Resources (AER) and comply with Act 125/SB117, which called for greater availability and use of affordable textbooks. None of the discipline courses require textbooks, and no additional instructional materials need to be purchased by students.
 - **Partnerships:** The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Recording Arts will actively pursue partnerships with local recording studios, music venues, and community organizations. These collaborations will create pathways for internships, mentorships, and job placements, enriching the educational experience.
 - **Work-based Learning:** Upon approval, faculty plan to incorporate an elective paid and for-credit internship into the program to facilitate the application of classroom knowledge in professional settings, enhance skill development, and improve employability upon degree completion.
 - **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations:** The proposed program will help increase access to the music industry for students from diverse backgrounds, including low-income, minority, and adult learners. The program is particularly valuable for students from under-resourced communities who may lack the traditional instrumental or choral performance background, often due to the absence of music programs in K–12 schools. By offering a viable path into music-making and industry-related fields, this program can help to ensure that students, regardless of their prior experience, can thrive and achieve long-term career success, fostering both economic mobility and social inclusion.

Staff Analysis

The proposed BA in Recording Arts was developed in response to growing student interest in commercial music production, live sound, and computer-based music creation. As the music industry evolves, students increasingly seek a focused curriculum that prepares them for the practical and technical aspects of music production. The proposed degree aims to bridge the gap between artistic creativity and technical proficiency, equipping students with the skills needed to thrive in a competitive and rapidly changing industry.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Recording Arts (CIP 50.0913) at University of Louisiana at Lafayette, with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution's 2025–2026 Academic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM IV.G.

Proposed PhD in Applied Computing and Information Sciences University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Background Information

University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) requests Board of Regents' approval to offer a PhD in Applied Computing and Information Sciences. The proposal was approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System (ULS) then submitted to Regents for consideration. The proposal was reviewed by external consultant, Dr. Fred Martin, Professor and Chair, Computer Science, University of Texas at San Antonio. Dr. Martin was supportive of the proposed program. The program was favorably reviewed by Chief Academic Officers statewide and was included in the institution's 2024–2025 Academic Plan.

Staff Summary

The proposed PhD in Applied Computing and Information Sciences will prepare students to apply the scientific method to computing technologies while training them to design, maintain, and adapt systems that address real-world needs. Rooted in informatics, the program explores how people interact with computer systems and how those systems store, process, and manage information. It emphasizes human-computer interaction, data systems, and information architecture. The curriculum blends core principles of information sciences with applied training in usability engineering, decision support systems, data security, and network design. Unlike traditional Computer Science or Engineering programs, this PhD focuses less on mathematical theory or hardware and more on organizational and user-centered aspects of computing, including machine learning, data science, and interface design. Through interdisciplinary coursework and a focus on scientific reasoning, the program prepares students for research and leadership roles in academia, industry, government, and the nonprofit sector.

1. **Value:** Per Regent's policy, this program meets the criteria of a Quality Credential of Value.

- a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** The proposed program will address the current and expected demand for well-prepared computing and information science researchers and professionals across the state, including the Acadiana region.

Related Occupation	LWC Star Rating ¹	Current Jobs ²	Projected Jobs 2034 ²	% Change	Average Salary
Computer and Information Research Scientists	5 star	126	155	23.3%	\$111,259
University Professor	3-star	15,143	16,074	6%	\$89,553

¹Source – LWC

²Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** According to Louisiana Economic Development (LED), Louisiana continues to enjoy growth in the technology sector. Software and digital media clusters are emerging in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette, and Shreveport. The curriculum for the proposed degree program was developed to be sufficiently generalized to allow graduates to find employment within any of these emerging technology clusters. Examples include CGI and Perficient, IT and Software Consulting firms in Lafayette, IBM in Baton Rouge, CenturyLink in Monroe and Meta's new data center campus in Richland Parish.

- c. Same or Similar In-State Programs: While Tulane University and Louisiana State University offer doctorate programs in computer science, the proposed program would be the first PhD in Applied Computing and Information Sciences offered by a public institution in the state of Louisiana.
- d. Student Enrollment and Completion: Solid enrollments in ULL's existing BS and MS Informatics programs will provide the foundation for enrollment in this program. The MS Informatics program will serve as the primary source of prospective graduate students for the proposed PhD in Applied Computing and Information Sciences.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	12	25	42	61
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	0	2	7

2. **Resources**: While current faculty will provide support for the proposed program, implementation will require three new faculty lines over the next five years along with additional support staff to assist the graduate coordinator and a temporary instructor to assist with teaching lower level courses when current graduate faculty are assigned to teach graduate courses in Informatics. The University will allocate six graduate assistants in Yr. 1, with that number growing to 21 in Yr. 4. In addition to tuition and fees helping to offset the cost of the proposed program, the faculty of the School of Computing and Informatics will also apply for grants. Over the past five years, this faculty has averaged over \$10M annually in state, federal, and private grant funding, and the University expects this grant funding success to continue or increase due to new and anticipated hires.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
Faculty	Current faculty will provide support for the proposed program.	Four new faculty will be needed over the first four years to support the rigor and quality of research and pedagogy. One additional support staff will be needed.	Yr. 1: \$215,000 Yr. 2: \$331,200 Yr. 3: \$452,048 Yr. 4: \$467,729
Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, & Technology)	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	Upgrades and maintenance to hardware infrastructure will be needed.	Yr. 1: \$8,000 Yr. 2: \$5,000 Yr. 3: \$5,000 Yr. 4: \$13,000
Student Support	Existing resources will meet the needs of the program for the foreseeable future.	Funding will be allocated for multiple graduate assistants each year.	Yr. 1: \$172,080 Yr. 2: \$361,368 Yr. 3: \$568,260 Yr. 4: \$683,970

3. **Master Plan Priorities**: The following aspects of the proposal directly address priorities or goals of the statewide attainment goal and 2030 Master Plan.
 - Accessibility: Most courses in the proposed program will be delivered in person using traditional methods. In the future, individual courses may be offered in online or hybrid formats, based on student needs and instructional opportunities.
 - Affordability: The School of Computing and Informatics Graduate Advisory Committee reviews

transfer credit applications in accordance with institutional policy. Coursework completed at accredited institutions may be applied toward the PhD program's requirements, subject to committee approval.

- **Partnerships**: The proposed program has received support from academic, community and industry partners. ULL plans to leverage its existing partnerships to create an educational and career pipeline for the proposed degree program. Those partners include GGI Technologies and Solutions, Apex Innovations, IBM, Apple, and Amazon among others.
- **Work-based Learning**: Graduate students in the program may pursue work-based learning through INFX 593, an existing graduate internship course offered as an elective. This course allows students to gain practical experience in the field while earning academic credit as part of their individualized degree plans.
- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations**: The proposed new program will work to close the achievement gap with underserved populations including low-income, minority, and adult learners by actively recruiting Ronald E. McNair and Louis Stokes-Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation (LS-LAMP) scholars to the program. Faculty will also promote the McNair Graduate Scholars Program, which offers a graduate application fee and tuition/fee waiver.

Staff Analysis

The proposed program will build on ULL's strong programs in Computer Science and Computer Engineering and Informatics and will address the current and expected demand for well-prepared computing and information science researchers and professionals across the state. External reviewer Dr. Fred Martin was very supportive of the proposal, stating that "...the planned program will greatly strengthen the School of Computing & Informatics at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, serving its regional and state community with national impact."

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed PhD in Applied Computing and Information Sciences (CIP 11.0104) at University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution's 2025–2026 Academic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM V.

Initial Approval and Conditional Designation as a Center of Research Excellence Louisiana State University and Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Aquatic Germplasm and Genetic Resources Center of Research Excellence

Background Information

The Board of Regents' Center of Excellence designation was established by the Board in June 2013 and signifies that the designated unit is a statewide academic, research, or workforce leader in its focus area. All Centers of Excellence must demonstrate the following attributes: a strong performance record, a clearly and finitely defined area of expertise, a range of opportunities in its area of designation (academic, research, or workforce), be engaged with the greater community, and be a hallmark of the institution recognized as uniquely strong in its focal area. A Center of Research Excellence is a highly specialized research unit that is well supported through external funding and partnerships, develops new knowledge, enhances the research productivity of faculty, integrates education and research, and positively impacts economic development in the state.

Louisiana State University (LSU) and the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter) are jointly requesting initial approval of the proposed center and Center of Excellence designation of the Aquatic Germplasm and Genetic Resources Research Center of Excellence. The request was approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors and submitted to Regents for consideration.

Staff Summary

1. Description

The term *genetic resources* applies to any form of genetic material that is of current known value or of unknown potential value in the future. Humans have been protecting genetic resources in the form of crop seeds for thousands of years. In the past century we have seen multibillion-dollar global markets emerge for improved genetics in agriculture, especially in the form of frozen sperm for livestock. Given this background, it is surprising to realize that aquatic species do not have comparable systems for protecting and commercializing genetic resources. This is especially striking given the importance of fish and shellfish to global economies and human livelihoods. For example, can we imagine a Louisiana coast that cannot support fish, shrimp, oyster harvests, or rice farms, and the Atchafalaya Basin without crawfish? There are thousands of aquatic species of economic importance around the world that lack protection of their gene pools, and highly lucrative markets for improved genetics that cannot be developed because of a global lack of germplasm repository capability. The Aquatic Germplasm and Genetic Resource Center (AGGRC) was established to directly address these problems, and its members have been recognized as the leading group in the world for these activities for more than 20 years.

Aquatic species like fish, salamanders, frogs, and sea slugs have seen increasing use over the past few decades in biomedical studies. Now, agencies such as the NIH invest billions of dollars into research using these animals (called "biomedical models"). Due to a relatively late entry into this area, most aquatic species do not have germplasm repositories available to protect them from losses of valuable genetics due to accidents or disease, and the resources are mostly maintained as live animals. Aquatic animal models will play an ever-increasing role in disease research in the future, and they are already leading to breakthroughs in a variety of biomedical fields. By preserving this genetic material, researchers can ensure the continued existence and evolution of these species, even if their populations are threatened.

2. Objectives and Evidence of Excellence

The AGGRC team currently pursues its mission with an entrepreneurial mindset through four major programs: 1) applied and fundamental research, 2) technology innovation, 3) industrial-scale services, and 4) community engagement. Each of these programs has its own focus while at the same time is fully integrated

as an interactive whole. The AGGRC is primarily self-supported, and the team submits an average of one grant proposal per month (and often more) to support its operations. This includes a commitment to develop and maintain state-of-the-art capabilities, and as such, the team has obtained more than \$2 million specifically for improving and repurposing its 75-year-old facility.

The AGGRC staff has developed strong partnerships with federal agencies (e.g., NIH and USDA), state agencies, industry partners, and academic collaborators within and outside the LSU campus for three decades. Since its establishment in 2014, the AGGRC facility has been directly awarded more than \$8 million in 41 grants and contracts from a broad range of funding sources, including federal agencies, state funds, and university support. With designation as the proposed Center of Research Excellence, the AGGRC will be on a much stronger footing in developing and maintaining partnerships and funding opportunities in the next five years

Over the past 3 decades, the AGGRC team has studied hundreds of aquatic organisms and produced more than 250 peer-reviewed publications and two books.

3. Resources and Administration

Dr. Terrence Tiersch is the Director of AGGRC, overseeing operations and coordinating programs with two Associate Directors (Mike Christensen and Dr. Yue Liu) and Assistant Director (Dr. Jack Koch). The leadership team consists of three faculty members: Dr. Tiersch, Dr. Liu, and Dr. Koch, who hold faculty appointments through the School of Renewable Natural Resources (SRNR). Dr. Tiersch currently has a 90% research appointment with the AgCenter and a 10% teaching appointment at the SRNR through the LSU College of Agriculture (LSU-COA), while Dr. Liu and Dr. Koch have 100% research appointments at the AgCenter, with volunteer teaching activities through the SRNR. The AGGRC has been approved by the AgCenter to become a separate Cost Center with an office coordinator to manage accounting, hiring, and sponsored program coordination within the AGGRC, and to directly connect with the Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Office of Sponsored Programs at the AgCenter. With respect to Facilities and Administration (F&A) funds generated through grants and contracts at the AGGRC, 50% will be retained at AgCenter, and at least 25% will be returned to the AGGRC to support facility maintenance and operations. The proposed Center of Research Excellence would not affect the present structure of the Campus. The AGGRC will remain within the LSU AgCenter under the supervision of Executive Associate Vice President of Agriculture and Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station.

The AGGRC facility is located at the site of the former LSU Dairy Improvement Center. It spans approximately 3 acres adjacent to the LSU campus and encompasses 24,000 square feet on the main foundation, along with several additional outbuildings totaling around 7,000 square feet. This proximity to the LSU campus greatly facilitates travel and collaboration for faculty and students. Since 2014, the development of the AGGRC has involved continuous alterations and renovations to repurpose the facilities from livestock use to accommodate aquatic species. For instance, supplemental funding from the NIH has allowed for the conversion of a former bull semen collection arena into an aquatic animal conditioning facility, as well as the transformation of a cattle barn into a 3-D printing farm, fabrication shop, and additional animal husbandry spaces. Consequently, this facility is truly unique for aquatic research, and its extensive capabilities in support of repository development are unmatched anywhere else in the world.

4. Funding and Budget

The existence of the AGGRC has been driven by external funding that includes recurrent multimillion-dollar awards (e.g., NIH R24 grants). Successfully competing at this high level is dependent on activities that go beyond individual projects and programs, and it involves recognition at a sustained level as a national resource center. The AGGRC has achieved a high level of capability and recognition and must find ways to ensure that this status can be made more sustainable. Becoming an officially designated Center of Research Excellence by the Board of Regents would greatly advance that ambition and would lock in the benefits offered by the AGGRC in economic and workforce development, and in education and technology

development.

The AGGRC is partially supported by the LSU AgCenter, although its operations are primarily funded by external grants and contracts. The salaries of the Director and the Associate Director-Building Coordinator are funded through hard salary lines. To support future development, the LSU AgCenter has begun the process to establish the AGGRC as a separate Cost Center and has committed funding for an Office Coordinator position that is under preparation for recruitment. The salaries of all other members in the AGGRC and most costs for facility maintenance are funded through self-generated grants and contracts.

Staff Analysis

The mission of the AGGRC is to provide global leadership in the protection and management of aquatic genetic resources through germplasm repository development to support aquaculture, natural fisheries, biomedical research, conservation of imperiled species, and food security. A tradition of excellence in securing external funding and research in this area will position LSU to lead the state and the nation in this work.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Senior Staff recommends approval of the Aquatic Germplasm and Genetic Resources Center of Research Excellence with conditional designation as a Center of Research Excellence for a period of two years. A request for continued authorization and designation as a Center of Research Excellence is due October 1, 2027.

AGENDA ITEM VI.

Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund Awards

Background Information

Act 57 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session commissioned the Cybersecurity Education Management Council (CEMC) and created the Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund (CTIF). The CTIF provides a mechanism for donations and/or appropriations of funding to support the development of degree and certificate programs in cybersecurity fields offered by public postsecondary education institutions. The goal of the fund is to develop, train, produce, and retain Louisiana's workforce-ready cybersecurity professionals and improve cybersecurity literacy across industry sectors through programmatic support to institutions.

In FY 2024–25, CTIF received \$1,000,000 in state general funds to be distributed based on the CEMC's recommendations. The CEMC issued a request for applications to invite submissions from any eligible public postsecondary institution.

Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund Distribution of Dollars

The CEMC reviewed applications submitted under the 2025 Request for Applications process and approved funding for the following projects:

New Projects

- Southeastern University: Building Career Pathways: A Workforce Certification Initiative - \$124,640
- University of Louisiana-Monroe: AI-Powered Cybersecurity Education to Address the Industry Skills Gap - \$129,532

Sustained Projects

- Fletcher Technical Community College: Enhancing Experiential Learning for Cybersecurity Honors Students to Strengthen Workforce Readiness - \$150,000
- Bossier Parish Community College: The LA Cyber Academy (Statewide) - \$161,516
- Northwestern State University: Central Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Enhancement Program - \$40,000
- LSU Shreveport: Comprehensive Cyber Talent Pipeline - \$133,243
- Southern University A&M: Empowering Cybersecurity Leaders by Establishing an Executive Master's Program in Cybersecurity, Mentorship, and Industry-Partnered Certificates - \$155,265
- University of New Orleans: Development of an Advanced Cybersecurity Certificate Program - \$105,804

Strategic Alignment

The approved projects align with state workforce development priorities and demonstrate:

- Strong industry partnerships with at least 25% private sector matching funds
- Clear pathways to employment in cybersecurity fields
- Focus on underrepresented groups in cybersecurity education
- Alignment with NIST Cybersecurity Framework and NICE Workforce Framework standards

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is for informational purposes only. No action is required.



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Agenda

Research and Sponsored Initiatives

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
12:40 PM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Division of Endowed Chair into Endowed Professorships: Louisiana State University and A&M College

IV. Adjustments to Board of Regents Support Fund Program Allocations in FY 2025–26 Approved Plan and Budget

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: Stephanie A. Finley, Chair; Wilbert D. Pryor, Vice Chair; Ted H. Glaser III; Dallas Hixson; Phillip R. May Jr.; Samer Shamieh
Staff: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

AGENDA ITEM III.

Division of Endowed Chair into Endowed Professorships: Louisiana State University and A&M College

Background Information

In August 2011, the Board of Regents approved guidelines for the division of Endowed Chairs funds to establish Endowed Professorships, setting the minimum corpus level of professorships so created at \$250,000. Since this determination, several campuses have divided BoRSF–matched Chairs to establish Professorships at this level or higher.

Staff Summary

The Freeport McMoRan Endowed Chair in Economics is a \$1 million endowed chair held by LSU and A&M College, matched by the BoRSF in FY 1993–94; the Chair has been vacant since 2019. LSU A&M requests approval to divide the Chair into two Endowed Professorships, as follows:

- Freeport McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #1 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF)
- Freeport McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #2 with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF)

The original donor entered into a revised donor agreement in 2024, which approves this conversion.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consistent with the August 2011 policy, the Senior Staff recommends approval of LSU A&M’s request to divide the Freeport McMoRan Endowed Chair in Economics into two (2) endowed professorships, as follows: (1) McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #1, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF); and (2) McMoRan Endowed Professorship of Economics #2, with a corpus of \$500,000 (\$300,000 non–state/\$200,000 BoRSF).

AGENDA ITEM IV.

Adjustments to Board of Regents Support Fund Program Allocations in FY 2025–26 Approved Plan and Budget

Background Information

The Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF), constitutionally designated to and managed by the Board of Regents, receives revenues on an annual basis from the Kevin P. Reilly, Sr. Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF). The Board is required by Article VII, Section 10 of the Constitution to submit an annual plan and budget to the Legislature and the Governor not less than 60 days prior to the beginning of the Regular Legislative Session. This document outlines proposals for expenditure across the four constitutionally permitted components of the Support Fund: Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars, Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students, Targeted Research and Development, and Enhancement of Academic, Research, and Agricultural Departments and Units. The programmatic budget is incorporated annually into House Bill 1 and the allocations fixed by category upon passage by the legislature and signature of the governor. Category allocations typically must adhere to the submitted budget and specific appropriations in HB 1. The annual budget for FY 2025–26 was approved by the Board of Regents and forwarded to the legislature and the governor as required in December 2024 and was incorporated into HB 1 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

Staff Summary

House Bills 473 and 579 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session repeal the constitutionally established Kevin P. Reilly Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund (LEQTF) and related Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF). For the repeal to proceed, approval of the constitutional amendment by the voters will be sought in April 2026. Liquidation of LEQTF and BoRSF assets will begin immediately upon voter approval, with all repealed Funds eliminated in their entirety by June 30, 2026. Given the uncertainty around the continuation of the BoRSF, Regents staff propose shifting funds within the programs approved in HB 1 to ensure the highest and best use of its remaining investments in eligible institutions and to address as much as possible outstanding donor requests for endowment matching.

The BoRSF operates grant and endowment matching programs on a competitive basis through a year-long process, beginning annually in July. For this reason, it is critical to address prior to the start of the new fiscal year the adjustments to the FY 2025–26 budget necessitated by the repeal of the BoRSF in HB 473 and HB 589. Once the Board acts on the recommendation, institutions and faculty members will be informed of the status of competitive grant and endowment program funding for the new fiscal year.

Senior staff recommends revision of the approved FY 2025–26 BoRSF budget to provide new awards for only one competitive grant program – the Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS) – and transfer funds allocated to the Departmental Enhancement Subprogram to the endowment matching programs within the Enhancement category (Endowed Professorships, Endowed First-Generation Scholarships, and Endowed Two-Year Workforce Scholarships). Funds are allocated by category in HB 1 and, once adopted in statute, cannot be moved among categories. Only the Research & Development (R&D) category does not provide endowment matching programs, so it is proposed that new R&D monies budgeted in FY26 will be consolidated to support one-year awards in the

highest-impact R&D activity, RCS. Endowment-only categories – Graduate Fellows and Endowed Chairs – must be left unchanged. Existing obligations in the Support Fund (multiyear awards approved in previous fiscal years and match to federal awards) as well as the statutorily calculated administrative allocation will be retained in full. Descriptions of all BoRSF programs included in the approved FY 2025–26 budget are provided in Attachment B.

The rationale for this adjustment is related to both the need to continue addressing the high demand for endowment matching from donors and institutions across the state as well as supporting highly impactful seed grants to faculty researchers, for which the average direct return on Support Fund grants totals \$8 for every dollar expended.

During fall 2025, based on the possibility of the immediate repeal of the LEQTF, BoRSF staff collected from all eligible systems and institutions complete lists of outstanding nonstate donor contributions awaiting state match through the Support Fund to complete permanent endowments in support of scholarships and high-value faculty. The total amount needed to match all outstanding slots reported in November 2025 was \$59.25 million. The BoRSF matched approximately 10% of this total – \$5.85 million – in FY 2024–25, but significant additional investments are needed to satisfy donor demand. These adjustments will increase available matching dollars to \$8.13 million in FY 2025–26, helping to reduce the number of requests that are incomplete upon potential termination of the BoRSF on June 30, 2026.

Though the BoRSF may be repealed in FY 2025–26, a FY 2026–27 Plan and Budget is constitutionally required to be submitted to the Legislature and Governor no less than 60 days prior to the 2026 Regular Legislative Session. This budget, to be developed during fall 2025, will be brought to the Board for consideration in December 2025. If the BoRSF is repealed in April 2026, this Plan and Budget will not be enacted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Senior Staff recommends approval as presented of the adjustments to Board of Regents Support Fund programmatic funding levels in accordance with the budget levels approved in HB 1 of the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.

ATTACHMENT A

Staff Recommendation: FY 2025–26 Board of Regents Support Fund Budget

Adjusted per HB 463/HB 579 BoRSF Repeal

Support Fund Program/Subprogram	FY 2025–26 ADJUSTED BUDGET		FY 2025–26 HB 1 BUDGET	
	Prior Commitments (Existing Obligations)	New Monies	Prior Commitments (Existing Obligations)	New Monies
Federal Matching	\$375,000	\$900,000	\$375,000	\$900,000
Endowed Chairs	\$0	\$2,020,000	\$0	\$2,020,000
Graduate Fellows	\$0	\$1,020,000	\$0	\$1,020,000
Traditional (GF)		Terminated		\$0
BoR/SREB Fellowships		Terminated		\$0
Endowed Grad Scholarships		\$1,020,000		\$1,020,000
Research & Development	\$3,324,204	\$2,090,000	\$3,324,204	\$2,090,000
Research Competitiveness	\$2,202,532	\$2,090,000	\$2,202,532	\$1,150,000
Industrial Ties/PoCP	\$1,121,672	Terminated	\$1,121,672	\$620,000
Awds to Artists & Scholars	\$0	Terminated	\$0	\$320,000
Enhancement	\$1,980,333	\$4,690,000	\$1,980,333	\$4,699,741
Departmental ENH (includes BoR/SREB)	\$1,980,333	Terminated	\$1,980,333	\$1,849,741
Endowed Professorships	\$0	\$2,680,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Endowed WF Scholarships	\$0	\$2,010,000	\$0	\$850,000
Administration (Formula)	\$0	\$590,722	\$0	\$590,722
TOTAL	\$5,679,537	\$11,310,722	\$5,679,537	\$11, 320,463
FISCAL YEAR BUDGET	\$17,000,000		\$17,000,000	

ATTACHMENT B

Board of Regents Support Fund Program/Subprogram Descriptions

The Constitution specifies that the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) may be used to support “any or all” of the following activities:

- The carefully defined research efforts at public and private universities in Louisiana;
- The endowment of chairs for eminent scholars;
- The enhancement of the quality of academic, research or agricultural departments or units within a university; and
- The recruitment of superior graduate students.

Programs and subprograms are divided among these categories, to ensure the BoRSF is structured in accordance with the constitutional provisions.

Enhancement of the Quality of Academic, Research & Agricultural Departments and Units

1. Departmental Enhancement

Departmental Enhancement is a competitive infrastructure-building component with the goal of improving the educational and research infrastructure and capacity in academic, research, and agricultural departments and units. Departmental Enhancement is available to any eligible formally recognized department or unit, and includes a Multidisciplinary component. Awards will be made for comprehensive (multi-year, multi-activity, broad-impact) projects, as well as targeted (short-term, smaller-scale) projects. All institutions are eligible to compete to support educational, research, and workforce activities. A spectrum of activities, from equipment purchases to curricular redesign, are allowed and encouraged; support for graduate students, either as fellowships/scholarships or assistantships, is also permitted. Disciplines are eligible every other year, on a rotating basis.

2. BoR/Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Support Initiative

The Board of Regents/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative provides up to ten (10) support slots to help prorecruit and retain students seeking to enter the professoriate after earning their doctoral degrees. Awards are made to graduate schools or governing units for graduate education at eligible institutions, which then determine the distribution of individual slots among qualified departments. Each slot includes an academic-year supplement for student membership in SREB’s Doctoral Scholars Program, and participation in SREB’s annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring for both the student and the student's faculty mentor.

3. Endowed Professorships

Endowed Professorships is a non-competitive subprogram designed to help campuses recruit or retain faculty whose research, teaching, and/or public service uniquely contribute to the mission of their departments and institutions. Participation requires a contribution of at least \$80,000 from an external source, to be matched with \$20,000 from the BoRSF; campuses with fewer than 15 matched Professorships may continue to request matching at the previous rate of \$40,000 BoRSF for \$60,000 non-State contribution until the threshold of 15 is reached. Each eligible campus is guaranteed, but not necessarily restricted to, two matching slots per year, provided that required external contributions are raised and documented. Beginning in FY 2019–20, campuses are permitted to submit requests for matching of Endowed First-Generation Undergraduate Scholarships under the same terms as Endowed Professorships, with the guarantee of two matching slots total, inclusive of both types, per campus.

4. Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships

The competitive Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships subprogram provides scholarship opportunities for students on two-year campuses to enter the Louisiana workforce in the following ways: (a) train students for immediate entrance into selected, high-demand, four- and five-star jobs, including positions in nursing and allied health; and/or (b) prepare students to become job-ready in STEM fields after completing degrees on four-year campuses. Non-State contributions combined with a BoRSF match will produce permanent endowments.

5. Federal Matching

The Board of Regents manages several major federal research and education awards from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, NASA, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Energy. Many State-level federal grant opportunities require matching be provided, and the BoRSF has been the source of Louisiana's match since 1987. BoRSF matching funds have leveraged more than \$7 in federal funding for every dollar committed.

Targeted Research and Development

1. Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS)

RCS funds projects that strengthen the fundamental research base and competitiveness of Louisiana's public and private universities. The subprogram is a stimulus opportunity available to researchers who are currently not competitive for federal support but show strong potential for achieving national research competitiveness in an area funded by the federal government within a limited span of time. Research funded through RCS must make fundamental contributions to knowledge in eligible scientific and engineering disciplines rather than simply seek to apply existing knowledge. RCS also includes a one-year award to assist faculty who may already be competitive through short-term pilot awards to

conduct novel scientific and engineering research leading to near-term federal support. RCS has been a highly successful initiative: a recent survey showed more than \$9 in federal/private research funding received for every \$1 in RCS funds awarded.

2. Industrial Ties Research Subprogram (ITRS)

ITRS supports research efforts that show significant potential for contributing to the development and diversification of Louisiana's economy in the near term. Funded projects are required to involve significant private sector or Federal funding or, at a minimum, include a plan to leverage substantial Federal or private sector funding in the near future; and link research efforts to establishment of a new or enhancement of an existing Louisiana business or industry. A consolidated component of ITRS, the Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative provides funding to enable technology transfer research and activities, to advance innovations toward commercialization. Like RCS, ITRS has leveraged significant external investment in Louisiana research, attracting more than \$10 for every BoRSF dollar invested.

3. Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS)

The BoRSF Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) Subprogram provides support to faculty members in arts, humanities, and social sciences disciplines to complete major scholarly and artistic productions with the potential to have a broad impact on a regional, national, and/or international level. The primary focus of ATLAS is the scholarly or artistic merit of the proposed work. Projects are assessed based on their necessity, importance, originality, and likelihood to have an impact on a broad academic and/or artistic community. ATLAS has supported major scholarly and creative works that have received significant recognition and accolades across the region, the nation, and the world.

Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students

1. Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships

The Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships subprogram matches non-State contributions of at least \$60,000 with \$40,000 from the BoRSF to create endowed scholarships that may be used in support of graduate and first-professional students as well as post-doctoral fellows. Higher levels of non-State contributions, in minimum increments of \$60,000, may be matched with additional \$40,000 contributions from the Support Fund. The initial corpus of the endowment must remain intact, while income above the corpus may be used to benefit the student recipient in the form of scholarships, fellowships, and/or experiential opportunities, including internships, externships, conference travel, and field work.

Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars

Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars, introduced in 1987, is a highly competitive program designed to enhance the recruitment and retention of distinguished university faculty at institutions throughout Louisiana. The program pairs a 60% private-sector match with a 40% Board of Regents award to endow a chair at a minimum level of \$1 million. The Chair, operating from the income generated by investment of the permanent endowment, must be filled in perpetuity by scholars of high renown and great ability. Given the permanent commitment of funding, Endowed Chairs must be aligned clearly with institutional role, scope, mission, and strategic priorities, and the campus must demonstrate the long-term value of the Chair to academic, teaching, and/or service work in the discipline. Campuses must provide each Chair, at a minimum, with a salary line sufficient to engage a senior scholar/leader.



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Agenda

Statewide Programs

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
12:45 PM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Consent Agenda

- A. TOPS Exceptions – TOPS regulatory provisions that require students to remain continuously enrolled and to earn the annual credit hours required during the academic year

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

Committee Members: Wilbert D. Pryor, Chair; Samer Shamieh, Vice Chair; Phillip May Jr.; Christy Oliver Reeves; Terri P. Sterling; Devesh Sarda (Student Member)
Staff: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

AGENDA ITEM III.A

Consent Agenda: 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

BACKGROUND

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.”

Five requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on April 15, 2025. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

LOSFA Advisory Board Recommendation

The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends approval of 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.



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Agenda

Planning, Research, and Performance

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

12:50 PM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda

A. R.S. 17:1808 (Academic Licensure)

1. Renewal Applications

- a. Baton Rouge General Medical Center – Baton Rouge, LA
- b. Concordia University Irvine – Irvine, CA
- c. Fielding Graduate University – Santa Barbara, CA
- d. Herzing University – New Orleans, LA
- e. Southern New Hampshire University
- f. University of Southern California – Los Angeles, CA

B. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools

1. Associate of Occupational Studies Program Application

- a. Digital Media Institute, Shreveport, LA
 - AOS in Digital Animation and Visual Effects

2. Initial License Applications

- a. Advance Nursing Training – Bogalusa, Bogalusa, LA
- b. Diesel Driving Academy – West Monroe, West Monroe, LA
- c. Driving Academy, Baton Rouge, LA
- d. Moe's Phlebotomy, Independence, LA
- e. Northeast Maritime Institute, Houma, LA

3. Renewal Applications

- a. ABCDL Truck Driving Academy – Hammond – License #2373
- b. Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy – Baton Rouge – License #2191
- c. CDL Mentors – Lake Charles – Lake Charles – License #2299
- d. Coastal College – Lafayette – Lafayette – License #1002
- e. Coastal College – Monroe – Monroe – License #957

- f. Coastal Truck Driving School of Lake Charles – Lake Charles – License #2372
- g. Delta College of Arts & Technology – Lafayette Branch – Lafayette – License #2075
- h. Elise Phlebotomy Training Center – Harvey – License #2317
- i. Feliciana Medical Training Academy – St. Francisville – License #2378
- j. Goodwill Technical College – New Orleans – License #2210
- k. Lenora School of Phlebotomy– Slidell – License #911
- l. Louisiana Culinary Institute – Baton Rouge – License #2045
- m. Persistent Medical Education – Lafayette – License #2381
- n. Phlebotomy Career Training Academy – Lafayette – License #2350
- o. Phlebotomy Training Specialists – Baton Rouge – License #2383
- p. Royal Angels Anointed Hands – Greensburg – License #2380
- q. River Parishes Institute – Gonzales – License #2351
- r. Saint Christopher College – Carencro – License #2269
- s. Sovereign College – Lafayette – License #2316
- t. St. Agatha Career College – New Orleans – License #2352
- u. Tender Love & Care Allied Health Training – Gretna – License #2370
- v. Trinity Bay Vocational Institute – St. James – License #2379
- w. Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center – Houston, TX – License #2212

V. Other Business

VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: Darren G. Mire, Chair, Judy Williams-Brown, Vice Chair, Blake R. David, Ted H. Glaser III, Dallas L. Hixson, Christy Oliver Reeves, Devesh Sarda (Student Member)
 Staff: Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success

AGENDA ITEM – III.A.1.a.
Baton Rouge General Medical Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

BACKGROUND

Baton Rouge General Medical Center, School of Radiologic Technology and Baton Rouge General School of Nursing (BRGM) is a higher education institution with its main campus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This institution is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and Joint Review Commission on Education in Radiologic Technology (JCERT).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

BRGM offers a Nursing Diploma in and a certificate in radiologic technology. The institution currently has 165 students in its Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment.

Degree Level	Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment
Doctorate	0
Master's	0
Bachelor's	0
Associate	0
Diploma	129
Certificate	36
Total	165

FACULTY

BRGM has 9 full-time and 11 part-time faculty with either Master's or Doctorate degrees.

FACILITIES

Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRGM) offers classroom lectures, laboratories, and clinicals to Louisiana residents. Instruction and laboratory instruction take place at the main campus at the Baton Rouge General Mid City medical center. Clinical rotations are held at various hospitals, health centers, and clinics across South Louisiana.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the programs' scope and the credentials of its faculty, the institution's campus, program accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, Senior Staff recommends the application for license *renewal* from Baton Rouge General Medical Center (BRGM).

AGENDA ITEM – III.A.1.b.
Concordia University Irvine
Irvine, California

BACKGROUND

Concordia University Irvine (CUI) is a private Lutheran university with its main campus located in Irvine, California. The university is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

CUI offers 26 academic programs in theology, education, public health and administration, and organizational leadership at the doctorate, master's, bachelor's, and graduate certificate levels. Currently, the university has four students in its Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment.

Degree Level	Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment
Doctorate	1
Master's	2
Bachelor's	0
Associate	0
Certificate	1
Other	0
Total	4

FACULTY

CUI has 167 full-time faculty and part-time faculty at various degree levels.

FACILITIES

CUI is planning to offer 100% online instruction to Louisiana residents with student-sourced clinicals for select programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the scope of the programs and the credentials of its faculty, the institution's campus, program accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, Senior Staff recommends approval of the application for license *renewal* from Concordia University Irvine (CUI).

AGENDA ITEM – III.A.1.c.
Fielding Graduate University
Santa Barbara, California

BACKGROUND

Fielding Graduate University (FGU) is a private institution located in Santa Barbara, California. The university is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Senior College and University Commission and the American Psychological Association for the PhD in Clinical Psychology.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Fielding offers three master's degree programs, seven doctorate programs, and five certificate programs in the subject areas of psychology, organizational change and leadership, and childhood and human development. Currently, this institution has 9 students in its Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment.

Degree Level	Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment
Doctorate	7
Master's	0
Bachelor's	0
Associate	0
Certificate	2
Other	0
Total	9

FACULTY

FGU has 62 full-time faculty and 88 part-time faculty, all with graduate degrees.

FACILITIES

FGU offers 100% online instruction to Louisiana residents, with in-state clinical placement for select programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the scope of the programs and the credentials of its faculty, the institution's campus, program accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, Senior Staff recommends approval of the application for license *renewal* from Fielding Graduate University (FGU).

AGENDA ITEM – III.A.1.d.
Herzing University – New Orleans
Metairie, Louisiana

BACKGROUND

Herzing University first registered with the Board of Regents in 1998. The institution, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, operates schools in eight states. Herzing University – New Orleans (HU-NO) is a higher education institution with its main campus in Metairie, LA. The university is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

HU-NO offers 49 academic programs in accounting, business, healthcare, legal studies, public safety, and technology that lead to master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees. The university currently has 313 students in its Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment.

Degree Level	Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment
Doctorate	0
Master's	7
Bachelor's	154
Associate	152
Certificate	0
Other	0
Total	313

FACULTY

HU-NO has 4 full-time faculty and 10 part-time faculty at various degree levels.

FACILITIES

HU-NO offers online, classroom lecture, classroom laboratory, and independent study instruction to Louisiana residents.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the scope of the programs and the credentials of its faculty, the institution's campus, program accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, Senior Staff recommends approval of the application for license *renewal* from Herzing University – New Orleans (HU-NO).

AGENDA ITEM – III.A.1.e.
Southern New Hampshire University
Manchester, New Hampshire

BACKGROUND

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private institution with its main campus located in Manchester, New Hampshire. SNHU's focus is providing accessible higher education by offering 200+ online programs to students in Louisiana. This university is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). SNHU is also a member of NC-SARA.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

SNHU offers academic programs that lead to doctorate, master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees along with certificate programs. They provide a range of online programs in 15 core areas of study. The university currently has 2,992 students in its Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment in 94 different programs.

Degree Level	Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment
Doctorate	1
Master's	283
Bachelor's	2,186
Associate	491
Certificate	30
Other	1
Total	2,992

FACULTY

SNHU has 98 part-time faculty at various degree levels.

FACILITIES

SNHU offers 100% online instruction to Louisiana residents with experiential learning experiences for select programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the scope of the programs and the credentials of its faculty, the institution's campus, program accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, Senior Staff recommends approval of the application for license *renewal* from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU).

AGENDA ITEM – III.A.1.f.
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

BACKGROUND

University of Southern California (USC) is a higher education institution located in Los Angeles, CA. The university is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

USC offers 156 academic programs that lead to doctoral, master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees and graduate certificates in various disciplines in keeping with a large research university. The university currently has 26 students in its Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment.

Degree Level	Louisiana Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment
Doctorate	12
Master's	12
Bachelor's	0
Associate	0
Certificate	2
Other	0
Total	26

FACULTY

USC has 1228 full-time and part-time faculty at various degree levels.

FACILITIES

University of Southern California (USC) offers online and experiential learning instruction to Louisiana residents in select programs.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the scope of the programs and the credentials of its faculty, the institution's campus, program accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, Senior Staff recommends approval of the application for license *renewal* from University of Southern California (USC).



Minutes
Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools
May 13, 2025

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools met on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in Room 1–153 in the Claiborne Building. Prior to the meeting, the newest Commission member, Hunter Thevis, an appointed representative of the Louisiana Association of Private Colleges and Schools, was sworn in and introduced himself to the Commission. Chair James Fontenot called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. The roll was then called by Ms. Courtney Britton and a quorum was established. There were no public comments to be read.

Commission Members Present

Melanie Amrhein, Vice Chair
Chris Broadwater
Sherrie Despino
James Fontenot, Chair
Hunter Thevis
Larry Tremblay

Staff Members Present

Courtney Britton
Chandra Cheatham
Mighan Johnson
Antonio Williams
Mellyn Baker
Susannah Craig, PhD

Commission Members Absent

Benjamin Baudoin
Chandler LeBoeuf
Carmen Million

Guests Present

(See Appendix)

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the Commission's meeting on March 11, 2025.

On motion of Sherrie Despino, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously adopted the minutes of the March 11, 2025, Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools meeting.

The next item considered by the Commission was the Associate of Occupational Studies Application for Digital Media Institute, located in Shreveport, LA. The school was represented by the Academic Director, Greg Nelson and the proposed program was an Associate of Occupational Studies in Digital Animation and Visual Effects. The program will be a two-year degree consisting of 1,850 clock hours. The discussion covered the history of the school, new advances in digital animation and visual effects, the technology, tools, and models used in the program's AI components, and available

financial aid for students. It also addressed whether the one-year program would be phased out, the role of AI in the curriculum, occupational outcomes, the student placement success rate, and the locations of those placements.

On motion of Melanie Amrhein, seconded by Chris Broadwater, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve an Associate of Occupational Studies in Digital Animation and Visual Effects at the Digital Media Institute, Shreveport, LA.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Advance Nursing Training - Bogalusa, located in Bogalusa, LA. The school, which was represented by one of the owners, Coltrice Wolfe, as well as consultant, Melanie McCrary, would offer three programs: Phlebotomy Technician at 75 clock hours over three weeks, Nurse Aide Training (CNA) at 133 clock hours over five weeks, and EKG Technician at 60 clock hours over five weeks. The discussion included the owner's motivation for opening the school, their background and education, competition, submitted financial documents and projections, the financial arrangement between the school owner and franchiser, and financial aid assistance for students. It also covered the possibility of becoming accredited and applying for grants, student placement locations upon completion, the number of program cycles per year, the purpose of the school's location, testing and certification exams, becoming an in-facility testing site, and potential contracts and inquiries from prospective students.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Melanie Amrhein, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Advance Nursing Training-Bogalusa, Bogalusa, Louisiana.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Diesel Driving Academy-West Monroe, located in West Monroe, LA. The school, which was represented by the owner, Bruce Busada, would offer three programs: CDL Prep Tractor-Trailer Driver Training Program at 136 clock hours over three weeks, Advanced Tractor-Trailer Driver Training Program at 600 clock hours over twenty weeks, and Basic Tractor-Trailer Driver Training Program at 160 clock hours over four weeks. Discussion included whether this location mirrors the other campus models, the number of campuses, whether additional equipment will need to be purchased, where the parking pad will be located, and the opportunity within that specific area.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Diesel Driving Academy-West Monroe, West Monroe, Louisiana.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Driving Academy, located in Baton Rouge, LA. The school, which was represented by the owners, Jodi Ruiz and Ron Menville, would offer two

programs: CDL Class A at 160 clock hours over four weeks and CDL Class B at 120 clock hours over three weeks. The discussion covered the owner's reasons for starting the school, concerns about competition, the schools SEO and internet optimization, why a student will be more inclined to enroll with them instead of with the competition, what class CDL was needed for their Amazon drivers, whether the school will become a testing site, and the number of students per cycle.

On motion of Melanie Amrhein, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Driving Academy, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Moe's Phlebotomy, located in Independence, LA. The school, which was represented by owner, Latasha Addison, would offer one program: Phlebotomy Entry Level at 144 clock hours over nine weeks. The discussion covered the owner's reasons for starting the school, the financial plan that was submitted, if the owner will still be working full time as a phlebotomist, the owner's certifications and credentials, the location of the school, the supplies and estimated expenses, financial assistance for potential students, business line of credit. The possibility of a conditional approval was raised and discussed.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Moe's Phlebotomy, Independence, Louisiana on the condition that the school submit documentation showing a line of credit and/or a savings account balance showing a minimum of an additional \$10,000 within 30 days.

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Northeast Maritime Institute, Inc., located in Houma, LA. The school, which was represented by owner, Eric Dawicki, would offer nine programs: NM-2002 Ordinary Seaman at 44 clock hours over one and a half weeks, NM-2003 Master 100 Gross Tons Program at 116 clock hours over four weeks, NM-2008 Third Engineer/OICEW STCW Upgrade at 88 clock hours over four weeks, NM-2004 Master 200 Gross Tons Upgrade at 96 clock hours over four weeks, NM-2005 Oceans Endorsement at 150 clock hours over eight weeks, NM-2010 STCW Refresher at 40 clock hours over one week, NM-3011 QMED at 144 clock hours over four weeks, NM-2001 Able Seafarer Deck at 176 clock hours over eight weeks, and NM-2006 OICNW/Third Mate at 449 clock hours over twenty-four weeks. Discussion included the owner's background and motivation for opening the school, the owner's other institutions in Massachusetts, their move toward online and hybrid education at other facilities, the demand for training in the area versus competition, the number of students per program, the location of the school, and the renovations and new equipment brought into the facility.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Sherrie Despino the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license applications for Northeast Maritime Institute, Inc., Houma, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was submitted license renewal applications. Over the previous two months, twenty-three schools submitted complete renewal applications.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents renew the licenses of the following proprietary schools:

1. ABCDL Truck Driving Academy – Hammond – License #2373
2. Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy – Baton Rouge – License #2191
3. CDL Mentors – Lake Charles – Lake Charles – License #2299
4. Coastal College – Lafayette – Lafayette – License #1002
5. Coastal College – Monroe – Monroe – License #957
6. Coastal Truck Driving School of Lake Charles – Lake Charles – License #2372
7. Delta College of Arts & Technology – Lafayette Branch – Lafayette – License #2075
8. Elise Phlebotomy Training Center – Harvey – License #2317
9. Felician Medical Training Academy – St. Francisville – License #2378
10. Goodwill Technical College – New Orleans – License #2210
11. Lenora School of Phlebotomy– Slidell – License #911
12. Louisiana Culinary Institute – Baton Rouge – License #2045
13. Persistent Medical Education – Lafayette – License #2381
14. Phlebotomy Career Training Academy – Lafayette – License #2350
15. Phlebotomy Training Specialists – Baton Rouge – License #2383
16. River Parishes Institute – Gonzales – License #2351
17. Royal Angels Anointed Hands – Greensburg – License #2380
18. Saint Christopher College – Carencro – License #2269
19. Sovereign College – Lafayette – License #2316
20. St. Agatha Career College – New Orleans – License #2352
21. Tender Love & Care Allied Health Training – Gretna – License #2370
22. Trinity Bay Vocational Institute – St. James – License #2379
23. Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center – Houston, TX – License #2212

Staff also discussed the closure of one institution, Southwest Dental Assisting Academy, Lafayette, LA, License #2318. The school closed without notice, but staff are actively trying to obtain student transcripts.

The next agenda item was program approval updates. The commission was reminded that program approvals were approved by staff, and the provided list was for informational purposes only.

- Ayers - Shreveport, LA
 - Add
 - Electrician Technician – Traditional – 720 clock hours
- Delta College-Slidell Branch - Slidell, LA
 - Amend

Medical Office and Health Information Technician – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 Medical Office and Health Information Technician – Traditional – 786 clock hours
 Medical Assistant – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 Medical Assistant – Traditional – 786 clock hours
 Dental Assistant – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 Dental Assistant – Traditional – 786 clock hours

- Delta College of Arts & Technology - Lafayette, LA
 - Amend
 - Medical Office and Health Information Technician – Traditional – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Office and Health Information Technician – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Assistant – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Assistant – Traditional – 786 clock hours
 - Dental Assistant – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Dental Assistant – Traditional – 786 clock hours
- Delta College of Arts & Technology – Baton Rouge, LA
 - Amend
 - Medical Office and Health Information Technician – Traditional – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Office and Health Information Technician – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Assistant – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Assistant – Traditional – 786 clock hours
 - Dental Assistant – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Dental Assistant – Traditional – 786 clock hours
- Delta College - Covington, LA
 - Amend
 - Medical Office and Health Information Technician – Traditional – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Office and Health Information Technician – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Assistant – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Medical Assistant – Traditional – 786 clock hours
 - Dental Assistant – Hybrid – 786 clock hours
 - Dental Assistant – Traditional – 786 clock hours
- Infinity College - Lafayette, LA
 - Add
 - Medical Assistant – Hybrid – 900 clock hours
 - Pharmacy Technician Training – Hybrid – 900 clock hours
 - Phlebotomy and EKG Technician – Hybrid – 600 clock hours
- Tulsa Welding School – Tulsa Campus – Tulsa, OK
 - Add
 - Electrical Applications – Hybrid – 700 clock hours
 - Electro-Mechanical Technologies – Hybrid – 900 clock hours
 - Refrigeration Technologies – Hybrid – 700 clock hours
 - Professional Welder – Traditional – 750 clock hours

During the final agenda item, "Other Business," the discussion covered monitoring the 2025 Legislative Session and bills that would potentially expand access and funds for students at accredited proprietary schools. Ms. Britton also

congratulated Ms. Chandra Cheatham, Ms. Mighan Johnson, and Mr. Antonio Williams on their recent presentation at the annual conference for the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools (NASASPS).

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for July 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1–153 of the Claiborne Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

APPENDIX A
GUESTS

Latasha Addison	Moe's Phlebotomy Services
Abigail Arceneaux	Northeast Maritime Institute
Bruce Busada	Diesel Driving Academy
Eric Dawicki	Northeast Maritime Institute
Melanie McCray	Advance Nurse Training
Ron Menville	Driving Academy
Greg Nelson	Digital Media Institute
Jodi Ruiz	Driving Academy
Tyler Savoy	LA Department of Justice
Cotrice Wolfe	Advance Nurse Training - Bogalusa