

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

June 10, 2026

The Board of Regents met at 11:23 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, in the Thomas Jefferson Rooms A&B (1-136), Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third Street, 1st Floor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Misti Cordell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:

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

Mgmt. Board Representatives present were:

LSU System Representative
UL System Representative
LCTC Representative

Mgmt. Board Representatives not present were:

SU System Representative

Absent from the meeting were:

K. Samer Shamieh

Appendix A

Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29, 2026 MEETING

Regent Aubrey moved that, in the interest of time, the Board approve Agenda Items IV (Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2026) and V (Reports and Recommendations of Standing Committees) together. There were no objections. Chair Cordell inquired if any member of the Board wanted to take up any of the Committee reports separately and again there were none.

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent May, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2026 meeting, and the Committee recommendations from all the Committee meetings.

EXTENSION OF THE COMMISSIONER'S CONTRACT

Chair Cordell stated that the Board completed its annual evaluation of Commissioner Reed's performance last September as required under the Board's bylaws. She further noted that the annual evaluation allows clear communication of the Board's goals, aligns mutual expectations, and assesses the Commissioner's performance. Regent Creed negotiated the terms of a new contract with Commissioner Reed once the previous contract expired in June 2026.

On motion of Regent Creed, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the extension of Commissioner Reed's contract.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell made the following comments:

- She welcomed Maria Nechaeva as the Regents' student member for the 2026–27 academic year, noting that the senior biology major is the first Southeastern Louisiana University student to serve on the Board. Regent Nechaeva will serve on the following committees: Academic and Student Affairs; Artificial Intelligence; Legislative; Planning, Research, and Performance; and Statewide Programs. She is also currently the Student Government Association president at Southeastern. Regent Nechaeva previously served as the 2025–2026 student member on the UL System Board. She also served on the presidential search committees for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and McNeese State University. Attorney Brianna Golden Phillips administered the oath of office. Regent Nechaeva introduced herself, saying that when she ran for office, her platform highlighted the importance of student voice. She wants to help implement change because of student voices and to use student leaders to push the policies the Board supports.
- Chair Cordell announced that State Senator Mike Reese will become the ninth president of McNeese State University in July. She recognized his leadership in the Louisiana State Senate, government, and business community, and noted that Senator Reese previously served as the student member of the Louisiana Board of Regents.
- She shared that Regents hosted the LAHEC Summit on May 20–21 in Baton Rouge. The summit welcomed more than 275 participants from across the state. During the meetings,

Regents welcomed higher education professionals, community stakeholders, law enforcement partners, and prevention and treatment leaders for a two-day statewide conversation focused on student behavioral health, campus safety, student success, and practical solutions.

- The Board of Regents honored 45 future educators at the annual Future Educator Honor Roll event at the Old State Capitol. Public and private universities from across the state nominated students in their teacher preparation programs for this top honor. Attendees heard from Dr. Sabrah Kingham, senior education policy advisor to the Governor, Dr. Jenna Chaisson from LDOE, and Louisiana's 2026 Teacher of the Year, Regina Beard, among others

AUDIT

INTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mrs. Laura Soileau and Mrs. Kristin Bourque from EisnerAmper presented a status report on the Board of Regents' Fiscal Year 2026 Internal Audit. Mrs. Bourque explained that the Board of Regents Agency Professional Services Contracts Audit was in progress and nearing completion, with a final report to be issued to management by June 30, 2026. Mrs. Bourque also provided updates regarding follow-up audits. The BOR Support Fund Endowments Process Assessment, the LOSFA Information Technology Security Processes, and the BOR Agency Human Resources will all be deferred until FY 27. The LUMCON Vessel Operations-Daily Rate Computation Audit is in progress, and the report will be issued by June 30, 2026. This presentation was for informational purposes only and required no action.

FINANCE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FY 2026–2027 OPERATING BUDGET DISTRIBUTION

Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, stated that at its March 2026 meeting, the Board of Regents approved a preliminary distribution of the FY 2026–27 higher education operating budget as proposed in the Governor's Executive Budget. The Executive Budget recommended \$1.3B in State General Funds (SGF) for higher education entities, which represented a net decrease of \$40M, including one-time (non-recurring) SGF allocations (\$49.5M), mandated costs reductions (\$4.2M) due to retirement cost savings, and a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) increase related to a means of finance swap between SGF of \$4.4M and the TOPS Fund (\$4.4M). The decreases were offset by

increases of \$5.3M for the LSU First benefits program, a \$4M addition for the START/529 savings program software platform, \$28,726 to support services provided to the University of Louisiana System by the Division of Administration, and a \$13,872 increase to cover inflation costs at the LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport per Act 171 of the 2019 Legislative Session.

Ms. Bentley-Smith stated that during the budgeting process the Legislature increased the HB1 recommendation, adding \$65.6M, for a total of \$1.38B in SGF to higher education for FY27. This new funding includes \$56M in formula support for the two- and four-year institutions. The LSU, SU, and LCTC Systems each received an increase in overall SGF of \$8.8M, \$1.8M, and \$11M respectively; the UL System decreased in SGF due to elimination of the (\$20M) in non-recurring funding for the University of New Orleans' debt payments during the current fiscal year. Higher education also received significant support for campus and security upgrades, training programs and workforce initiatives, and Division-1A athletic departments via Statutory Dedications, with additional funding of \$63.6M for FY27. Additionally, HB312 (Supplemental Bill) appropriated an additional \$5.8M in the current fiscal year (FY26) across all our postsecondary institutions. Both bills were sent to the Governor for signature and enactment following the conclusion of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session on Monday, June 1.

Ms. Bentley-Smith added that the FY27 budget added a further \$14.5M, for a total of \$25M for the M.J. Foster Promise adult financial aid program; retained funding of \$70.5M for GO Grants, the state's need-based aid program; and increased funding for TOPS to include HB325 (Brass), passed during the Session, and to reflect the increase in students receiving TOPS Excellence awards.

During the presentation, Regent Pryor questioned institutional criticism of the formula. Finance Chair David replied that the development of the formula was a collaborative effort across all systems but also recognizes that the formula remains underfunded, which can result in institutions questioning the metrics. Chair Mark Romero of the University of Louisiana System (ULS) further elaborated, stating that UL system supports the work of the Board of Regents and views ULS and BOR as having a strong, collaborative relationship. Regent Hixson stated that the formula will never be perfect, but that the focus must not just be on the dollar but providing students with valuable degrees. Regent Aubrey seconded the comments, stating that the formula

is not perfect, but it is better than previous iterations and that higher education must present a united front at the Capitol.

With the State General Fund increases in HB1, the FY27 operating budget distribution by system, including all means of finance (State General Fund, Interagency Transfers, Self-Generated Revenue, Statutory Dedications, and Federal), was presented as follows:

HB 1 Enrolled - General Appropriations Funding for Fiscal Year 2027						
Means of Finance	BOR	LSU	SUS	ULS	LCTCS	TOTAL
State General Fund	\$ 351,242,099	\$ 499,649,265	\$ 68,732,042	\$ 303,469,123	\$ 164,472,814	\$ 1,387,565,343
Interagency Transfers	\$ 14,256,109	\$ 8,485,184	\$ 4,476,791	\$ 259,923	\$ -	\$ 27,478,007
Self-Generated Revenue	\$ 16,050,299	\$ 890,696,001	\$ 116,289,046	\$ 705,227,599	\$ 179,747,107	\$ 1,908,010,052
Statutory Dedications	\$ 208,933,512	\$ 33,250,546	\$ 4,671,737	\$ 20,248,029	\$ 23,435,318	\$ 290,539,142
Federal	\$ 34,232,149	\$ 14,018,275	\$ 3,654,209	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,904,633
Total	\$ 624,714,168	\$ 1,446,099,271	\$ 197,823,825	\$ 1,029,204,674	\$ 367,655,239	\$ 3,665,497,177

On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the funding distribution recommendations for Higher Education for FY 2026–2026.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE STUDY RESOLUTIONS WITH FISCAL OVERSIGHT

Ms. Bentley-Smith discussed actions taken during the 2026 Regular Legislative Session with significant fiscal implications for higher education. She presented the two bills and two resolutions that require various degrees of fiscal oversight by postsecondary institutions. House Bill 1084 (Rep. Turner) authorizes each public higher education institution to increase tuition, and fee amounts by no more than 10% annually, for all programs that grant any credential of value without approval of their respective system management boards. Act 772/SB 484 (Sen. Abraham) requires the Board of Regents to develop a comprehensive framework “that provides for the systematic and ongoing evaluation of fiscal health, operational efficiency, and institutional effectiveness” inclusive of a uniform fiscal policy, fiscal early warning system, and corresponding corrective action plan as needed.

Ms. Bentley-Smith further presented two resolutions, HR 168 (Rep. Young) and SR 172 (Sen. Reese). HR 168 requires the Board of Regents to conduct a comprehensive study on collegiate athletic funding across the state, focusing on areas such as current athletic funding structures, fiscal impacts of revenue-sharing on operational budgets, costs related to name, image, and likeness, and regulatory oversight and the impact of collegiate athletics on local and regional economic development. SR 172 will evaluate both the funding structure of higher education in the state and the formula metrics that allocate funding to public two- and four-year institutions. Regent Pryor asked how the Task Force members will be chosen; Ms. Bentley-

Smith responded that Legislative leadership will select those members. This presentation was for informational purposes only and required no action.

LEGISLATIVE

2026 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Regent Mire recognized Regents' staff for their work during the 2026 Legislative Session. Commissioner Reed reflected on the session's challenges and achievements, thanking Regents' staff and partners for their efforts throughout the legislative process.

Ms. Brianna Golden updated the Board on the following legislative actions:

Legislative Studies

- SR 172 – Higher Education Funding and Funding Formula (Sen. Reese)
- HR 168 – Athletic Funding Study (Rep. Young)
- HR 17 – TOPS Study Resolution (Rep. Turner)
- HB 1058 – TOPS Data (Rep. Bamberg)
- HR 171 – MJ Foster and TOPS Tech Study (Rep. Turner)
- HR 144 – Carbon Capture Study (Rep. Owen)
- SR 176 – Digital Identification Verification (Sen. Mizell)

Bills Requiring Policy Changes

- SB 484 – Fiscal Health (Sen. Abraham)
- HB 636 – Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Act (Rep. LaFleur)
- HB 738 – Standard of Evidence (Rep. McMakin)
- HB 649 – Dual Enrollment Access (Rep. Brass)
- SB 347– Power-Based Violence (Sen. Barrow)
- SB 304 – Accreditation (Sen. Edmonds)
- HB 513 – Name, Image, and Likeness (Rep. Young)
- HB 42 – Phased Retirement (Rep. Bacala)

Regents Implementation / Involvement

- HB 749 – College Savings Security (Rep. Carver/Sen. Foil)
- SB 305 – Career Alignment (Sen. Edmonds/Rep. Freiberg)
- SB 399 – Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council (Sen. Bass)

Financial Aid / Affordability

- HB 325 – TOPS Tech Eligibility (Rep. Brass)
- HB 407 – MJ Foster Promise Award (Rep. Larvadain)

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Chris Herring, Associate Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Emergency Management, reported on the Consent Agenda's Small Capital and Third-Party Projects report, containing the projects approved by staff since the previous meeting:

A. Small Capital Projects

1. **LSU A&M: Bernie Moore Stadium Outdoor Track Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$360,000
2. **LSU A&M: Intellectual Data Management Water Tank Research Project, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, United States Office of Naval Research Grant \$350,000
3. **LSU A&M: Life Sciences Building Energy Efficiency Lighting Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Louisiana Public Service Commission Grant \$850,000
4. **LSU A&M: Louisiana Transportation Research Center LED Lighting Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Funds \$270,000
5. **LSU A&M: Tiger Park HVAC Modifications, Baton Rouge, LA** – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues \$330,000

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

HOUSE BILL 2 UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided the Board with an update on the final posture of House Bill 2 (HB 2), the state's capital outlay bill, upon completion of the 2026 Regular Session, noting the bill was awaiting the Governor's signature. He highlighted the 47 projects funded for public postsecondary education institutions and LUMCON, totaling approximately \$287M in new fiscal year 2026–27 state funding, as well as the four projects funded outside of higher education that

benefit public institutions, then discussed the \$19M in new deferred maintenance funding. This item was for informational purposes only. No action was required.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Herring updated the Committee on legislation passed during the 2026 Regular Session impacting capital planning. Specifically, he discussed Act 260, Act 772, and House Bill 755, describing the impact on improving small project execution in the future.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED INITIATIVES

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRHOLDERS WITHOUT NATIONAL SEARCH: PENNINGTON BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER AND LSU HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER – NEW ORLEANS

Ms. Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Research and Sponsored Initiatives, noted that Pennington Biomedical Research Center and LSUHSC–New Orleans have requested to appoint holders to BoRSF-matched Endowed Chairs without conducting a national search. In accordance with the Endowed Chairs program policy, these appointments are submitted to the Board for approval.

Pennington Biomedical Research Center requested to appoint Dr. Corby K. Martin, Associate Executive Director of Scientific Education, to the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA) Endowed Chair in Nutrition, a \$1 million Chair matched by the BoRSF in 2015–16.

LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans requested to appoint Stephen C. Hernandez, MD, Associate Professor and Residency Director in the Department of Rhinology, Head & Neck Oncology & Skull Base Surgery, to the Daniel W. Nuss MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery, a \$1.2 million Chair matched by the BoRSF in 2022–23.

Ms. Robison noted that both proposed appointments met the criteria set forth in policy related to filling a chair without a national search.

On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Finley, the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve two requests to waive the national search requirement:

- **Pennington Biomedical Research Center: Appoint Dr. Corby K. Martin to the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority (LPFA) Endowed Chair in Nutrition; and**
- **LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans: Appoint Stephen C. Hernandez, MD, to the Daniel W. Nuss MD Chair in Skull Base Surgery.**

As stipulated in Board policy, copies of the Letters of Appointment sent to Dr. Martin and Dr. Hernandez must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of this approval.

OTHER BUSINESS: UPDATE ON BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND

Ms. Robison indicated that Constitutional Amendment 3, which proposed the liquidation of the Kevin P. Reilly, Sr. Louisiana Education Quality Trust Fund and its subfunds, including the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF), was not ratified by the May 16 vote. As a result, the BoRSF will operate all programs and subprograms included in the FY 2026–27 Plan and Budget included in House Bill 1 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session. The traditional competitive processes will be utilized to develop funding recommendations for the Regents, with requests for proposals for the FY27 cycle to be released in early July. She added that staff plans to convene stakeholders, including members of the Board, advisory bodies, systems, and institutions, to undertake a full consideration of BoRSF program offerings and propose any changes that will meet the Fund’s constitutionally mandated goals and ensure highest and best use of the limited dollars available.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. TOPS EXCEPTIONS

Robyn Lively, Senior Attorney for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), notified the Committee that Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules

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

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

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Courtney Britton presented the Consent Agenda. The first item consisted of two initial applications and six license renewal applications from academic degree-granting institutions. She noted that all application materials had been reviewed by staff and applicants are institutions accredited by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accreditor. Institutions submitting renewal applications had previously been approved as licensed institutions by the Board of Regents.

The next item on the Consent Agenda was recommendations from the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools. The Commission recommended approval of two Associate of Occupational Studies degrees, three initial license applications and 43 license renewal applications.

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

- A. R.S. 17:1808 - Academic Licensure
 - 1. Initial Applications
 - a. Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ
 - b. Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
 - 2. Renewal Applications
 - a. Concordia University Irvine – Irvine, CA
 - b. Fielding Graduate University – Santa Barbara, CA
 - c. Herzing University – New Orleans, LA
 - d. Infinity College – Lafayette, LA
 - e. University of Southern California – Los Angeles, CA
 - f. University of the Pacific – Stockton, CA
- B. Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools
 - 1. Associate of Occupational Studies Degrees
 - a. Blue Cliff College Metairie – License #2361
 - AOS in Clinical and Administrative Medical Assisting
 - AOS in Health Information Management, Billing and Coding
 - 2. Initial License Applications
 - a. Stepful, Detroit, MI
 - b. RX Tech School, Shreveport, LA
 - c. MedEra Technical Institute, Hammond, LA
 - 3. Renewal Applications
 - a. ABCDL Truck Driving Academy - License #2373 - Hammond, LA
 - b. Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy - License #2191 - Cedar Park, TX
 - c. Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting - License #2083 - Baton Rouge, LA
 - d. Beso Beauty - License #2264 - Metairie, LA
 - e. Carter's Career Center - License #2286 - Monroe, LA
 - f. CDL Mentors - Lake Charles - License #2299 - Lake Charles, LA
 - g. Coastal College - Hammond - License #791 - New Orleans, LA
 - h. Coastal College - Lafayette - License #1002 - New Orleans, LA
 - i. Coastal College - Monroe - License #957 - New Orleans, LA
 - j. Coastal Truck Driving School of Lake Charles - License #2372 - New Orleans, LA
 - k. Community Helpers Early Learning Professionals - License #2399 - Lake Charles, LA
 - l. Delta College - West - License #2400 - Baton Rouge, LA
 - m. Delta College of Arts & Technology - Lafayette Branch - License #2075 - Baton Rouge, LA
 - n. Dental Assisting Solutions - License #2402 - Shreveport, LA
 - o. Elise Phlebotomy Training Center - License #2317 - Harvey, LA
 - p. Feliciana Medical Training Academy - License #2378 - Jackson, LA
 - q. Goodwill Technical College - License #2210 - New Orleans, LA
 - r. Hospitality Opportunity and Service Training (HOST) - License #2312 - Baton Rouge, LA
 - s. ITI Technical College - License #2007 - Baton Rouge, LA

- t. Lake Charles Dental Assistant School - License #2401 - Cedar Park, TX
- u. Lenora School of Phlebotomy - License #911 - Slidell, LA
- v. LifeShare Phlebotomy School - License #2313 - Shreveport, LA
- w. Louisiana Culinary Institute - License #2045 - Baton Rouge, LA
- x. Louisiana Dental Assistant School - License #2073 - Zachary, LA
- y. Louisiana Dental Institute - License #2287 - Monroe, LA
- z. Next Level Educational Services - License #2331 - LaPlace, LA
- aa. Phlebotomy Training Specialists - License #2383 - Baton Rouge, LA
- bb. Phlebotomy Training Specialists - New Orleans - License #2397 - New Orleans, LA
- cc. Premier Diagnostic Institute - License #2382 - Thibodaux, LA
- dd. River Parishes Institute - License #2351 - Gonzales, LA
- ee. Rosebud Training Academy - License #2369 - Baker, LA
- ff. Royal Angels Anointed Hands - License #2380 - Greenburg, LA
- gg. Saint Christopher College - License #2269 - Carencro, LA
- hh. Sovereign College - License #2316 - Lafayette, LA
- ii. St. Agatha Career Schools - License #2352 - New Orleans, LA
- jj. The H.E.A.R.T. Academy - License #2348 - Baton Rouge, LA
- kk. Trinity Bay Vocational Institute, Inc. - License #2379 - St. James, LA
- ll. Tulsa Welding School - Jacksonville Campus - License #2123 - Jacksonville, FL
- mm. Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center - License #2212 - Houston, TX
- nn. United Dental Institute - Baton Rouge - License #2328 - Baton Rouge, LA
- oo. United Dental Institute - Lafayette - License #2329 - Lafayette, LA
- pp. United Dental Institute - New Orleans - License #2330 - New Orleans, LA
- qq. VitaPath Healthcare Academy - License #2350 - Lafayette, LA

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Following roll call, Dr. Denley proceeded with the Consent Agenda, which included routine staff approvals and the termination of one program.

Chair Sterling asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Denley presented five new academic program proposals for Committee consideration. He began with proposals from Nunez Community College to establish Associate of Applied Science degrees in Construction Management and Construction Technology.

The presentation was temporarily paused upon the arrival of LSU System President Wade Rouse, at which time Dr. Denley yielded the floor.

UNO TRANSITION UPDATE

President Rouse provided an update on the University of New Orleans' transition to the LSU System. He discussed the university's financial position, including efforts to address outstanding payables, strengthen financial controls, and improve long-term operational sustainability.

President Rouse outlined initiatives to align academic offerings with workforce needs by phasing out or restructuring programs with limited demand and focusing resources on high-impact programs. He noted that nine academic programs had either been discontinued through teach-out plans or were undergoing substantial revision.

President Rouse discussed efforts to reduce the university's physical footprint to lower operating costs and address deferred maintenance obligations. In addition, he highlighted initiatives to generate alternative revenue streams, including leasing campus space to a local high school.

He highlighted several strategic leadership appointments made with support from LSU System leadership, including key positions in finance, athletics, advancement, public safety, and academic administration. He also discussed ongoing efforts to increase enrollment, with a goal of reaching 6,000 students for the fall semester through coordinated enrollment management initiatives across the LSU System.

Following the presentation, Chair Sterling opened the floor for questions and comments. Regent David inquired about the branding strategy for LSU New Orleans and the value of leveraging the New Orleans identity in the institution's marketing efforts.

In response, President Rouse highlighted the role of higher education in supporting workforce development and economic growth in Louisiana. He emphasized the importance of expanding educational attainment and workforce participation to maximize the benefits of ongoing capital investment in the state. President Rouse noted LSU New Orleans' role in

providing accessible educational pathways, as well as marketing initiatives utilizing the LSU brand and efforts to strengthen transfer pathways within the LSU System.

Regent Hixson commended President Rousse for his transparency and leadership throughout the transition process, acknowledging both the challenges faced and the progress achieved to date.

Regent Aubrey referenced the Board of Regents' Meauxmentum Master Plan and the importance of aligning academic programs with workforce needs. He also raised concerns regarding graduate retention and asked how LSU New Orleans plans to encourage graduates to remain and work in Louisiana following completion of their degrees.

President Rousse responded that increasing educational attainment and workforce participation is essential to supporting long-term economic growth and expanding employment opportunities within the state. He noted that continued economic development and job creation are key factors in retaining graduates and strengthening Louisiana's workforce.

Regent Mire inquired about LSU New Orleans' engagement with the local business community and asked President Rousse to discuss the institution's outreach efforts and partnerships with regional stakeholders.

President Rousse noted that transition planning efforts included community listening sessions conducted throughout the New Orleans area. He explained that the immediate focus of his administration had been operational stabilization and fiscal management. President Rousse shared plans to establish a search committee comprised of community and philanthropic leaders to assist in the selection of a permanent chancellor, emphasizing the institution's continued commitment to community engagement and collaboration.

Following additional comments from Committee members, Chair Sterling thanked President Rousse for his presentation and update. Commissioner Reed thanked President Rousse for his collaborative leadership and acknowledged the strong partnership demonstrated throughout the transition process. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the LSU New Orleans staff members in attendance for their contributions and continued commitment during the transition process.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Chair Sterling then returned to the Academic Programs agenda item, and Dr. Denley resumed his presentation of the proposed programs. He presented River Parishes Community

College's proposal to establish an Associate of Science in Nursing degree to address regional workforce needs.

Dr. Denley then introduced Southern University's proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and invited Dr. Lealon Martin, Dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering, and industry representatives to provide additional information regarding the program and its workforce relevance.

Dean Martin provided an overview of Southern University A&M's mission and its commitment to expanding educational opportunities for its student population. He discussed the proposed Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering program, emphasizing its potential to strengthen the university's engineering offerings, support workforce needs, and increase opportunities for students pursuing careers in high-demand industries.

Mr. Jake Polanski, Executive Director of Workforce Intelligence at Louisiana Works, presented labor market data demonstrating strong demand for engineers across Louisiana. He highlighted projected growth in chemical engineering occupations within the Greater Baton Rouge region and noted the area's significance as a center for the state's chemical and industrial sectors. Mr. Polanski stated that the proposed program would help address workforce needs and strengthen the pipeline of engineering talent in Louisiana.

Several industry representatives, alumni, business leaders, and students provided public comments in support of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering program. Speakers highlighted the program's potential to address workforce needs, expand educational opportunities, strengthen industry partnerships, and support economic development in Louisiana. Industry representatives discussed commitments to curriculum development, internships, mentorship opportunities, and other collaborative efforts to support student success and workforce readiness. A current Southern University student also expressed support for the program, highlighting its potential impact on future students and the state's workforce.

Dr. Denley concluded the Academic Programs agenda item with the presentation of the University of Louisiana at Monroe's proposal to establish a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management. He noted that the program would be offered fully online in an accelerated eight-week format designed to serve working professionals and expand access to students throughout Louisiana and beyond.

Prior to the vote, Board Chair Misti Cordell asked Regent David to serve on the Committee to ensure a quorum. Regent David accepted the appointment.

Regent Sterling asked for a motion to approve the proposed Academic Programs.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Reeves, the motion was approved unanimously.

LOUISIANA CYBERSECURITY TALENT INITIATIVE FUND UPDATE

Dr. Denley presented an update on the Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund, providing information on the annual \$1 million allocation and the distribution recommended by the Cybersecurity Education Management Council.

Regent Sterling asked for a motion to approve the fund distribution.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Reeves, the motion was approved unanimously.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She thanked the Board for their continued support.
- She congratulated the nearly 35,000 Louisiana students who received a degree or another credential from an institution of higher learning in Louisiana during the spring 2026 commencements. She mentioned that she had delivered the keynote address at the University of Holy Cross in New Orleans.
- She welcomed and recognized Lianne Montelibano as the Board of Regents Governor's Fellow for the summer of 2026. Ms. Montelibano is a recent McNeese Student Government Association president and a 2026 graduate of McNeese. She is a biology major aspiring to become an attorney.
- She congratulated Dr. Chris Yandle, who was named a Finalist for the National Association of Government Communicators award. Under his leadership, the Board has won 40 state, regional, and national awards. Dr. Yandle is also an adjunct professor at LSU A&M.
- She concluded by thanking members of the Legislature who were authors or handlers during the 2026 Regular Legislative Session, supporting the higher education package of bills connected to the Board's work.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cordell reminded members that the Board will not meet in July. The next meeting will be held August 26, 2026. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Regent Temple, seconded by Regent Sterling, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

NAME	AFFILIATION
Kristin Bourque	EisnerAmper
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Margaret Finch	LSU A&M
William Tulak	LCTC
Brian Roberts	LUMCON/BoR
Taylor Brown	CF Industries
Felicia Graves	Shell Chemical
Jennifer M. Lear	LED-FastStart
Thomas Soltau	Sugarfield Spirits
Adam Beary	Bear Process Safety
Shannon Williamson	Nunez
Kayla Robinson	Shell
Bryan Singleton	Solstice
David Sampson	Shell
Milan Whitmore	Shell
Alasiah Floyd	Shell
Shauane Keller	Shell
Morris Jones	Shell
Anderson Dotson III	Shell
Marcell Walsh	Shell
Marvin Harrison	Shell
Kia Gram	Shell
Melissa Dotson	Shell
Chris Martin	Dow Chemical
Cindy Long	Shell
Kayura Jones	Shell
H. Wayne Jerro	Southern University, Professor and Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Gretchen Schmidt	RPCC
Regina Davis	ExxonMobil
Reggie Abraham	ExxonMobil
Luria Young	SUBR