



# Notice of Meetings

## Louisiana Board of Regents

P.O. 3677 • Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677  
Phone: (225)-342-4253 • Fax: (225)-342-9318  
[www.laregents.edu](http://www.laregents.edu)

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

Event	Time	Location
Board Development	9:30 AM	Iowa Room
<b>Committee Meetings**</b>		
Finance Audit Legislative Facilities and Properties Academic and Student Affairs Research and Sponsored Programs Statewide Programs Planning, Research, and Performance	10:30 AM	Louisiana Purchase Room 1-110 Claiborne Building, 1st Floor 1201 N. Third St. Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Board of Regents Meeting**	1:45 PM	Louisiana Purchase Room 1-110 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](mailto: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](http://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, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
10:30 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 January 28, 2025
- V. Meauxmentum Moment – Corequisite English
- VI. 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
- VII. Chair's Comments
- VIII. Reports and Recommendations by the Commissioner of Higher Education
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment

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

DRAFT  
MINUTES  
BOARD OF REGENTS

January 28, 2025

The Board of Regents met as a Committee of the Whole at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, in the Louisiana Purchase Room 1–110, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Misti Cordell called the meeting to order and welcomed three new members to their first meeting.

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, Secretary  
David Aubrey  
Blake David  
Ted Glaser III  
Dallas Hixson  
Darren Mire  
Kennedy Orr, Student Member  
Wilbert Pryor  
Christy Reeves  
K. Samer Shamieh  
Collis Temple III  
Judy Williams-Brown

Mgmt. Board representatives present were:

LSU System representative, Remy Starns  
LCTCS representative, Stevie Smith

Mgt. Board representatives not present were:

Southern System  
UL System

Absent from the meeting were:

Christian Creed  
Stephanie Finley

Appendix A  
Guest List

## OATHS OF OFFICE

### **Board Officers (Vice Chair and Secretary)**

The newly appointed officers for 2025 were sworn in by Dr. Uma Subramanian, General Counsel. She administered the oaths of office to Regent Terrie Sterling as Vice Chair and Regent Phillip May as Secretary.

### **Members to Serve on the Executive Committee**

The members of the 2025 Executive Committee, including Regents David, Temple, and Williams-Brown were sworn in by Dr. Subramanian.

### **Reappointed Members**

Two reappointed members were sworn in by Dr. Subramanian. She administered the oaths of office to Regents Aubrey and Mire.

### **New Members**

Three newly appointed Board of Regents members – Ted Glaser III, Dallas Hixson, and Christy Reeves – were sworn in by Dr. Subramanian. Chair Cordell welcomed the new members and noted that each new member brings unique skills and experience to the Board—Glaser in agriculture, Hixson in business, and Reeves in healthcare.

## RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – 2025

**On motion of Regent Sterling, seconded by Regent May, the Board, acting as a Committee of the Whole, voted unanimously to approve the 2025 committee assignments.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2024, meeting.**

## AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

Chair Cordell asked Dr. Subramanian to review proposed changes to bylaws governing the Nominating Committee. At the December 2024 Board meeting, a proposal was presented to address the issue of many off-cycle appointments to fill vacancies, recommending that the full Board, rather than the Nominating Committee, make recommendations for appointments to the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission. The proposal was approved unanimously.

**On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendment to the Board Policies and Procedures BPP 4.1 to streamline the process of appointments to the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission.**

## MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT – META PROJECT

Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, introduced Devin Harrison, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Executive Director, to provide an update about the Meta project to establish a state-of-the art data center in Richland Parish. The center, for which ground was broken in December 2024, is slated to begin operations in 2027. It represents a \$10B investment for which Entergy has served as a collaborative and responsive working partner. The project will create 500 new direct jobs, 1,000 indirect jobs, and 5,000 construction jobs in areas ranging from carpentry to engineering. Meta will begin hiring permanent positions in 2027. Turner, DPR Construction, and M.A. Mortenson will build the facility. Information fairs to identify trade contractors will begin in the first quarter of this year. This project will present a need for Louisiana's higher education institutions to fulfill the educational requirements for staffing a project of this magnitude.

Regent Pryor thanked Mr. Harrison for attending the meeting and noted that this will be transformational for the northern part of the state. Regent Pryor also thanked Regent May for his input on the project through his current role at Entergy.

Regent Reeves asked if the Board has identified gaps in certificate or degree offerings which could impact the region's ability to produce workforce for such a large project. While Mr. Harrison said LED has not studied this, Commissioner Reed said the Board staff is evaluating any gaps and how to address them.

Chair Cordell added that at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in December, the Governor mentioned that the facility's physical plant will be the size of 70 football fields. Chair Cordell also asked Regent May to add any comments. He mentioned that the Meta data center is coming to Louisiana because of partnerships established beginning in 2024 and that this great accomplishment has put Louisiana on the map for other ventures in the future. It is changing the narrative about Louisiana.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **AUDIT**

#### EISNERAMPER INTERNAL AUDIT

Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, introduced Kristin Bourque of EisnerAmper to present a status update on the current internal audit of the LUMCON Vessel Daily Rate, which was completed on January 15, 2025. As of this report, EisnerAmper has obtained and reviewed policies and procedures, relevant vessel operations reports, and external review results, as well as conducted onsite interviews and walkthroughs with employees and management. Next steps in this process include completing testing procedures, drafting a report, holding a meeting with management to finalize the report, and presenting the report to the Audit Committee at the next Board meeting.

In addition, Ms. Bourque reviewed a proposed change to the audit plan, postponing the reorganization of the audit function to allow time for onboarding of new members and to substitute an assessment of the Human Resources area, to include processes of all programs.

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Williams-Brown, the Board voted unanimously to approve the EisnerAmper Updated Internal Audit Plan for FY 2024–2025.**

## **FINANCE**

### **FIVE-YEAR FUNDING FORMULA APPROVAL**

Ms. Bentley-Smith and Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, presented a proposed update to the funding formula, which aligns with the Board’s Master Plan goal, for Louisiana’s public higher education institutions.

Ms. Bentley-Smith reviewed the challenges in developing the formula since, at present, higher education is estimated to be underfunded by \$750M. While institutions have different missions, the outcome of student and institutional success is the same. The formula will work to protect institutions against drastic and rapid changes in funding levels. The workgroup focused on 1) aligning formula with workforce needs, 2) aiding all students across the state, 3) recognizing and rewarding all institutions, and 4) having the formula driven by clear and concise data. Developing the formula was a collaborative process involving representatives from the four higher education systems across the state. Feedback drove the development of the formula, which is workforce-centric, incentivizes students who complete two- and four-year programs, and is driven by the profiles of the institutions. The proposed formula model is composed of base (65%) and outcomes (35%) portions, with the cost category in the current formula transitioned to both base and outcomes categories.

Dr. Denley added that this approach is not just a reworking of the old formula but a complete overhaul. The proposed formula ensures that institutions are supported and rewarded for graduating students. Metrics that support student success along their educational journey are built into the formula. This is accomplished by making the proposed formula much simpler than those used in the past. Part of

this simplification is having the money follow the student. The proposed formula rewards 100% online students only if they are in-state and rewards four-year institutions for bachelor's and higher degrees and two-year institutions for associate's degrees and credentials. Research has a fixed allocation in the formula. For the first time, validated skills and credentials will be recognized.

Supervisor Stevie Smith, the LCTCS representative in attendance, asked for clarification of the graphic showing cost distributions, specifically where programs like HVAC programs and those training linemen fit in the formula. Dr. Denley responded that programs such as the ones cited by Mr. Smith are now included in the formula. LCTCS will report how long it takes students to obtain credentials, and those weighted credentials will be factored with that time as part of the consideration.

Mr. Smith noted that many of LCTCS's programs are short-term, with some lasting only a matter of weeks. He asked how allocations are determined between four-year and two-year institutions. Dr. Denley said part of the allocation is based on FTE, with 25% to two-year programs and 75% to 4-year institutions. Chair Cordell added that 50% of citizens in Louisiana have only a high school diploma.

Regent Aubrey asked for verification that the proposed formula would not be run unless the Board has the funding. Ms. Bentley-Smith confirmed this. Commissioner Reed added that the formula would be run when the Board gets new money and, at this point, funding is at a standstill though cuts are not anticipated. Regent Aubrey asked what determines new money. Commissioner Reed answered and explained when the formula is ran during the Legislative process.

Regent Aubrey asked if research would be figured using the current formula if no new money is given. He suggested that the Board have this conversation in June or July, during discussions about research funding. Ms. Bentley-Smith responded that this is typically discussed at the June meeting. Regent Aubrey agreed with Mr. Smith about fairness in funding for short-term programs but urged that the Board not forget about Louisiana's four-year institutions. Dr. Denley reminded the Board of the policy adopted last year to ensure that all institutions are included in the funding, in addition to grants and other means of support that are available.

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Aubrey, the Board voted to approve the five-year funding formula. Representative Starns voted not to approve.**

## HR 169 TASK FORCE REPORT

Ms. Bentley-Smith presented a report about the task force mandated by HR 169 to study various aspects of optional retirement plans (ORP) within the state's Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) that will help institutions compete with other states to develop and retain faculty and staff talent. Ms. Bentley-Smith reviewed the final recommendations, which included: 1) provide ORP eligibility to certain employees within LCTCS, 2) increase the irrevocable decision timeframe to seven years, 3) provide ORP membership participation on the TRSL Board, 4) increase employer contributions to ORP accounts while requiring unfunded accrued liability (UAL) savings be retained in higher education to offset costs, 5) request legislative study of phased retirement program, and 6) revise TRSL membership for new hires allowing those over 60 or those 55 and older with 40 quarters to opt for Social Security.

**On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the House Resolution 169 Task Force Report as submitted.**

## **FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES**

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

### **Small Capital Projects**

1. LSU A&M: East Campus Apartments Boiler Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Auxiliary Revenues, \$197,000
2. LSU A&M: Howe-Russell Suites W0151 and W0153, Baton Rouge, LA – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds, \$180,000
3. LSU A&M: Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) Building Interior Painting, Baton Rouge, LA – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds, \$200,000

4. LSU A&M: School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Large Animal Hospital Floor Refinishing, Baton Rouge, LA – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Operational Funds, \$200,000
5. LSU A&M: School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Main Building Energy Efficiency Lighting Replacement, Baton Rouge, LA – Louisiana State University and A&M College, Energy Efficiency grant from the Louisiana Public Service Commission, \$700,000

**On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Mire, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, including the small capital projects report, as presented.**

#### **Additions to Board of Regents FY 2025–2026 Capital Outlay Budget**

Mr. Herring mentioned that in October 2024, when these three additions to the FY 2025-2026 Capital Outlay budget were first discussed, they were assumed to be fully funded and did not need to be included in that budget; however, since that time, bids have come in higher. These projects include a central steam generator at Louisiana Tech, the Athletic Academic Center at Louisiana Tech, and a new annex adjacent to the Southern University Law Center.

Regent Aubrey asked how Louisiana Tech’s purchasing of energy from the city rather than producing it through self-generation will impact its budget. Mr. Herring responded that the institution will save money.

**On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Temple, the Board voted unanimously to approve the addition of three projects to the Board of Regents’ FY 2025–2026 Capital Outlay Budget Recommendation as presented.**

### **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Tristan Denley presented the Consent Agenda, consisting of four proposed new academic programs, three of which represent an effort to expand health-related programs across the state.

- a. **Routine Staff Approvals**
  1. **Fletcher TCC – AAS Radiologic Technology**
  2. **SOWELA – AAS Respiratory Care**
  3. **Northshore TCC – AAS Patient Navigator**
  4. **Southern University A&M – BA Digital Media Arts**

Regent Aubrey recognized representatives from Fletcher and Northshore in attendance at the meeting.

**On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Sterling, the Board voted unanimously to approve the four academic programs as presented.**

#### NCI DESIGNATION UPDATE AND NEW RESEARCH CENTER

Dr. Denley introduced Dr. Lucio Miele, Director of the LSU-LCMC Health Cancer Center, who provided an update on achieving National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation for the LSU Center for Comparative Oncology. Dr. Miele emphasized the need for such a center in Louisiana, providing data points reflecting Louisiana's high cancer mortality rate, disparities in care, estimated cancer deaths, and prevalence of distinct types of cancer. LSU has established a partnership with LCMC Health in seeking the NCI designation from the National Institutes of Health. LCMC Health is assisting with multiple clinical recruitments: chief oncologist, thoracic surgeon, director of cancer genetics, neuro-oncologist, and HIV malignancies expert. Dr. Miele further discussed the pathway to NCI designation. Some required basic metrics include the following: 1) \$10M in peer-reviewed funding (50% or more from NCI), 2) funds from R01 or equivalent grants, 3) regional and national scientific impact, 4) inter- and intra-programmatic collaboration, 5) clinical trial oversight and accruals, and 5) shared resources. A successful NCI-designated cancer center has six essential characteristics: 1) physical space, 2) organizational capabilities, 3) transdisciplinary collaboration and coordination, 4) cancer focus, 5) institutional commitment, and 6) a center director. There are currently recruitment efforts underway for many positions. In addition, collaborative work includes Pennington Biomedical Research Center, the Global Viral Oncology Research Program, and the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. Other resources are the Louisiana Tumor Registry, Gulf South Minority NCORP, LSU AgCenter Center, and the LSU Health New Orleans School of Nursing. The project will also deploy AI resources to identify and improve areas of cancer study. Clinical trials are already underway. Funding is being sought in various arenas including a grant submitted to the AI Copeland Foundation recently announced by Senator Bill Cassidy.

Regent Shamieh asked about the timeline for receiving the NCI designation and what happens following the award. Dr. Miele responded that the initial \$10M needs to be doubled, but when the designation is awarded, the center becomes eligible to support certain cancer research projects and can expand to become a magnet for cancer patients seeking treatment and for further research. This in turn has the potential to attract even more money.

Regent Sterling asked if there was a timeline for the project. Dr. Miele responded that the current timeline is approximately five years but will depend on numerous variables.

Commissioner Reed thanked Dr. Miele for his presentation and asked him to describe how the quest for the NCI designation will better results for cancer patients and their families. Dr. Miele responded that one component is prevention, to ensure fewer people are diagnosed with advanced forms of cancer, which this project can help to accomplish.

Dr. Denley then presented the proposal requesting approval to establish the Center for Comparative Oncology (CCO) at Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU). He ended the presentation by reiterating that the LSU Veterinary School and the LSU Health Sciences Centers will work together on this NCI designation.

**On motion of Regent Hixson, seconded by Regent Glaser, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Center for Comparative Oncology at LSU research as presented.**

Dr. Denley added that programs are providing reports so that they can be assessed and decisions can be made, with some of those findings to be presented to the Board in March.

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success, presented the Consent Agenda, which included two initial applications for licensure of academic degree-granting institutions:

- a. Herzing University – Madison, Wisconsin

b. Lake Erie College – Painesville, Ohio

Regent Sterling asked if the Board requires schools to disclose their local facility for their surgical technician programs. Dr. Craig responded that while each school is asked to provide a list of information, that question was not listed. She noted, however, that students in the surgical tech program are required to do a clinical and when the school has an agreement for the practicum it will dictate which facility would be used.

**On motion of Regent May, seconded by Regent Hixson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.**

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dr. Craig reported on the work of a task force mandated by House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 in 2021 relevant to teacher recruitment, recovery, and retention. In 2023, the work of the task force was extended by two years. Over the past few years, Louisiana has seen increased recruitment of and access to training for aspiring teachers. Currently, 1,724 high school students are in pre-educator pathways earning dual enrollment credits while still in high school. There has been an increase of 843 certified teachers in the last year. In addition, retention has increased through efforts to boost teacher pay, reciprocity in recognition of credits, and support for the Registered Apprenticeship Program, which gives students the opportunity to serve as residents in a classroom for a full year under the counsel of mentor teachers. The paraprofessional-to-certified-teacher program has enabled over 500 enrollees to work while earning their teacher credentials and a four-year degree. In 2023, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) reported a shift in the trend of fewer completers of Louisiana teacher preparation programs, with 1,554 completers in 2021–2022 increasing to 1,776 in 2022–2023. LDOE’s report that certified teachers represent 88% of those teaching in 2024 can be attributed in part to the following programs: 1) Para-to-Teacher Model, 2) the Pre-Educator Pathway, 3) Aspiring Principal Fellowships, 4) Recruitment and Retention Fellowships, and 5) Praxis vouchers for certified teachers instructing outside of their field to gain additional certification. Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley, moreover, credits the Let Teachers Teach initiative instituted this year for assuring teachers have adequate preparation time by

transitioning mandated training to a cyclical model, increasing flexibility in curriculum use, providing additional teacher compensation, continuing the New Teacher Experience, and providing upbeat principal coaching.

Dr. Craig confirmed that this report will be presented to the House Committee on Education on February 12.

Regent Hixson recounted the story of a paraprofessional in his district availing herself of the Para-to-Teacher program to earn a degree and certification to become a certified teacher and the importance of this program.

Regent Sterling asked whether there is a source to tell us where in the state most students entering teacher preparation programs are coming from. She also expressed concern about the decline in students entering teacher preparation classes from 2012 to today, despite the recent increase. Dr. Craig replied that some of the attrition can be attributed to a national decline in students choosing the teaching profession, issues with respect for the profession, lower salaries, and changes in licensure exams. She noted that the Department of Education's marketing campaign and the elimination of one Praxis exam for some candidates have helped and indicated she would provide further information.

Regent Aubrey expressed an interest in this information as well, mentioning that Louisiana Delta Community College had its first class complete a teacher preparation program. With many uncertified teachers in rural areas of the state, there is still a need for recruitment. Regent Glaser expressed the same concerns about his district and asked whether a teacher teaching out of their field would be considered certified or uncertified. Dr. Craig said that while certification numbers vary by parish, the situation described by Regent Glaser would be recorded as out of field.

Regent Aubrey inquired about money the Board could secure to help parishes in need. Regent Cordell noted a teacher preparation program at Grambling that focuses on Black male students going into the classroom and urged Board members to visit the Call Me Mister program.

**On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent May, the Board voted unanimously to receive the 2024 Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force Report and authorize Regents staff to submit this report to the House and Senate Committees on Education.**

## CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell made the following comments:

- She mentioned time spent with student government leaders in Washington, D.C. and recognized Harold Boutte for his time and effort organizing and coordinating the event. The 2025 trip marked the 23<sup>rd</sup> time that he has been involved in this annual trip for SGA leaders.
- She asked Kennedy Orr, student member, to present her Student Board Member report. Regent Orr reported that students are happy to be back for the spring semester. She also enjoyed the Washington, D.C. trip, though it was delayed by winter weather here in Louisiana. The events afforded all SGA leaders opportunities to interact with House and Senate leaders. She announced an SGA meeting in Alexandria next month, where she will discuss the new funding formula and field questions about federal funds and the impact of possible changes on students in Louisiana.
- She thanked Oschner and Christy Reeves for their contributions to the Washington, D.C. trip.
- She once again welcomed the three new Board members and noted that the appointment of Christy Oliver Reeves marks the first time a father-daughter duo has served on the Board in its 51-year history. Regent Reeves's father Oliver Reeves served from 2002–2004.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

- She also welcomed the three new Board members and noted how proud she is of Regent Orr's accomplishments.
- She had the opportunity to visit with student leaders during the Washington, D.C. trip.
- She mentioned Ms. Frances Shaw as an example of the dedication of teachers. She said that Ms. Shaw, who came out of retirement at the age of 80 to teach chemistry when there was a need in her district, will be featured in a national story by David Begnaud. Ms. Shaw will be invited to speak to the Future Teachers Honor Roll this year.
- She recognized the communication teams for meeting with all system communication teams throughout the state to coordinate Regents' campaign focusing on workforce and talent development. All systems are focused on messaging the work being done and how it contributes to the future of the workforce.
- She thanked Senator Cassidy and Congressman Fields, who announced last week that National Science Foundation had awarded \$8M to the Board of Regents to work with partners on STEM research, coordination, and outreach across the state.
- She mentioned that she will be serving as a panelist at SXSW EDU 2025 in Austin, TX in March.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. She noted that there is no meeting in February.

### ADJOURNMENT

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

## Appendix A

### Board Meeting Guest List

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

NAME	AFFILIATION
Robert René	Southern University System
Paula Hellums	SOWELA Technical Community College
Kristine Stout	SOWELA Technical Community College
Jessica Lemoine	LCTCS
Joe Marin	LCTCS
Joe R. Salter	UL System Supervisor
Cynthia Bryant	Southern University
Harry E. Anderson	Southern University
Darrell Roberson	Southern University
Brian Roberts	BOR/LUMCON
Christi Marceaux	Northshore Technical Community College
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Remy Starns	LSU A&M
Jimmy Sautelle	CLTCC
Jimmy Genovese	Northwestern State University
Greg Handel	Northwestern State University
Jeannine O'Rourke	UL System
Kristin Bourque	EisnerAmper
Danielle Vauclin	Fletcher
Lindsay Henderson	Fletcher
Lucio Miele	LSUHSC-NO
Bonnie Hymel	Pennington Biomedical
Roderick Hampton	Town of Haynesville
Daniel Roberts	Northshore Technical Community College



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

## Finance

Wednesday, March 26, 2025  
10:30 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. Transfer of the University of New Orleans from the University of Louisiana System to the Louisiana State University System
- IV. Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Executive Budget Overview
- V. Review and Approval of the FY 2025–26 Preliminary Funding Recommendation
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

Committee Members: Blake R. David, Chair; Darren G. Mire, Vice Chair; Christian C. Reed; 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**

#### **Transfer of the University of New Orleans from the University of Louisiana System to the Louisiana State University System**

Chair Cordell received a letter from Louisiana's Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, requesting the study of a proposed transfer of the University of New Orleans (UNO) from the University of Louisiana System (ULS) to the Louisiana State University System (LSUS).

Under Article VIII, Section 5 of the Louisiana Constitution, the Board of Regents (BOR) must study the proposed transfer of an institution from one system to another before the Legislature may enact any legislation to accomplish such a transfer. For BOR to fulfill its constitutional mandate and prepare the required study on this matter, BOR staff requested from the UL system information and data on a variety of fiscal, facilities, and academic topics relevant to UNO including, but not limited to, enrollment, completer trends, demographics, income statements, actual and budgeted expenses and revenues, and deferred maintenance and capital outlay projections. The full report is forthcoming.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends approval of the study and its recommendations as it pertains to the transfer of the University of New Orleans from the University of Louisiana System to the Louisiana State University System.**

### **AGENDA ITEM IV. FY 2025-2026 Executive Budget Overview**

The FY 2025–2026 Executive Budget was presented to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB) on February 20, 2025, as a standstill budget and included a total recommended State General Fund (SGF) decrease for higher education of \$42.3M. The decrease includes one-time (non-recurring) State General Fund allocations **(\$40.5M)**, Mandated Costs reductions of \$4.4M because of retirement cost savings, and a decrease to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) due to participation declines **(\$4.4M)**. The decreases are offset by increases of \$6.1M for LSU First benefits program and \$2.3M for the Patriots Scholars program.

The \$42.3M decrease includes the following:

- **(\$40.5M)** – Legislative line items that were non-recurred
- **(\$4.4M)** – Mandated Costs decrease
- **(\$4.4M)** – Reduction to TOPS due to decreased student participation
- \$6.1M – Increased funds for LSU First
- \$2.3M – Increased funds for Patriots Scholars program

### **AGENDA ITEM V. Review and Approval of the FY 2025–2026 Preliminary Funding Recommendation**

Annually, no later than March 31, the Board of Regents is required to submit to the Senate Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Appropriations any formula created and adopted by the Board for funding institutions of postsecondary education in the ensuing year. The formula submission is based on funds recommended for higher education in the Governor's Executive Budget.

The Division of Administration, on behalf of the Governor, presented a standstill budget for the FY26 Executive Budget with State General Fund decreases of **\$42.3M** to colleges, universities, specialized institutions, and boards, including the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) and the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON). The **\$42.3M** decrease includes a **\$40.5M** decrease for non-recurring legislative line-items, **\$4.4M** for Mandated Costs savings, a \$6.1M increase for LSU First benefits program, and \$2.3M for the Patriots Scholars Program.

This preliminary submission is based on a standstill budget for all of higher education distributing adjustments as noted above to the respective agency/institution. In the event funding levels change as the appropriations bill moves through the process, a new allocation will be submitted to the Legislature aligned with the latest version of the appropriations bill.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends approval of the preliminary funding distribution in accordance with the formula methodology to be shared with the legislature as required by statute. The Board will continue advocating for increased funding during the legislative process.**

**J. CAMERON HENRY, JR.**  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



**PHILLIP R. DEVILLIER**  
SPEAKER OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

Ms. Misti Cordell  
Chair, Board of Regents  
1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Ms. Cordell,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the President of the Louisiana Senate and the Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, we are writing to request that the Board of Regents conduct a study regarding the potential transfer of the University of New Orleans (UNO) from the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System to the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU).


The proposed transfer of UNO is a matter of significant importance for the future of higher education in our state. Given the substantial implications of such a transition, we ask that the Board of Regents provide a thorough analysis of the potential impacts, including financial, academic, and operational considerations, as well as any other relevant factors that could influence the effectiveness and success of this potential change.

As you are aware, the Louisiana Constitution mandates that, "If the . . . transfer of an existing institution of higher education from one board to another is proposed, the Board of Regents shall report its written findings and recommendations to the legislature within one year." Only after receiving the report or after one year from the receipt of the request, may the legislature take affirmative action on such a proposal, and this may only occur by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house.

In accordance with this constitutional requirement and the exigency of circumstances, we respectfully request that the Board of Regents initiate the study and prepare the necessary report on the proposed transfer of UNO. We look forward to receiving your findings as soon as possible.

Please feel free to contact our offices if there are any questions or if we can provide any additional information to assist in this important process.

Sincerely,

  
J. Cameron Henry, Jr.  
President, Louisiana Senate

  
Phillip R. DeVillier  
Speaker, Louisiana House of Representatives



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*

February 19, 2025

University of Louisiana System  
1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-300  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Chairman Romero,

I am writing to request your assistance in facilitating the exchange of information concerning the University of New Orleans (UNO) from the University of Louisiana System (ULS) to the Board of Regents (BOR). BOR has received the attached letter from the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, requesting the study of a proposed transfer of UNO from ULS to the Louisiana State University System (LSUS).

Under Article VIII, Section 5 of the Louisiana Constitution, if the legislature wishes to enact legislation in 2025 to accomplish the transfer, BOR must first study the proposed transfer of an institution from one system to another. In order for BOR to fulfill its constitutional mandate and prepare the required study on this matter, BOR staff need current information and data on a variety of topics relevant to UNO. Given the timeline of the 2025 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the requested response has considerable urgency.

BOR requests ULS provide the following information on or before February 28, 2025. ULS should, if possible, send the portions of requested information as and when they are available and compiled.

- Details of any recent academic restructuring;
- Faculty and staff census information, 2004-2025;
  - Disaggregate by tenured/untentured, staff and administrators
- Information related to current institutional and programmatic accreditation including:
  - Current accreditation status, including any probationary situations
  - Timeline for next reaccreditation
  - Current responses to SACSCOC standards 6.1, 13.1-13.8
- Financial and Legal Disclosures, Fiscal Years 2004-2025 when available, including:
  - Cash Flow and Income Statements inclusive of Operating, Auxiliary, Athletics, Endowment, and Foundation Expenses/Revenues
  - Audited Financial Statements as reflected in SACSCOC standards 13.2(a)
  - Debt obligations inclusive of Bond Succession Costs, Annual Debt Service Payments, and any Existing Contracts

- Annual Financial Reports as provided to the Office of Statewide Reporting and Accounting Policy (OSRAP)
- Annual Budget Projections in accordance with SACSCOC 13.1(c) and BOR-1 guidelines inclusive of Operating, Auxiliary, Athletics, Endowment, and Foundation accounts
  - Provide information related to any donor/endowment obligations, foundation and federal grant obligations, and cooperative endeavor agreements.
  - Note the amount allocated to the University of Louisiana System in the operating budget
- Outstanding Insurance Obligations
- Pending Litigation or Other Legal Disputes
- Deferred Maintenance and Capital Outlay projections
  - Provide an analysis of Buildings and Property use
  - Include the square footage of each building and the campus in its entirety
- A List of Acquisitions, including but not limited to: Equipment (Software, Vehicles, etc.), Patents, University/Faculty Papers, Art, and Technology.
- Please note that any audits completed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor will also be reviewed.

We appreciate your assistance in gathering this information. If you have questions about the requested materials, please contact Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration ([elizabeth.bentley-smith@laregents.edu](mailto:elizabeth.bentley-smith@laregents.edu)).

Sincerely,



Misti S. Cordell, Chair  
Louisiana Board of Regents

cc: Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D., Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents  
Richard "Rick" Gallot, Jr., President, University of Louisiana System



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 Audit

Wednesday, March 26, 2025  
10:55 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. LUMCON Vessel Daily Rate
    - ii. Board of Regents Agency Human Resources
- IV. Other Business
- V. 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



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 Legislative

Wednesday, March 26, 2025  
11:05 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. Legislative Study Reports Update
  - A. SR 138 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session: Louisiana Higher Education Financial Aid Report
- IV. 2025 Legislative Priorities
- V. Other Business
- VI. 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; Kennedy Orr (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**

**Agenda Item III.**

**Legislative Study Reports Update**

An update on all Board of Regents Legislative Study Reports will be presented for informational purposes only. Regents has completed and submitted all 15 annual legislative reports in addition to five one-time legislative reports. A full presentation on several reports will be provided during the April 2025 Board Meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM III.A.**

**Louisiana Higher Education Financial Aid Report:  
Response to SR 138 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session**

**Background Information**

Senate Resolution 138 of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session requested that the Board of Regents (Regents) conduct a study relative to the functioning of the state's higher education financial aid programs and submit a report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education Committee.

This study seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the programs identified for review—TOPS, M.J. Foster Promise, GO Grant, Geaux Teach, and the Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program.

**Staff Summary**

Five years ago, the Louisiana Board of Regents adopted *Louisiana Prospers*, its Master Plan for Higher Education, setting an audacious goal to support economic growth and improve the quality of life in our state by increasing educational attainment among Louisiana's working-age population (ages 25–64) to 60% by 2030. Regents' pursuit of the *Louisiana Prospers* goal has resulted in Louisiana's educational attainment level for 25–64-year-olds breaking 50% for the first time and reaching its current all-time high of 51% in 2024. There is still significant work left to accomplish.

In Academic Year (AY) 2024, Louisiana's largest state-supported financial aid programs helped almost 100,000 students, but significantly more students in the state could benefit from college-going assistance programs. As such, a comprehensive and effective suite of state financial aid programs is critical to meeting the state's attainment goal.

The report provides an evaluation of state-supported financial assistance programs, with the goal of ensuring that they work together effectively to benefit the students and, ultimately, the whole state as we focus on improving the education and employment of Louisiana citizens. Staff will provide an

overview of the financial aid program characteristics, including program eligibility criteria, students served and program impact. The recommendations put forth in this report, which staff will discuss, are designed to improve alignment across aid programs, strengthen workforce program eligibility, strengthen the purchasing power of TOPS, and, ultimately, increase the attainment of Louisiana's talent base as our state works to retain our best and brightest.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends the Board accept the “Louisiana Higher Education Financial Aid Report” requested by the Legislature.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV.**

##### **2025 Legislative Priorities**

#### **Staff Summary**

A list of proposed priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session will be shared for Board discussion. Staff will discuss the Regents' legislative package and other bills of interest to higher education. In addition, it is necessary for the Commissioner of Higher Education and Chair of the Board to have authority to take action relative to bills that impact Regents' 2025 Legislative agenda both during Session preparation, as bills are drafted and content is discussed during meetings with legislators and staff, and throughout the Legislative Session, which is scheduled to begin April 14, 2025.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends granting the Commissioner and Board Chair authority to finalize the 2025 Legislative agenda and act on legislation, as needed, with an update to the Board at the April 2025 meeting.**



# Board of Regents Annual Legislative Reports

REPORT	REPORT DATE/ACT
 <b>POSTSECONDARY INCLUSIVE EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT</b>	 <b>JANUARY 15</b>  <b>ACT 682</b> (2022 Regular Session)
 <b>LASTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT</b>	 <b>JANUARY 30</b>  <b>ACT 392</b> (2017 Regular Session)
 <b>MASTER PLAN ANNUAL REPORT</b>	 <b>JANUARY 31</b>  <b>ACT 400</b> (2018 Regular Session)
 <b>TEACHER RECRUITMENT, RECOVERY, AND RETENTION TASK FORCE REPORT</b>	 <b>FEBRUARY 1</b>  <b>HR 39</b> (2021 Regular Session)
 <b>HEALTH WORKS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT</b>	 <b>FEBRUARY 1</b>  <b>ACT 534</b> (2021 Regular Session)
 <b>NURSING SUPPLY AND DEMAND COUNCIL REPORT</b>	 <b>FEBRUARY 1</b>  <b>17:2048.51</b> (2008 Regular Session)
 <b>POWER-BASED VIOLENCE REPORT</b>	 <b>FEBRUARY 28</b>  <b>ACT 472</b> (2021 Regular Session)
 <b>DUAL ENROLLMENT TASK FORCE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	 <b>60 DAYS BEFORE START OF SESSION</b>  <b>ACT 147</b> (2021 Regular Session)

## REPORT

## REPORT DATE/ACT



### HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT



**60 DAYS BEFORE  
START OF SESSION**



**ACT 417**  
(2021 Regular Session)



### STATEWIDE ARTICULATION AND TRANSFER REPORT



**SEPTEMBER 30**



**ACT 623**  
(2012 Regular Session)



### GOVERNOR'S MILITARY AND VETERAN FRIENDLY CAMPUS PROGRAM STATUS REPORT



**FALL SEMESTER**



**ACT 232**  
(2015 Regular Session)



### M.J. FOSTER PROMISE PROGRAM REPORT



**NO LATER THAN  
DECEMBER 1**



**ACT 457**  
(2021 Regular Session)



### TOPS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM REPORT



**NO LATER THAN  
DECEMBER 1**



**ACT 1202**  
(2001 Regular Session)



### CYBERSECURITY TALENT INITIATIVE FUND REPORT



**ANNUALLY**  
(NO DATE SPECIFIED)



**ACT 57**  
(2020 Regular Session)



### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS OUTCOMES STATUS REPORT



**ANNUALLY**  
(NO DATE SPECIFIED)



**SCR 37**  
(2023 Regular Session)



**SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW  
ANNUAL REPORTS AND STUDIES**



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

## Facilities and Property

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

11:45 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. Small Capital Projects Report
    - 1. LSU AG: Sugar Mill Modification and Repairs
    - 2. LSU A&M: East Campus Apartments Waterproofing
    - 3. LSU A&M: Innovation Park Building 3000 First Floor Renovations
    - 4. LSU A&M: Student Union Air Handler Units 2.4 and 2.5 Replacement
    - 5. LSU-S: Boat Garage
    - 6. PBRC: Installation of New Tunnel Washer, Dump Station, and Bedding Dispenser
    - 7. SOWELA-Lamar Salter: CDL Training Pad
- IV. Lease Approval: LSUA Multi-Family Housing
- V. Land Acquisition: LSU HSCNO CEA
- 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**

#### **A. Small Capital Projects Report**

In accordance with the Board of Regents' Facilities Policy, small capital project proposals are reviewed by staff, approved where appropriate, and thereafter reported at the next meeting of the Facilities and Property Committee. Pursuant to R.S. 39:128, Board of Regents (BOR) staff may internally approve small capital projects ranging from \$175,000 to \$1,000,000 and report these approvals to the Board during a subsequent meeting.

All projects were approved by their respective systems or management boards and submitted for consideration. Staff approved the following small capital projects since the previous report:

##### **1. Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU AG): Sugar Mill Modification and Repairs – St. Gabriel, LA**

The LSU AG Center's Audubon Sugar Institute has a four-roller milling tandem that was obtained through a 2012 federal grant to produce juice for the manufacture of biofuels. The equipment was originally designed to accommodate many different feedstocks. Since the completion of the grant, the equipment was modified to perform better with sugarcane billets, but additional modifications are required. This project will make enhancements to the milling tandem's capacity for processing and discharging materials as well as modifications to the instrumentation. **The total project cost of \$275,000 will be funded with an appropriation the LSU AG Center received during the 2024 Regular Legislative Session for research equipment modernization.**

##### **2. Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU): East Campus Apartments Waterproofing – Baton Rouge, LA**

Water intrusion has been found in buildings located within LSU's East Campus Apartments due to deterioration of the current window glazing. This project will mitigate the issue related for seven buildings within the complex. The project scope involves the removal, disposal, and replacement of the window sealant for buildings eight through fourteen. **The total project cost of \$175,255 will be funded with auxiliary revenues.**

##### **3. Louisiana State University and A&M College: Innovation Park Building 3000 First Floor Renovations – Baton Rouge, LA**

The first floor within LSU's Innovation Park Building 3000 is in disrepair and requires renovation to optimally facilitate operations. The project scope includes selective demolition, environmental abatement, installation of new finishes, new integrated assembly systems, interior glass walls, folding partitions, LED lighting, HVAC, power distribution, data pathways, and cabling. **The project renovates approximately 3,145 square feet (SF) of space at a cost of \$249.28/SF, for a total project cost of \$784,000. The project will be funded with self-**

generated revenues derived from lease and service revenues generated by the Innovation Park.

**4. Louisiana State University and A&M College: Student Union Air Handler Units (AHU) 2.4 and 2.5 Replacements –Baton Rouge, LA**

AHUs numbered 2.4 and 2.5 within LSU's Student Union are near the end of their useful life. This project will replace the existing 38,700 cubic feet per minute (CFM) AHU and 21,250 CFM AHU serving the large ballroom. The project scope involves installation of new AHUs, variable frequency drives, and controls. The existing duct work, piping, electrical, and supports will also be modified as required to connect the new units. **The total project cost of \$800,000 will be funded with auxiliary revenues.**

**5. Louisiana State University – Shreveport (LSUS): Boat Garage – Shreveport, LA**

This project will provide a shed for shelter and storage for the LSUS fishing team. The project scope involves design of the shed, including the foundation, structural, and necessary electrical followed by construction of the building. **The total project cost of \$275,000 will be funded with a combination of foundation funding (\$50,000) and tuition and fee revenues (\$225,000).**

**6. Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC): Installation of New Tunnel Washer, Dump Station, and Bedding Dispenser – Baton Rouge, LA**

PBRC's existing tunnel washer is fifteen years old and requires constant maintenance. The existing unit is no longer manufactured so it is now more cost-effective to purchase new equipment. The project scope includes the purchase and installation of a new tunnel washer, dump station, and bedding dispenser for the Comparative Biology area of the facility. **The total project cost of \$400,000 will be funded with operational funds.**

**7. SOWELA Technical Community College (SOWELA): Lamar Salter Campus Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training Pad – Leesville, LA**

SOWELA's Lamar Salter campus currently does not have a location onsite for students to train for CDL licensure, and a pad will have to be built for the institution's CDL program to begin. This project will install a seven-inch thick, 5,000 PSI concrete training pad. **The project creates approximately 10,838 SF of pad space at a cost of \$21.22/SF, for a total project cost of \$230,000. The project will be funded through a Rapid Response grant provided by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Senior Staff recommends approval of the consent agenda, including the small capital projects report, as presented.

## **AGENDA ITEM IV.**

### **Lease Approval: Louisiana State University – Alexandria (LSUA) Multi-Family Housing**

The LSU Board of Supervisors, on behalf of LSUA, submitted a lease agreement for the purpose of constructing and operating multi-family housing on the site of the current LSUA golf course. This project is a hybrid housing model and will be considered private housing rather than LSUA housing; the housing will simply be located on the LSUA campus. While the units will be open to tenants with no connection to LSUA, priorities and incentives will be offered to LSUA students, faculty, and staff. The primary purpose of the project is to spur development and increase the amenities available near LSUA which will improve the institution's recruitment and retention of high-quality students, faculty, and staff.

The ground lease agreement establishes a long-term arrangement between LSUA and Durand Construction, LLC for a period of fifty years, with an option to renew for a second term of forty-nine years, for 11.5 acres located on the north edge of LSUA's campus near Highway 3170 (currently the LSUA golf course). The agreement requires Durand Construction to commence substantial construction within twelve months of the agreement's effective date. Design and project plans must receive prior approval from LSUA to ensure compliance with university standards, local laws, and regulations. Durand Construction is obligated to maintain the premises and refresh or renovate the property significantly by the fortieth year of the lease. Due to the responsibility imposed upon Durand Construction for maintenance and upkeep of the housing over the lease term, LSUA requests a waiver from the maintenance reserve fund typically required on traditional third-party housing projects. All improvements made to the premises will revert to LSUA upon the expiration or termination of the lease.

The new housing will consist of approximately 176 two-bedroom units, and through the lease agreement, Durand Construction is required to provide favorable treatment, which may include reduced rental rates or priority leasing, to LSUA students, faculty, and staff. While the project will benefit the LSUA community, the broader community will also benefit from the development and increased commercial opportunities the housing seeks to create in the area.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends approval of the lease agreement submitted by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Louisiana State University - Alexandria, for the purpose of construction and operation of multi-family housing on the current golf course location and a waiver of the maintenance reserve requirement.**

## AGENDA ITEM V.

### **Land Acquisition: Louisiana State Health Sciences Center New Orleans (LSU HSCNO) Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA)**

The LSU Board of Supervisors, on behalf of LSU HSCNO, submitted a CEA for approval authorizing LSU HSCNO to acquire seven property parcels (the “Property”) from the LSU Health Foundation (LSUHF). Several years ago, at the request of LSU HSCNO, LSUHF acquired the Property within the block in New Orleans bounded by Tulane Avenue, Claiborne Avenue, Poydras Street, and Galvez Avenue. The Property is located immediately adjacent to the LSU HSCNO campus and is suitable for the future expansion needs of the campus or property development that would further the university’s mission.

LSUHF acquired the Property with commercial real estate loans obtained from private financial institutions, on which loans LSUHF has made regular payments since acquisition. LSUHF also incurred closing costs, legal fees, and other expenses related to acquiring and maintaining the Property (“Property Acquisition Costs”). Subsequent to acquisition of the Property, LSU HSCNO and LSUHF determined that LSUHF will direct its primary focus to fundraising for the benefit of LSU HSCNO. The continued debt service and operational expenses associated with the Property require LSUHF to divert resources that would be better used for development efforts. Since the Property was originally acquired for the benefit of LSU HSCNO, both entities desire for the institution to purchase the parcels from the foundation.

LSUHF obtained an appraisal of the Property in January 2025, showing that the current fair market value of the Property is less than the Property Acquisition Costs. LSU and the foundation agree that the benefits LSU HSCNO will receive from purchasing the Property for the Property Acquisition Costs, thus freeing up the resources of LSUHF to focus fully on development efforts for the benefit of LSU HSCNO, will be greater than the difference between the current fair market value of the Property and the Property Acquisition Costs.

**The Property Acquisition Costs for the Property total \$5,147,007, and LSU HSCNO intends to use surplus funds within its current budget for the purchase.** The appraisal expressed a fair market value of the Property of \$3.035M, a difference of \$2,112,007. LSU and LSUHF believe, and expect, that the development efforts which can and will be undertaken once the foundation is no longer burdened with the debt service and other costs associated with the Property, will be more than the difference between the appraised fair market value and the Property Acquisition Costs. For context, the excess payment is substantially less than the approximately \$8M-\$10M per year of expenditures made by LSUHF for the benefit of LSU HSCNO. In FY23, LSUHF provided \$8,435,149 in direct and in-kind support to the institution and \$10,880,900 in FY24.

LSU anticipates the benefits of purchasing the Property to be threefold:

- Provide much-needed room for the potential growth of the LSU HSCNO campus.
- Allow LSU to control the Property for future development by LSU.
- Allow LSUHF to expand its fundraising capabilities, thus increasing private funding in support of LSU HSCNO, with the use of LSUHF funds it receives for the purchase

price and the freeing up of LSUHF funds used to service the debt incurred for the acquisition of the Property..

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends approval of the cooperative endeavor agreement submitted by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors, on behalf of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans, for the purpose of acquiring seven property parcels immediately adjacent to campus.**



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

## Academic and Student Affairs

Wednesday, March 26, 2025  
1:00 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. Routine Staff Approvals
  - B. Program Reconfiguration
- IV. Academic Programs
  - A. AAS Cybersecurity and Information Assurance – Nunez Community College
  - B. BS Disaster Management – University of Louisiana Monroe
  - C. BS Fire and Emergency Services Administration – Louisiana State University and A&M College
  - D. MS Cognitive Science – Louisiana Tech University
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: Terri P. Sterling, Chair; David Aubrey, Vice Chair; Christian C. Reed; Ted H. Glaser; Darren G. Mire; Samer Shamieh; 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 Alexandria	<p>Request to make multiple adjustments to the organizational structure of academic units at the institution. These changes will include college and department changes and the movement of degree programs where applicable. The following changes will have no significant fiscal impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change the College of Natural Science and Mathematics to the College of Science, Technology, and Mathematics</li><li>• Change the Department of English and Humanities to the Department of English, History, and Humanities</li><li>• Change the Department of Communication, Languages, and Arts to the Department of Communication and Arts</li><li>• Eliminate the Department of History, Political Science, and Disaster Science and change the name of the Department of Criminal Justice to the Department of Criminal Justice and Civic Sciences</li></ul> <p><b>Approved.</b></p>
LSU A&M	<p>Request to establish a Post-baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in Civil Engineering (CIP 14.0801). <b>Approved.</b></p>
McNeese	<p>Request to establish a Post-baccalaureate Certificate (PBC) in Early Childhood Education Grades PK-3 (CIP 13.1210). <b>Approved.</b></p>
Southeastern	<p>Request to change the name of the BS in Health Systems Management to Health Systems Administration to better align with the programs' content and to make the program more recognizable to prospective students. <b>Approved.</b></p>
UL Lafayette	<p>Request to offer the BA in Sociology (CIP 45.1101) 100% online. <b>Approved.</b></p>

## **AGENDA ITEM III.B.**

### **Proposed Academic Program Reconfiguration Convert the PhD Marriage & Family Therapy into the PhD in Marriage & Family Therapy and PhD in Family Systems University of Louisiana at Monroe**

#### **Background Information**

The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) has requested Board of Regents' approval to reconfigure the existing PhD in Marriage & Family Therapy (MFT) into the PhD in Marriage & Family Therapy (CIP 51.1505) and the PhD in Family Systems (CIP 19.0704). Systemic Studies is currently a successful concentration within the MFT PhD. The University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors approved ULM's proposal to split the PhD in MFT into the PhD in MFT and the PhD in Family Systems and submitted the request to Regents for consideration. Implementing the reconfiguration requires no programmatic changes or additional resources.

#### **Staff Summary**

Both MFT and Systemic Studies are grounded in system theory, a way of thinking that helps counselors understand how people's actions and relationships affect each other and the world around them. However, the two programs are distinct in terms of domains of application. The principal distinction between the two is that graduates with a PhD in MFT often pursue careers as clinical therapists specializing in couples and family therapy, while those with a PhD in Family Systems might work in research roles, academia, policy development, or community programs focusing on family issues. The current Family Systems concentration is solely theoretical and, unlike the PhD in MFT, has no clinical component. Converting the concentration to a standalone PhD in Family Systems will clearly differentiate one graduate from the other and remove confusion for employers regarding whether a graduate is clinically trained. The proposed reconfiguration of the program will require no additional courses, faculty, facilities, or other resources. The systemic studies concentration produced 66% of the PhD program's graduates in the past six years (28 of 42) and currently 61% of the total enrollment of students in the MFT PhD for spring 2025 are in that concentration (27 of 44). Both programs will continue to operate in the School of Allied Health within the ULM College of Health Sciences and will require no change in administrative structure or staffing.

#### **Staff Analysis**

The proposed separation of the two distinct programs is necessary to accurately reflect the difference between the related fields and to provide a more accurate degree title for recruitment and for graduates in the job market. The reconfiguration requires no change in curriculum, faculty, or administration and will require no additional resources. MFT and Family Systems are distinct fields and each program at ULM currently has enough graduates to thrive separately.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends approval of the proposed reconfiguration of the PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy into the PhD in Marriage & Family Therapy (CIP 51.1505) and the PhD in Family Systems (CIP 19.0704) at the University of Louisiana at Monroe with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution's 2025 Academic Plan.**

## AGENDA ITEM IV.A.

### Proposed Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity & Information Assurance Nunez Community College

#### **Background Information**

Nunez Community College (Nunez) requests Board of Regents' approval to offer an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance. The proposal was approved by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) Board of Supervisors and then submitted to Regents for consideration. The proposal was then favorably reviewed by Chief Academic Officers statewide and was included in the institution's 2024–2025 Academic Plan.

#### **Staff Summary**

The proposed AAS in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance will prepare workforce-ready professionals for roles in IT security, network defense, and risk management. The program will focus on protecting systems, networks, and data from cyber threats while ensuring compliance with industry standards. The curriculum contains additional stackable credentials that students will obtain while completing the associate degree: a Certificate of Technical Studies (CTS) in Information Systems Security Professional and Career and Technical Certificate (CTC) in Network Security. Students will also earn several CompTIA industry-based certifications that are embedded in the core courses in the curriculum. Nunez will also be seeking membership in the Louisiana Cyber Academy Consortium. Support from the Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund will be used to launch the proposed program. The Louisiana Legislature established this special fund within the state treasury in 2020 for the purpose of funding degree and certificate programs in cybersecurity fields.

#### **1. Value:**

- a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** The demand for cybersecurity professionals is increasing both locally and nationally. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in information security were expected to grow by 37% from 2012 to 2022, a rate much faster than the average for other occupations. The information in the chart below is specific to parishes located in Louisiana Regional Labor Market Area (RLMA) 1, where Nunez is located. This includes St. Bernard and surrounding parishes.

Occupation	LWC Star Rating <sup>1</sup>	Current Jobs <sup>2</sup>	Projected Jobs 2034 <sup>2</sup>	% Change <sup>2</sup>	Average Salary <sup>2</sup>
Computer Network Support Specialist	5-star	214	235	10%	\$63,595
Information Security Analyst	5-star	181	228	26%	\$110, 635
Computer Systems Analyst	5-star	711	764	7%	\$87,509

<sup>1</sup>Source – LWC

<sup>2</sup>Source – Lightcast

- b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** The program's curriculum was developed with input from industry stakeholders confirming its alignment with industry needs. The Nunez Cybersecurity Advisory Board will ensure that the program's curriculum remains relevant and current in the continuously evolving landscape of information technology. Employers including the Port of New Orleans, the St. Bernard Port, and GNO, Inc. have pledged their support of the proposed AAS program.
- c. **Same or Similar In-State Programs:** Currently, no college in the Nunez service area, nor in the New

Orleans metropolitan area, offers an associate-level degree in Cybersecurity. Delgado Community College and Northshore Technical Community College both offer certificates in related areas. Nunez plans to establish a transfer agreement with Southern University at New Orleans, which offers a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity.

- d. **Student Enrollment and Completion:** The program will be promoted to students through recruitment efforts at high schools, through the institution's Dual Enrollment program, and at on-campus events for local high school students and transfer students. Additionally, several students currently enrolled in Nunez's existing Certificates of Technical Studies (CTS) in Information Systems Security Professional and in Network Security have expressed interest in a degree that increases employment options or provides an opportunity to transition to a four-year institution.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	18	36	46	57
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	13	18	25

2. **Resources:** Implementing this program will not result in any immediate increase in indirect costs. Existing faculty will support startup of the program. A portion of the scholarship funding secured via the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund is dedicated to supporting students from underrepresented groups and special populations, particularly minorities.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
<b>Faculty</b>	Existing faculty will be sufficient to support the program.	No new faculty needed.	\$0
<b>Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, &amp; Technology)</b>	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	No additional facilities needed.	\$0
<b>Student Support</b>	Existing resources will support the needs of the program.	No additional resources projected.	\$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:** Courses will be offered in-person, online, and in a hybrid format. Depending on student demand, night and weekend classes can also be made available to accommodate working students.
- **Affordability:** The program will use Open Educational Resources (OERs) when available. Additionally, the college bookstore participates in the Follett Access program to reduce the cost of textbooks and course supplies. Students can submit documentation of previous work or prior learning experiences, including credit-by-exam, IBC, military service credit, and professional portfolio review.
- **Partnerships:** Nunez plans to seek recognition as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C). One criterion to successfully achieve the NCAE-C designation is to establish partnerships with industry and academic institutions. Nunez plans to expand and strengthen already established partnerships through their advisory board membership. Nunez also plans to join the Louisiana Cyber Academy Consortium.
- **Work-based Learning:** Nunez has established training and collaboration partnerships with industries in the service area, including Associated Terminals, Venture Global LNG, and the Port of New Orleans, that will provide workforce training and internship opportunities.

- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations:** Using grant support from the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund, Nunez will provide scholarship funding for 15 economically disadvantaged students at \$1,000 per semester for four semesters.

### **Staff Analysis**

Nunez Community College's proposed AAS in Information Assurance and Cybersecurity will support Louisiana's efforts to grow and sustain a robust cyber workforce. The program will prepare graduates to function as entry-level network security specialists while providing opportunities to obtain valuable Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) along the way. The support from the Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund and the Louisiana Cyber Academy will assist the institution in meeting educational needs and workforce demand, ensuring a steady supply of skilled cybersecurity professionals for the state.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Associate of Applied Science in Information Assurance & Cybersecurity (CIP 11.1001) at Nunez 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 Disaster Management University of Louisiana Monroe

#### **Background Information**

University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) requests Board of Regents approval to offer a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Disaster Management. 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 was included in the institution's 2024–2025 Academic Plan.

#### **Staff Summary**

The proposed BS in Disaster Management will be a specialized undergraduate program designed to address the need for trained professionals in disaster preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery. The program combines scientific knowledge, practical skills, and interdisciplinary approaches to equip graduates with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience necessary to effectively manage disasters and enhance community resilience. Embedded within the curriculum are National Incident Management System (NIMS) and FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certifications to ensure graduates receive industry-relevant training.

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 data in the chart below reflects information at the statewide level.

Occupation	LWC Star Rating <sup>1</sup>	Current Jobs <sup>2</sup>	Projected Jobs 2034 <sup>2</sup>	% Change <sup>2</sup>	Average Salary <sup>2</sup>
Compliance Officer	4-star	3,978	4,180	5%	\$67,516
Emergency Management Director	4-star	134	139	4%	\$94,390
Occupational Health and Safety Specialist	4-star	1,843	2,123	15%	\$84,864

<sup>1</sup>Source – LWC

<sup>2</sup>Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. **Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs:** The proposed BS in Disaster Management was developed in response to demand from alumni, community members, and local representatives. The interdisciplinary curriculum integrates disaster management with fields such as criminal justice, geoscience, and risk management. An advisory committee, established in Spring of 2023, comprised of a diverse group of faculty and industry representatives, helped develop the curriculum, ensuring it addresses workforce needs and positions students for roles in disaster readiness, response, and recovery.
- c. **Same or Similar In-State Programs:** Although Louisiana State University A&M is proposing a new BS in Fire and Emergency Management Administration, the proposed program would be the first bachelor's level degree program in the state specializing in disaster management. Currently, Northwestern State University offers a MS in Homeland Security, the University of New Orleans offers a Graduate Certificate in Disaster Management and Community Resilience, and Delgado Community College was recently approved to offer an Associate of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

- d. **Student Enrollment and Completion:** ULM's new partnership with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, Mississippi has created interest in the program from students, faculty, and the Army Corp of Engineers.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	10	19	30	42
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	0	0	3

2. **Resources:** One new faculty member will be required to teach the new core courses and serve as program coordinator. As enrollment grows, adjunct faculty will be hired if necessary. The faculty line associated with the hire of a new faculty member is being funded through a reallocated faculty line. A decline in enrollment in accounting allows the reallocation of this line without negative impact to the accounting program. The proposed program's indirect costs will be absorbed by the university's existing budget, with no significant strain on services like career resources or library support.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
<b>Faculty</b>	Existing faculty will support the proposed program.	One new faculty member will be hired to serve as program coordinator.	Yr. 1+: \$100,000
<b>Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, &amp; Technology)</b>	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	Minimal costs will be incurred for equipment, travel, and software needs.	Yr. 1+: \$4000
<b>Student Support</b>	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:** Courses in the proposed program will be offered during the day and evenings, to provide flexible scheduling options for students who work.
- **Affordability:** Students can earn credit through CLEP exams, faculty-developed exams, and prior learning evaluations, with flexibility for applying previous college credit. The proposed program will use Open Educational Resources (OER), when available, and ULM's Warhawk Bundle program to significantly reduce textbook costs. Warhawk Bundle is a course materials fulfillment program that lowers the cost of course materials and ensures that undergraduate students have their required course materials on the first day of class.
- **Partnerships:** The proposed program will partner with state and local governments, the Red Cross, United Way, National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), Louisiana Emergency Management Association (LEPA), and FEMA. These collaborations will provide students with practical case materials and real-world experience in disaster management.
- **Work-based Learning:** Faculty in the proposed program have engaged with several local agencies to promote the program and encourage work-based learning opportunities. Examples include FEMA (Region 6), Biomedical Research Innovation Park in Monroe, and the ERDC in Vicksburg, Mississippi.
- **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. The program will provide advising and tutoring services to address individual learning challenges and ensure students are aware of financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

### **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. Embedded within the curriculum are NIMS and FEMA certifications to ensure graduates receive industry-relevant training. The proposed degree program is a timely and necessary program that will contribute to building a more prepared and resilient workforce.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Disaster Management (CIP 43.0302) at University of Louisiana at Monroe, 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 Fire and Emergency Services Administration 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 Fire and Emergency Management Administration. 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.

#### **Staff Summary**

Fire science plays a critical role in understanding fire dynamics, assessing fire risks, and developing strategies to prevent, suppress, and manage fires effectively, thereby protecting lives, property, and the environment. The proposed degree aims to prepare graduates to be qualified administrators in leadership positions in fire and emergency management organizations. The program’s focus is primarily on both structural fire and emergency management scenarios, including preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery strategies. The interdisciplinary degree will incorporate LSU’s minor in construction management and the disaster science and management minor offered by the Department of Geography and Anthropology and will integrate scientific principles with emergency management practices to ensure graduates have a foundation of knowledge that integrates theoretical concepts with real-world applications. Graduates can pursue various career opportunities in both the public and private sectors, including roles in emergency management agencies, fire departments, law enforcement agencies, healthcare organizations, nonprofit organizations, and private companies that provide emergency services and consulting. The program has been designed to primarily serve students who enter the program with a completed associate degree in a related field, starting with a 2+2 partnership with LSU Eunice’s AAS in Fire and Emergency Services.

1. **Value:** Per Regent’s policy, this program meets the criteria of a Quality Credential of Value.
- a. **Workforce Demand and Job Opportunities:** LSU’s Department of Construction Management hosted an Industry Insights Panel (IIP) where the department invited input from employers and community leaders about this program. Attendees included leadership from multiple Louisiana fire departments, FEMA, and a disaster consulting company. The department also has a well-established industry advisory board called the Construction Industry Advisor Council (CIAC). The CIAC is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with diverse industry membership. Both groups expressed a need for the program, both as an entry point to the industry and as a pathway for professionals to advance into leadership roles.

Occupation	LWC Star Rating <sup>1</sup>	Current Jobs <sup>2</sup>	Projected Jobs 2034 <sup>2</sup>	% Change <sup>2</sup>	Average Salary <sup>2</sup>
First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers	3	1915	1900	-.8%	\$54,600
Emergency Management Directors	4	134	139	3.6%	\$81,120
Compliance Officers	4	3,978	4,180	5.1%	\$62,046

<sup>1</sup>Source – LWC

<sup>2</sup>Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs: Information gathering and collaboration with the IIP and CIAC (described above) were integral in the program's development, including verification of need and content of the curriculum.
- c. Same or Similar In-State Programs: Though the University of Louisiana Monroe is proposing a new BS in Disaster Management, the proposed program would be the first bachelor's level degree program in the state specializing in fire emergency management. LSU Eunice offers the AAS in Fire and Emergency Services, which will be the initial focus partnership feeder program. Delgado Community College (Delgado) and Bossier Parish Community College both also offer fire science associate degrees, and Delgado Community College was recently approved to offer an Associate of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. All these programs are potential feeder programs to the proposed online degree. The University of New Orleans offers a Graduate Certificate in Disaster Management and Community Resilience and the related Master of Urban and Regional Planning.
- d. Student Enrollment and Completion: The proposed program will be offered 100% online giving the program national appeal. Based on market analysis and growing demand in the field for trained leaders in fire and emergency management, LSU estimates significant and rapid growth in program enrollment.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	30	77	147	252
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	0	15	35

2. **Resources**: The proposed program will be a strategic collection primarily of existing courses in construction management, emergency management, and disaster science taught by existing faculty in those areas for at least the first three years. Two new courses will be developed and taught by existing faculty. One program support staff member will be hired in year two to support the program and its students. The online program will use existing infrastructure to operate.

	Current	Needed	Additional Costs
<b>Faculty</b>	Existing faculty will support the proposed program.	One new faculty member may be hired in year 4 as enrollment demands.	Yr. 4+: \$135,450
<b>Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, &amp; Technology)</b>	Existing facilities are adequate to support the program.	No new physical resources are needed.	\$0
<b>Student Support</b>	Existing student support resources will support the program.	One additional staff member will be hired.	Yr. 2+: \$71,000

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 on campus and 100% online allowing students to work, intern, or co-op during the daytime hours. It will also be offered on campus with some courses offered in a hybrid format allowing students more flexibility with work hours.
- Affordability: Prior Learning Assessments will be used when appropriate, especially those that have professional certifications or military credit. In addition to LSUE, the goal is to work with other 2-year schools to enable those students to transfer seamlessly into the bachelor's programs.
- Partnerships: A new sub-committee under the CIAC Curriculum and Accreditation Committee will

be formed with experts in fire and emergency management administration. The group will support the department, its degree programs, and the students.

- **Work-based Learning**: As with other programs housed with the department, students will be strongly encouraged to find an industry internship. Due to the strong relationship with industry, almost 85% of students in the department experience at least one paid internship prior to graduation. In some instances, the employer has funded the student's education while under their employment.
- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations**: Flexible online course delivery would especially support adult students (age 25+) who seek additional education. The CIAC has a vibrant student mentorship program that helps close the achievement gap with underserved populations. In addition, because of the construction management minor, there are several industry-funded scholarships available to students.

### **Staff Analysis**

The proposed BS in Fire and Emergency Management Administration was developed in direct collaboration with industry through LSU's robust partnerships and advisory board structures. The 2+2 curriculum structure will provide opportunities for students as they build their careers toward administration and leadership roles, and the fully online format will provide flexibility and accessibility for working professionals. The program will complement efforts at other institutions throughout the state to build Louisiana's capacity in the various areas of fire, disaster, and emergency management.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Bachelor of Science in Fire and Emergency Management Administration (CIP 43.0302) 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.D.

### Proposed Master of Science in Cognitive Science Louisiana Tech University

#### **Background Information**

Louisiana Tech University (LA Tech) requests Board of Regents' approval to offer a Master of Science (MS) in Cognitive Science. The proposal was approved by the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors (ULS) and submitted to the Board of Regents for consideration. The proposal was reviewed by external consultant Dr. Arturo Hernandez, Professor of Psychology at the University of Houston, who was extremely 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**

Cognitive Science is an interdisciplinary field that examines daily human behaviors and the cognitive and neural processes that underlie them. The proposed 39-credit hour graduate program will equip students with important skills such as research design, statistics analyses, and programming, in addition to understanding core cognitive concepts. These skills lay a strong foundation upon which students can either further their education by pursuing a Ph.D. in a related field (e.g., Cognitive Psychology, Computational Psychology, Engineering Psychology, Human Factors, Behavioral Neuroscience, Social Neuroscience, Linguistics, Learning Sciences, Anthropology) or work in the human factors industry, specifically in the fields of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), User Experience (Design and Research) (UX), User Interface (UI), and Ergonomics. Currently there are no master's level programs in Louisiana that allow one to specialize in the field of Cognitive Science. For students interested in working in the fields of HCI, UX, etc., the proposed program will equip them with the fundamentals of human cognitive processing and how to study it. In addition, for students seeking to enter industry upon graduation, the proposed program has a specific track wherein these students complete a practicum, gaining experiential training within a company, government agency, or other organizations.

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 professionals with expertise in cognition, machine learning, and neuroinformatics is rapidly growing. This program will fill a critical gap by providing advanced training that bridges the sciences and humanities, preparing graduates for careers in research, technology, healthcare, and more.

Related Occupation	LWC Star Rating <sup>1</sup>	Current Jobs <sup>2</sup>	Projected Jobs 2033 <sup>2</sup>	% Change <sup>2</sup>	Average Salary <sup>1</sup>
Software Developer	5-star	3,719	5,942	60%	\$128,900
Statistician	3-star	124	168	35%	\$75,899
Training & Development Specialist	4-star	2,141	2,672	25%	\$66,227

<sup>1</sup>Source – LWC

<sup>2</sup>Source – Lightcast (in Louisiana)

- b. Curriculum Alignment with Employer Needs: The program’s interdisciplinary curriculum provides the skills necessary to excel at several different types of careers. Cognitively focused careers are expected to increase with the advancement of machine learning, human centered user experience, and software development.
- c. Same or Similar In-State Programs: This will be the first masters-level program in cognitive science in the state. LSU A&M offers a Ph.D. program in Cognitive and Brain Sciences, for which this program could serve as a feeder for students wishing to pursue doctoral-level education.
- d. Student Enrollment and Completion: Student interest was determined through interviews with current undergraduate students who indicated a desire to pursue graduate education. During these advising conversations, several students expressed interest in a deeper understanding of how the brain supports daily behavior, a concept that aligns directly with the proposed degree program. The program will attract students from across the state due to the lack of a current graduate program in cognitive science.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
TOTAL Estimated Program Enrollment	12	22	22	22
TOTAL Estimated Program Graduates	0	10	10	10

2. **Resources:** The MS in Cognitive Science 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
<b>Faculty</b>	Existing faculty in the department will support the program.	One new full-time faculty member will be hired for the specialty Cognitive Science courses.	Yr 1+: \$80,000
<b>Physical (Facilities, Equipment, Library, &amp; Technology)</b>	Existing offices and classrooms are sufficient to support the program.	No additional resources needed.	\$0
<b>Student Support</b>	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 is designed to be accessible to working students, with a majority of the curriculum offered online. The research component of the curriculum will be conducted in person due to the nature of cognitive research. However, the proposed program has built-in flexibility to accommodate students’ schedules in the form of personalized mentor-mentee research training.
  - Affordability: The program uses Open Educational Resources (OER) digital materials that can replace costly textbooks and other course materials. Additionally, credits can be transferred from comparable courses and institutions.
  - Partnerships: The proposed program has a specific “industry track” allowing students to complete a practicum, which will enable them to gain experiential training within a company, government

agency, or other organization of their choice.

- **Work-based Learning**: The proposed program integrates professional development components, such as virtual workshops, simulations, and virtual labs, into the curriculum and includes remote internships, incorporating experiential learning modules, and establishing mentorship opportunities.
- **Other program attributes that contribute to closing the achievement gap with underserved populations**: The proposed program offers many core courses in online format and/or in-person in the evenings. This targeted support contributes to the success of working individuals and adult learners.

### **Staff Analysis**

The proposed MS in Cognitive Science will provide a degree program that prepares students for various roles in research and technology. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation, this program will contribute to advancements in cognitive science and its applications. External reviewer Dr. Arturo Hernandez described the program as “very well poised to have a great impact” stating that it will “create something that is unique to the State of Louisiana.”

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends conditional approval of the proposed Master of Science in Cognitive Science (CIP 42.0101) at Louisiana Tech University with a progress report on program implementation submitted as part of the institution’s 2025–2026 Academic Plan.**



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

## Research and Sponsored Initiatives

Wednesday, March 26, 2025  
1:25 PM

Claiborne Building, 1st Floor ▪ Thomas Jefferson Room A&B, 1–136  
1201 N. Third St. ▪ Baton Rouge, LA 70802

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Appointment of Endowed Chairholder without National Search:  
Loyola University New Orleans
- IV. Other Business
- V. 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.**

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

##### **Background Information**

Since 2015 the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars policy has included a provision to waive the requirement that BoRSF-matched Endowed Chairs be filled as the result of a national search to allow an internal appointment to be made. This provision was updated in August 2024 to clarify the requirements of internal appointments and seek documentation verifying that any internal appointment is fulfilling the goals of the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars program.

##### **Staff Summary**

Loyola University New Orleans requests to appoint Dr. Robert “Bobby” Savoie, Dean of the College of Business, to the Gerald N. Gaston Eminent Chair in Entrepreneurship, a \$1 million Chair matched by the BoRSF in 2000–01. Dr. Savoie was appointed dean in 2024, following a 42-year career as an entrepreneur, CEO, and business founder. The Chair support will allow him to implement his vision for the College and build the entrepreneurship ecosystem across Loyola, as he has done throughout New Orleans during his long career. Loyola’s request is aligned with all policy requirements for such appointments and the family of the original donor is very supportive of the appointment.

##### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Senior Staff recommends approval of Loyola University New Orleans’ request to waive the national search requirement to appoint Dr. Robert “Bobby” Savoie to the Gerald N. Gaston Eminent Chair in Entrepreneurship. As stipulated in Board policy, a copy of the Letter of Appointment to Dr. Savoie must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of this approval.**



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

## Statewide Programs

Wednesday, March 26, 2025  
1:30 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. Final Rulemaking Financial Circumstances for TOPS  
Exceptions – Allows for consideration of financial circumstances as a reason for which students may request an exception to the continuous enrollment, full time, and earned annual hours requirement
  - 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 year
  - C. 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; Kennedy Orr (Student Member)  
Staff: Carrie Robison, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs

### **Agenda Item III.A**

#### **Consent Agenda: Approval of Final Rulemaking - Financial Circumstances for TOPS Exceptions**

Final Rulemaking to allow for consideration of financial circumstances as a reason for which students may request an exception to the continuous enrollment, full time, and earned annual hours requirements

#### **Background:**

At its September 25, 2024, meeting, the Board of Regents authorized publication of a Notice of Intent to effect the below-described rule changes. The Notice of Intent was published in the Louisiana Register on November 20, 2024.

No comments have been received.

This rulemaking broadens a student's ability to request an exception when financial circumstances prevent them from enrolling in school. Students will still be required to provide documentation that circumstances beyond their control caused them to fail to meet the TOPS continuation requirements; however, it will allow staff to consider only the student's income rather than requiring that the family's financial circumstances be the issue. In addition, students will be required to provide a plan for preventing such circumstances from interfering with their ability to attend school in the future.

#### **LOSFA Advisory Board Recommendation**

**The LOSFA Advisory Board recommends that the Louisiana Board of Regents authorize the Executive Director of LOSFA to publish the final rule to make these rules permanent.**

## **Agenda Item III.B**

### **Consent Agenda: TOPS Home Study Exceptions**

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

#### **Background:**

The TOPS statute requires that a student begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year. Act 95 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature implemented a provision which allows the administering agency to grant exceptions to this requirement when a student provides documentation that the transfer to a home study program later than the statutorily provided timeframe was beyond the student's control.

Two requests for exception to the deadline to begin a home study program were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on January 29, 2025. The students have presented facts and documentation that they 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 deadline to begin a home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth-grade year.**

## **Agenda Item III.C**

### **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.”

Ten requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on January 29, 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.**



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

## Planning, Research, and Performance Committee

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

1:35 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. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission

##### 1. Initial Applications

- a. Orphic Training Academy – Shreveport, LA
- b. Phlebotomy Training Specialists – Elmwood, LA

##### 2. Renewal Applications

- a. Brow Design by Dina – Denham Springs, LA - License #2345
- b. Compass Career College – Hammond, LA - License #237
- c. Gonzales Medical Assistant School – Gonzales, LA - License #2164
- d. Infinity College – Lafayette - License #2140
- e. National Driving Academy – Greensburg, LA - License #2376
- f. New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute (NOCHI) – New Orleans, LA - License #2237
- g. Nursing Assistant Network Association (NANA) – New Orleans, LA - License #920
- h. SIHAF Career Institute – Shreveport, LA - License #2347
- i. Southern Security School – New Orleans, LA - License #2200
- j. The Laser and Medical Aesthetic Academy at ACWH – Gonzales, LA - License #2346
- k. Tulsa Welding School-Tulsa – Tulsa, OK - License #2096
- l. Williams Technical College – Houma, LA - License #2141

IV. Other Business

V. 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; Kennedy Orr (Student Member)  
Staff: Susannah Craig, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Student Success



**Minutes**  
**Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools**  
**January 14, 2025**

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools met on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in Room 6-242 in the Claiborne Building. Chair James Fontenot called the meeting to order at 10:06 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**

Benjamin Baudoin  
James Fontenot, Chair  
Melanie Amrhein, Vice Chair  
Sherrie Despino  
Larry Tremblay

**Commission Members Absent**

Carmen Million  
Chris Broadwater  
Chandler LeBoeuf  
Randy Plaisance

**Staff Members Present**

Courtney Britton  
Chandra Cheatham  
Mighan Johnson  
Antonio Williams

**Guests Present**

(See Appendix)

The first item of business was the election of officers. Commission members nominated current sitting officers.

**On motion of Melanie Amrhein, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted for James Fontenot to continue as Chair.**

**On motion of James Fontenot, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted for Melanie Amrhein to continue as Vice-Chair.**

The next item of business was the approval of minutes from the Commission's meeting on November 12, 2024.

**On motion of Carmen Million, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously adopted the minutes of the November 12, 2024, Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools meeting.**

The next item considered by the Commission was the deferred initial license application from Orphic Training Academy, located in Shreveport, LA. The initial license application was deferred pending the review of additional requested information. The school was represented by the owner, LaTasha P. Hunter-Lee and would offer three programs: Phlebotomy Technician at 193 hours for eight weeks, Clinical Medical Assistant at 283 hours for sixteen weeks, and EKG

Technician at 203 hours for eight weeks. Discussion included the owner's motivation for opening the school, program costs, the school's financial stability, grant funding, community partnerships, and the functions of two different businesses due to a complaint: Orphic Training Academy and Orphic Training Solutions.

**On motion of James Fontenot, seconded by Larry Tremblay, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Orphic Training Academy, Shreveport, Louisiana.**

The next item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Phlebotomy Training Specialist located in Elmwood, LA. The school was represented by Licensing Representative, Savanna Sanborn and would offer one program: Phlebotomy Training at 40 hours for four weeks. Discussion included the location choice, length of program, cost of program, certification test, and the company's other locations, including the location already licensed in Louisiana.

**On motion of Melanie Amrhein, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Phlebotomy Training Specialist, Elmwood, Louisiana.**

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

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

1. Brow Design by Dina – Denham Springs – License #2345
2. Compass Career College – Hammond – License #237
3. Gonzales Medical Assistant School – Gonzales – License #2164
4. Infinity College – Lafayette – License #2140
5. National Driving Academy – Greensburg – License #2376
6. New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute (NOCHI) – New Orleans – License #2237
7. SIHAF Career Institute – Shreveport – License #2347
8. Southern Security School – New Orleans – License #2200
9. The Laser and Medical Aesthetic Academy at ACWH – Gonzales – License #2346
10. Tulsa Welding School – Tulsa – Tulsa, Oklahoma – License #2096
11. Williams Technical College – Houma – License #2141

Staff also provided information on a school that chose not to renew their license for this renewal period.

Conversations regarding obtaining student records will be part of continuing dialogue with owners as they work to complete a change of ownership application for the institution's second location.

- License #2139 – Medical Education, LLC – Lake Charles, LA

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was incomplete license renewal applications. Melba Beauty, License #2311, located in Prairieville, LA, began a license renewal application but did not submit a complete and compliant application by the expiration date. As such, outlined in La. R.S. 3140, the license expired. As the school did not dispute the expiration, no voting action was required.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was the deferred renewal application of Nursing Assistant Network Association (NANA), License #2311, located in New Orleans, LA. At the previous Commission meeting on November 12, 2024, the Commission voted to defer the renewal application until the school could complete the items on their Compliance Action plan from a recent site visit. Commission members were presented with information regarding the completed items and received Staff's opinion that all requested items had been provided. In addition, a public comment by the school owner, Latrina Bates, was submitted and read by Ms. Britton.

**On motion of Sherrie Despino, seconded by Melanie Amrhein, the Advisory Commission on Proprietary Schools unanimously voted that the Board of Regents renew the license of the Nursing Assistant Network Association-New Orleans.**

The next agenda item was program approval updates. Staff reminded the commission that program approvals are completed by staff and the provided list is an informational item only.

- Hospitality Opportunity and Service Training Program (HOST), Baton Rouge, LA

*Add- Retail Industry Fundamentals (hybrid) – 30.0 clock hours*

*Add- Retail Industries: Customer Service & Sales (hybrid)– 30.0 clock hours*

*Add- Business of Retail: Operations and Profit (hybrid)– 30.0 clock hours*

*Add- Warehouse, Inventory, and Logistics (hybrid)– 30.0 clock hours*

- H.E.A.R.T Academy—Baton Rouge, LA

*Add- Certified Phlebotomy Technician (hybrid)– 80.0 clock hours*

*Add- Certified Phlebotomy Technician (in-person)– 80.0 clock hours*

For the final agenda item of other business, discussion included the introduction of the Commission representative from the Louisiana Attorney General's office, Tyler Savoy.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for March 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 1–155 of the Claiborne Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

APPENDIX A  
GUESTS

Latasha P. Hunter-Lee

Orphic Training Academy

Helen Plater

Orphic Training Academy

Savanna Sanborn

Phlebotomy Training Specialist

Amanda LaGroue

LA Department of Justice

Tyler Savoy

LA Department of Justice