

# HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM TASK FORCE

## MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 13, 2025 ▪ 9:00 a.m.

Governor's Press Room. State Capitol, 4th Floor  
900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
<i>Dr. Cade Brumley, Chair</i>	Superintendent, Louisiana State Department of Education
John Alvendia	CEO, Starr Academy
Tim Hardy	Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Commissioner of Higher Education
Dr. Caprice Leyoub (proxy)	Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System
Sen. Rick Edmonds	Chair of the Senate Education Committee
Angelique Freel	Executive Counsel, Office of the Governor
Rep. Laurie Schlegel	Chair of the House Education Committee
Misti Cordell	Chair of the Board of Regents
Taylor Barras	Commissioner of Administration
Dr. Wade Rouse	System President of Louisiana State University
Scott Ballard	Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University System
<b>Members Not Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Tony Clayton	Chair of the Board of Supervisors of the Southern University System

## CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Dr. Cade Brumley called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Roll was taken and quorum was established.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (OCTOBER 2025)

Dr. Brumley asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2025, meeting.

**On motion of Sen. Rick Edmonds, seconded by Mr. John Alvendia, with no comment or opposition, the Task Force approved the minutes of the October 20, 2025, meeting.**

## WELCOME

Dr. Brumley thanked the Task Force for attending and expressed his gratitude to the Governor for authoring the executive order creating this body. He reflected on the duration and previous presentations made to the Task Force, which allowed the entire group to learn more about accreditation by engaging the United States Department of Education (USDOE), Commission for Public Higher Education (CPHE), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SASCOC).

## CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Brumley outlined the following report recommendations:

- 1. Propose legislation allowing Louisiana’s public higher education institutions the ability to choose any accreditor recognized by the USDOE.**

Dr. Brumley explained this recommendation would authorize institutions to select any accreditor approved by the USDOE. He noted that while Regents is likely to promulgate rules to implement this change, statutory authority is needed to allow systems and/or institutions to transition to a different accreditor.

- 2. Propose legislation removing all statutory references to SACSCOC as a named accrediting agency and replace with “any accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.”**

Dr. Brumley offered a slight revision to the recommendation to specify “institutional accreditor.”

- 3. Propose legislation prohibiting an accrediting agency from compelling any public higher education institution to violate state law.**

Dr. Brumley provided an example, noting that if an accreditor established a standard that conflicted with Louisiana law, a public higher education institution would not be required to comply under the proposed legislation.

- 4. Propose legislation requiring each public higher education institutions to post on its website relevant documentation submitted to its accreditor to gain or maintain accreditation.**

Dr. Brumley noted that such a requirement would enhance public access and transparency. He added that, subsequent to passage of the legislation, Regents would need to promulgate rules specifying which communications and supporting documents must be posted.

- 5. Request that the Board of Regents revise its Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures to remove all references to SACSCOC.**
- 6. Ask that the Board of Regents make a formal request to the Division of Administration for an appropriation to gain CPHE membership and a CPHE board seat.**

Dr. Brumley emphasized that this recommendation would involve the Board of Regents, in coordination with the Commissioner, making a formal request to the Division of Administration for funding to secure Louisiana's CPHE membership and board seat.

Sen. Edmonds asked whether the recommendations would be presented as a report from the Task Force. Dr. Brumley responded that he would work with the Governor's Office and the Board of Regents to prepare a brief report incorporating the recommendations, which would then be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature.

On motion of Sen. Edmonds, seconded by Ms. Misti Cordell, with no comment or opposition, the Task Force approved the report recommendations.

Dr. Brumley reiterated his appreciation of his staff and the Board of Regents staff for their support throughout the Task Force's work and noted that his office will prepare the draft report.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Brumley requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**On motion of Sen. Rick Edmonds, seconded by Mr. Tim Hardy, the meeting was adjourned.**