MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

September 23, 2026

The Board of Regents met at 10:20 a.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, in the Louisiana Purchase Room 1–100, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chair Misti Cordell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

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

Present for the meeting were:
Misti Cordell, Chair
Terrie Sterling, Vice Chair
Dallas Hixson, Secretary
David Aubrey
Christian Creed
Blake David
Ted Glaser III
Darren Mire
Christy Oliver Reeves
Maria Nechaeva, Student Member
K. Samer Shamieh
Judy Williams-Brown

Absent from the meeting were:
Stephanie Finley
Phillip May, Jr.
Wilbert Pryor
Collis Temple III

Mgt. Board representatives present were:
Charles A. Moody III, LSU System Representative
Mark Romero, UL System Representative
Donald Ray Henry, Southern System Representative

Mgt. Board representative not present was:
LCTC Representative

Appendix A
Guest List

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2026 MEETING

On motion of Regent Aubrey, seconded by Regent Reeves, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2026 meeting.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair Cordell inquired whether any member of the Board wanted to take up any of the Committee reports separately before a motion was made to accept all reports. There were no requests.

On motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Nechaeva, the Board voted unanimously to approve all Committee recommendations from the September 23, 2026 Committee meetings.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE – MEAUXMENTUM MOMENT

Chair Cordell introduced Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation, to review the Master Plan and report on progress over the last seven years toward meeting its 2030 goal. She noted the significant strides being made to better align Louisiana's higher education institutions' credentials to the needs of the state's growing economy.

Dr. Denley began his presentation by stating that the work to improve educational outcomes is being done as a state, in all areas and across all institutions, including the four public systems, LAICU, proprietary schools, and private institutions. The work involves serving today's student, a group that includes first-generation college students, recent high school graduates, the incarcerated or formerly incarcerated, foster youth, working parents, veterans, and adults in rural areas.

Dr. Denley reported that two major goals were established in 2019—60% of Louisiana's working-age adults with a postsecondary credential by 2023 and 85,000 credentials produced per year— with the second reached in 2026, well ahead the 2030 target date. He expects that this annual number of students receiving credentials will be the new normal for Louisiana. He also

announced that the state has reached an all-time-high 54% attainment rate and noted that every 1% increase represents 23,000 students who have earned a credential.

Dr. Denley shared a quote from Governor Landry expressing that reaching the 2030 completion goal early is great news for the work of connecting students to Louisiana jobs. Dr. Denley reinforced that view and related it to filling Louisiana's workforce talent pipeline. He said that Regents' staff has done a detailed analysis to see how the various degrees and credentials fulfill current talent needs. He shared a graph outlining job demand predicted by Louisiana Works and how those demands have been met during the time span of 2016–2026.

Beyond meeting the demands for talent, talent retention in Louisiana is also a challenge. A number of initiatives, such as the Task Force on Career Alignment championed by Senator Rick Edmonds, are responding to that challenge. In particular the Task Force is addressing components including early career coaching, work-integrated learning, employer connection, and emphasis on a career in Louisiana. The work is being done in coordination with LA Works.

On the issue of value, Dr. Denley outlined the Beyond Completion profile, which strives to demonstrate the worth of a degree or credential in an individual's life, indicating that success must be redefined to include what happens after the degree or credential is obtained. The metrics for measuring this success include positive return (credential pays for itself), reliable transportation (dependable access to work and opportunity), financial resilience (capacity to build savings to support goals and cover unexpected costs), and housing (afford housing of the student's choice). Dr. Denley stated that the return-on-investment outlook is positive based on recent studies. This stands in stark contrast to data showing that 50% of Louisiana residents without a degree or credential are not earning above the poverty level established by United Way's ALICE Threshold.

Dr. Denley credited all the institutions participating in the Meauxmentum Framework for the progress made thus far with helping to address Louisiana's credential gap and bring people into meaningful employment. Every public higher education institution in Louisiana has implemented institution-specific Meauxmentum strategies. Corequisite math and English courses are fully in place and improved statewide transfer pathways have shortened time to completion by one semester. In addition, Regents is working with BESE on a joint goal of early college credit for 100% of graduating high school students; currently, 76% of graduating high school students have earned a college credit or industry credential beyond high school. In 2025–26 a record high 44,000 high school students are participating in dual enrollment.

Regent Sterling congratulated the team on the work and reaching the completion goal four years early. She also voiced her interest in studying, by sector, what constitutes a living wage. Dr. Denley noted that Regents staff relies on the numbers by sector established by United Way. He added that, beyond the numbers, it is important to concentrate on the opportunity created. Regent Sterling expressed support for the work with the Louisiana Department of Education, indicating that as it could help with absenteeism and dropout rates.

Commissioner Reed emphasized the need to define and demonstrate value, recognizing that the model described by Dr. Denley gives Louisiana a chance to start this process and to lead the country in doing so. She expressed hope that it would be a powerful tool in engaging families in decisions about using their time and money wisely to build skills.

Chair Cordell summarized the highlights of the presentation and added her congratulations.

APPROVAL OF THE 2027 BOR CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Chair Cordell asked for a motion to approve the 2027 calendar of meetings.

On motion of Regent David, seconded by Regent Creed, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2027 calendar of meetings.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Cordell made the following comments:

- She recognized Regent Maria Nechaeva, student member, who gave her report.
    - Regent Nechaeva began her presentation by thanking Chair Cordell for touring Southeastern Louisiana University's campus and speaking with the students on September 14.
    - She reported that the recent meeting of the Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) provided an opportunity to bring student leaders from across the state together to discuss what is happening on their campuses and about the issues that matter most to students. She thanked Ms. Brianna Golden for facilitating the meeting and for her continued support of COSBP and Regent Dallas Hixson for facilitating the civil discourse panel.
    - She noted that students across the state are raising concerns about affordability, access to resources, mental health, and, most important, making sure their education prepares them for meaningful opportunities after graduation.
    - She announced that two COSBP members now sit on the Louisiana Power-Based Violence Review Panel.
    - She highlighted her concern for student mental health as they balance academics, employment, finances, family responsibilities, and involvement on campus. While

wellness and counseling services are available, she feels the Board should continue asking whether those resources are easily accessible when students need them.
    - She noted that she was honored to participate in the Hazing Prevention Summit. She stated that the Fall semester is an important time for reinforcement of prevention, education, and reporting policies that create a culture where students look out for one another. She also mentioned affordability and AI as factors in every student's experience. She concluded by asking the Board as it considers fiscal and budgetary decisions to keep top of mind the question: "What does this mean for students in our classrooms?".

- Chair Cordell thanked Regent Nechaeva for her report and added how much she had enjoyed the tour of Southeastern Louisiana University which included visiting the Robin Roberts Communication Center. She complimented President Wainwright on an outstanding job.
- She noted how impressed she is with how Board members are constantly engaged and work well together. As an example of this teamwork, she recapped the contributions of Board members May, Hixson, and Reeves to the recent Board of Regents Staff Retreat.
- She highlighted that the second annual Louisiana Hazing Prevention Summit on September 17. Parents of Max Gruver and Caleb Wilson participated and contributed insight into how hazing incidents and tragedies affect the lives of families.
- She announced that the October 21 Board meeting will be held on Southern University A&M's campus. In addition, the Board will visit the Baton Rouge Community College and LSU's campuses on Tuesday, October 20.

FINANCE

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY UNIFORM FISCAL POLICY

Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, began her presentation by stating that in accordance with Act 772 of the 2026 Regular Legislative Session (contained in R.S. 17:3134), the purpose of the proposed Financial Accountability Uniform Fiscal Policy is to establish consistent reporting requirements for the stewardship of funds administered by all public postsecondary education institutions. The accountability framework provides for the systematic and ongoing evaluation of institutional fiscal health by the state's higher education management boards and the Board of Regents, as is the intent of the legislature.

Ms. Bentley-Smith also stated that the policy had been reviewed by system presidents, system CFOs, as well as staff from the Division of Administration and Inspector General's

office. She noted that it will be approved by each of the system management boards no later than December 31, 2026.

Regent David started the conversation by highlighting the importance and necessity of this policy for fiscal accountability and good budget planning. Regent David Aubrey asked who would be responsible for developing an institution's Corrective Action Plans if needed. Ms. Bentley-Smith stated that the institutions will initiate the plans, but that a collaborative effort between system and institution leadership is expected, followed by management board approval prior to submission to the Board of Regents. Regent Aubrey also clarified which members of the legislature would be informed of the quarterly fiscal reports and/or corrective action plans. Ms. Bentley-Smith confirmed that the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, chairs of both the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees would receive the plans.

On motion of Regent Dallas Hixson, seconded by Regent David Aubrey, the Finance Committee approved the Financial Accountability Uniform Fiscal Policy for consideration by the Board.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2026-2027 OPERATING BUDGETS

Chair David noted the extent to which the operating budgets and the challenges facing higher education institutions across the state were discussed during the budget hearings. Mr. Chris Henry, Associate Commissioner for Budget and Administration, began his presentation by stating that the September Board of Regents' budget hearings provided an opportunity for the Board to receive presentations from each of the management boards regarding their campus and system budgets as well as from the Board of Regents agency, which includes the programs of LOSFA and LUMCON.

Mr. Henry indicated that the purpose of the Committee meeting was to review and consider acceptance of the FY 2026–2027 operating budgets. The budget hearings allowed for questions and discussion on immediate and long-term budget adjustments. BOR staff then presented statewide summary information for the Board's consideration. Mr. Henry noted that with today's Board action, the FY 2026–2027 budget cycle would be completed. Next month, staff will present a preliminary funding request for FY 2027–2028 to be considered by the Board.

Regent David asked whether the changes requested by the University of Louisiana System were included in the FY27 budget distribution the board was approving; Ms. Bentley-Smith confirmed they were.

FY 2026-2027 OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY:

Means of Finance	BOR	LSU	SUS	ULS	LCTCS	TOTAL
State General Fund	$295,081,029	$539,207,004	$71,677,935	$299,614,048	$176,811,327	$1,382,391,343
Interagency Transfers	$14,256,109	$8,485,184	$4,476,791	$259,923	$0	$27,478,007
Self-Generated Revenue	$16,050,299	$955,696,001	$116,289,046	$641,913,020	$179,747,107	$1,909,695,473
Statutory Dedications	$208,933,512	$35,816,888	$4,671,737	$17,681,687	$23,435,318	$290,539,142
Federal	$34,232,149	$14,018,275	$3,654,209	$0	$0	$51,904,633
Total	**$568,553,098**	**$1,553,223,352**	**$200,769,718**	**$959,468,678**	**$379,993,752**	**$3,662,008,598**

Expenditures by Object	BOR	LSU	SUS	ULS	LCTCS	Total
Personal Services	$33,302,690	$1,031,754,638	$136,719,126	$651,802,249	$279,859,030	$2,133,437,733
Operating Expenses	$23,753,085	$219,384,872	$19,289,307	$103,820,987	$55,303,336	$421,551,587
Other Charges	$509,312,080	$290,882,849	$42,039,991	$190,852,243	$36,991,477	$1,070,078,640
Acquisitions and Major Repairs	$2,185,243	$11,200,993	$2,721,294	$12,993,199	$7,839,909	$36,940,638
Total Expenditures	**$568,553,098**	**$1,553,223,352**	**$200,769,718**	**$959,468,678**	**$379,993,752**	**$3,662,008,598**

On motion of Regent Dallas Hixson, seconded by Regent David Aubrey, the Board unanimously approved the funding recommendations for all higher education systems, boards, and agencies for FY 2026–2027.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Bentley-Smith recognized the Board of Regents Division of Finance and Administration team members, acknowledging their hard work and contributions to the mission of the agency.

There being no further business, the Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, reported on the Consent Agenda's Small Capital and Third-Party Projects report, containing the projects approved by staff since the previous meeting:

A. Small Capital Projects

1. **Louisiana State University and A & M College (LSU) – Baton Rouge, LA**: Foundation Building Chiller Installation – Operational Funds $350,000
2. **Louisiana State University and A & M College (LSU) – Baton Rouge, LA**: Herget Hall Roof Replacement – Auxiliary Funds $365,000
3. **Louisiana State University and A & M College (LSU) – Baton Rouge, LA**: Pleasant Hall: Renovation of Sea Grant - Ancillary Self-generated Revenue – $475,000
4. **Louisiana State University and A & M College (LSU) – Baton Rouge, LA**: 459 Commons Roof Replacement – Auxiliary Funds $675,000
5. **Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine – Baton Rouge, LA**: Small Animal Surgery Modifications – Operational Funds $275,000
6. **Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine – Baton Rouge, LA**: Hospital Student Relations Renovation – Operational Funds $675,000
7. **Louisiana State University Agricultural Center**: Bathhouse Renovations – Auxiliary Funds $800,000
8. **Louisiana State University – Shreveport**: Port Grille Dining Area Renovations – Auxiliary Funds $345,000
9. **Louisiana State University – Alexandria**: Soccer Pitch Lights – Auxiliary Funds $375,000

On motion of Regent Ted Glaser, seconded by Regent K. Samer Shamieh, the Facilities and Property Committee approved the items on the Consent Agenda: the Small Capital Projects report.

CAPITAL OUTLAY VISITS UPDATES

Mr. Antonio Williams, Administrative and Facilities Manager, has been working in collaboration with Southern University, Louisiana State University, University of Louisiana, and Louisiana Community and Technical College Systems to schedule campus visits to review capital outlay and deferred maintenance needs. Mr. Williams provided a short update on the past visits and welcomed all Board members to attend any future Capital Outlay visits.

This report was for information purposes only.

OTHER BUSINESS

Regent Aubrey requested an update on the power outages occurring at Southern University A&M. Ms. Bentley-Smith stated that SUBR has been working through infrastructure issues, specifically related to its electrical grid. She provided a timeline of the power outages that occurred on campus, explaining they were primarily due to failures of transformers, transformer switches, electrical phases, breakers, and compromised switchgear. SUBR was able to quickly get generators in place to support the residence halls and student center; however, SUBR was required to delay instruction and hold classes online because of the power outages. The Board of Regents staff worked with SUBR to bring together key partners including Entergy, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), the Office of Facility Planning and Control (FP&C), and legislative and parish government leadership to help develop appropriate next steps.

Ms. Bentley-Smith explained that the SUBR power grid is over 70 years old and in need of updating, which would require approximately $50-60 million for the total project. FP&C was able to assist in reallocating already-appropriated capital outlay funding to support immediate updates.

Regent Aubrey requested that a meeting be held with SUBR leadership and Regent Mire questioned where the $50–60 million in funding would originate; Dr. Reed confirmed that staff would be organizing future discussions with Division of Administration and legislative leadership to develop solutions.

Ms. Bentley-Smith also noted that the facilities assessment currently underway by Gordian will aid in better planning for all capital outlay and deferred maintenance needs. She added that the Board of Regents staff would be reviewing policy changes, including infrastructure needs, in conjunction with the system's capital outlay requests, as well as determining each campus' generator needs at the beginning of every calendar year.

There being no further business to come before the Facilities and Property Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONSENT AGENDA

Following roll call, Dr. Denley presented the Consent Agenda, which included routine staff approvals and renewal of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). Routine staff approvals ranged from requests from 22 academic programs to add a fully online delivery option to programs previously approved for traditional or hybrid delivery.

Dr. Denley also presented the renewal of the NC-SARA reciprocity agreement. He explained that NC-SARA permits participating institutions to offer fully online degree programs to students in other participating jurisdictions without seeking separate authorization or paying individual state fees in each jurisdiction. The agreement includes 49 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Dr. Denley reported that approximately 30,000 students residing in Louisiana were able to enroll in fully online programs offered by institutions outside the state. At the same time, approximately 25,000 students residing elsewhere in the United States enrolled in online degree programs offered by Louisiana institutions.

Regent David Aubrey asked how online enrollment is considered when the Board evaluates low-completer programs and graduate counts. Dr. Denley responded that staff review overall program completions and, where possible, examine completions by delivery modality. He noted that the data can be difficult to categorize because some students complete courses entirely online, some attend primarily face-to-face, and many use a combination of both formats.

Dr. Denley clarified that authorization to offer a degree fully online does not require every student to complete the entire program online; rather, it permits the institution to make the full degree available through online delivery.

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

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

2026 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC ACADEMIC PLANNING

Dr. Denley presented the 2026–2027 statewide strategic academic planning and degree-program review process. He explained that, beginning in 2022, institutions have submitted three-year academic plans rather than presenting individual program requests without broader statewide coordination.

The purpose of this new process is to support statewide talent development, ensure that Louisiana has sufficient educational capacity in high-demand fields, promote accountability among institutions and systems, maximize the effective use of state resources, and align academic offerings with state and regional workforce needs. Dr. Denley noted that Louisiana is anticipating approximately $260 billion in economic development, making it increasingly important to ensure that institutions produce graduates with the skills necessary to fill emerging workforce needs.

Institutions submitted their academic plans on August 1. Before reaching the Board of Regents, the proposals underwent review at both institutional and system levels. Institutions were also encouraged to coordinate with one another across systems and regions. Staff considered input from Louisiana Economic Development, Louisiana Works, regional economic-development organizations, the four higher education system chief executive officers, and institutional chief executives when appropriate.

Dr. Denley reported that approximately 50 degree-program requests were initially submitted. Following the review process, the list was reduced to 31 proposed programs and one cooperative academic arrangement. He emphasized that the committee was being asked only to grant permission to plan. The action did not constitute approval of any new degree program.

The 14 requested terminations, together with the 36 additional programs, represent approximately 50 programs expected to be terminated during the current cycle. Dr. Denley stated that, since the statewide planning process began in 2022, approximately 180 programs will have been terminated by the end of the current cycle.

Dr. Denley presented a cooperative academic arrangement involving four institutions seeking to establish an associate degree in construction management. He stated that expanding capacity in construction management programs is an important statewide priority, but staff encouraged the institutions to collaborate rather than create four entirely separate and potentially duplicative programs.

The institutions are expected to develop a coordinated approach that creates economies of scale, expands regional access, avoids unnecessary duplication, and uses state resources efficiently. Dr. Denley referred to the Louisiana Cyber Academy as a possible model for this type of cooperative structure. The institutions will determine whether one or two coordinated programs would best serve the state.

Dr. Denley reviewed statewide trends in academic planning. Institutions have submitted fewer permission-to-plan requests over time as staff have encouraged them to concentrate on the most pressing workforce and academic needs. Approximately half of proposed programs ultimately receive final approval, while the number of program terminations has increased as institutions reassess their offerings and redirect resources.

Dr. Denley also reported improvement in program progress reports. He stated that an increasing number of programs are completing the required development and performance milestones and moving off the progress-monitoring schedule.

Regent Aubrey expressed support for receiving and accepting the academic-plan materials, approving the proposed terminations, and accepting the program progress reports. He also commended the LSU System for conducting a serious review of programs based on alignment, demand, and institutional capacity.

Regent Aubrey raised concerns regarding the academic-planning message associated with SUNO's accelerated bachelor's degree in Communications and Media Studies and Northwestern State University's MBA program. He questioned whether these programs demonstrated sufficient workforce demand or improved accessibility in light of comparable online MBA and graduate programs available at LSU Shreveport, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and other institutions in the state.

He noted that the proposals would need to provide strong evidence of demand, accessibility, differentiation, and statewide need before receiving final approval. The Committee acknowledged that permission to plan should not be interpreted as an indication that final approval is assured.

Regent Sterling asked for a motion to approve the recommended actions related to the 2026–2027 academic plan.

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

There being no further business to come before the Academic Affairs and Innovation Committee, on motion of Chair Sterling, the meeting was adjourned.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

APPOINTMENT OF ENDOWED CHAIRHOLDER WITHOUT NATIONAL SEARCH: LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE

Ms. Carrie Robison notified the Committee that LSU A&M requests to appoint Dr. Bhuvnesh Bharti, Professor in the Cain Department of Chemical Engineering, to the Gordon A. and Mary Cain Chair in Chemical Engineering #2, a $2 million Chair matched by the BoRSF in 2000–01 that has been vacant since September 2024. Ms. Robison summarized Dr. Bharti's qualifications, noting that the proposed appointment meets the criteria set forth in policy related to filling a chair without a national search.

On motion of Regent Mire, seconded by Regent Shamieh, the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee recommended that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Dr. Bhuvnesh Bharti to the Gordon A. and Mary Cain Chair in Chemical Engineering #2.

As stipulated in Board policy, a copy of the Letter of Appointment sent to Dr. Bharti must be submitted to the Board within 90 days of this approval.

There being no further business to come before the Research and Sponsored Initiatives Committee, on motion of Regent Shamieh, seconded by Regent Mire, the meeting was adjourned.

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Rulemaking – Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Program rulemaking to amend the administrative rules.

Dr. Susannah Craig, Interim Director for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), notified the Committee of rulemaking to change certain requirements to the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship. The rulemaking deletes obsolete provisions regarding loan repayment, removes the maximum number of years a student may receive the award such that a student who does not receive the award as an undergraduate student will still be eligible to receive up to $12,000 in scholarship funds for graduate school; alternatively, an undergraduate student

will still be eligible to receive up to $12,000, with a reduction in the graduate school cumulative GPA requirement to 2.50. She noted that this rulemaking was reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on September 2, 2026.

B. 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

Dr. Craig notified the Committee that 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. She noted that five 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 September 2, 2026. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

C. 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

Dr. Craig notified the Committee that Sections 705.A.6 and 7 of the TOPS administrative rules require TOPS recipients to continue to enroll full time for the fall and spring semesters of each academic year, to remain enrolled throughout the semester, and to earn a minimum number of credit hours by the end of the academic year. Section 2103.E authorizes the governing body to grant an exception to the full-time, continuous enrollment and annual earned-hour requirements when the "student/recipient has exceptional circumstances that are beyond his immediate control and that necessitate full or partial withdrawal from or non-enrollment in an eligible postsecondary institution." She noted that twelve requests for exception to the TOPS requirements were reviewed and approved by the LOSFA Advisory Board at its meeting on September 2, 2026. The students have presented facts and circumstances that the students believe justify the granting of an exception as an exceptional circumstance.

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

Under Other Business, in recognition of National Recovery Month, Dr. Allison Smith, Sarah Ebarb-Combs (South Louisiana Community College), and Morgan Albert (Northwestern State University) gave the Committee a presentation on the collegiate recovery programs housed on Louisiana college and university campuses.

There being no further business to come before the Statewide Programs Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND PERFORMANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Susannah Craig presented the Consent Agenda. The first item consisted of five license renewal applications from academic degree-granting institutions. All application materials had been reviewed by staff, who confirmed that applicants are institutions accredited by a U.S. Department of Education recognized accreditor and have previously been approved as licensed institutions by the Board of Regents.

The next item on the Consent Agenda was license updates for the three conditionally licensed academic degree-granting institutions, which consisted of a license renewal, a license extension, and the withdrawal of a license.

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

A. R.S. 17:1808 - Academic Licensure
   1. Renewal Applications
      a. Baton Rouge General Medical Center – Baton Rouge, LA
      b. Central Texas College – Killeen, TX
      c. Oral Roberts University – Tulsa, OK
      d. Remington College – Garland, TX
      e. University of Massachusetts Global – Aliso Viejo, CA

   2. Conditional License Updates
      a. Renewal: John Melvin University – Crowley, LA
      b. Extension: Robert Cavelier University – Gretna, LA
      c. Voluntary Withdrawal: American University of Technology – New Orleans, LA

There being no other business, on motion of Regent Reeves, seconded by Regent Hixson, the meeting was adjourned.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed thanked the Board for their strong support and presented several items:

- She noted that at the recent staff retreat the Board recognized several staff members for outstanding work. The Innovation Award was presented to Mike Waugh, the Impact Award to Dr. Allison Smith, and the Good Citizen Award to Ms. LeAnn Detillier.
- She added that Regents co-hosted the first NIL Summit at Grambling State University, where K12, higher education, legislators, lawyers, and stakeholders came together to talk about NIL policies.
- She recognized that September is Student Parents Month and that more than three million college students (one in five) across the country are parents. In Louisiana, efforts are being made to support students trying to balance the demands of school and family responsibilities, including providing childcare centers for student parents on 19 campuses across the state.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Cordell asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. Regent Aubrey asked who makes the policy or regulations related to out-of-state fees, noting that some other states have waived out-of-state fees to attract students, which could also be an option for Louisiana. Ms. Bentley-Smith responded that the management boards make those decisions. Commissioner Reed suggested furthering the discussion with the management boards.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board and following a reminder from Chair Cordell that the October meeting will be offsite, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Appendix A

Board Meeting Guest List

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

NAME	AFFILIATION
Jessica Lemoine	LSU - Alexandria
Brian Roberts	LUMCON/BoR
Nate Sammons	LSU - Alexandria
Ingrid Franc	LSUHSC - New Orleans
Erin Dugan	LSUHSC - New Orleans
Adrianne Frischhertz	LSUHSC - New Orleans
Amy Clomburg	LSUHSC - New Orleans
Rick Vath	ULS
Margaret Finch	LSU A&M
Jackie Bach	LSU A&M
Morgan Albert	South Louisiana Community College
Amber Slater	OBH
Jamie Donaldson	OBH
Chad Parker	UL - Lafayette
Reginald Johnson	