

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
October 26, 2023**

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

On Thursday, October 26, 2023, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met in Room 100, The Louisiana Purchase Room, of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by Chair Pierre at 10:55 a.m.

The roll was called.

PRESENT

Mr. Barry Busada
Dr. Jimmy Clarke
Mr. Steve Davison
Ms. Lola Dunahoe
Mr. Dana Peterson

Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. Mark Romero
Mr. Brad Stevens
Ms. Julie Stokes

ABSENT

Dr. John Condos
Ms. Jo Lethermon
Mr. Alejandro "Al" Perkins

Ms. Kristine Russell
Mr. Joe Salter
Ms. Bailey Willis

A quorum was established. Also present were System President Jim Henderson, System staff, University Presidents, and Attorneys Linda Clark and Michael Adams.

B. Invocation

Ms. Lola Dunahoe opened the meeting with an invocation.

Ms. Pierre asked for a motion to meet as a Committee of the Whole. On motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board unanimously approved a motion to conduct business as a Committee of the Whole.

C. Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2023 Regular and September 14, 2023 Special Meetings

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 24 Regular and September 14, 2023 Special Board Meetings.

D. Report of Grievance Committee

Ms. Pierre asked Ms. Lola Dunahoe, Chair, to give the Board the report from the Grievance Committee. Ms. Dunahoe stated that the Grievance Committee had met earlier to discuss Item D.1.

D.1. Dr. Don Liu, Faculty – Louisiana Tech University

Ms. Dunahoe reported that the Grievance Committee recommended that Dr. Liu's grievance be denied. The motion was seconded by Dr. Clarke, and the following motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Davison recused himself from consideration of the item.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby upholds the decision of Louisiana Tech University and denies the grievance filed by Dr. Don Liu.

E. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Ms. Lola Dunahoe asked Dr. Erica Calais, UL System Vice President for Student Services, Safety, and Resilience, to present the items under consideration. Upon motion of Mr. Davison, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the Board unanimously approved Items E.1.-E.6.

E.1. Grambling State University's request for approval to award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mr. Eric Kelly at the Fall 2023 Commencement Exercises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request to award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mr. Eric Kelly at the Fall 2023 Commencement Exercises.

E.2. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a Proposal for a Master of Social Work (MSW) program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a Proposal for a Master of Social Work (MSW) program.

E.3. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of 2023-28 Strategic Plan and revised Vision and Mission Statement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of 2023-2028 Strategic Plan and revised Vision and Mission Statement.

E.4. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Starr Homeplace, U.S.A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Starr Homeplace, U.S.A.

- E.5. University of New Orleans' request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with St. Tammany Parish School Board District.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of New Orleans' request for approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with St. Tammany Parish School Board District.*

- E.6. University of Louisiana System's request to revise Board Rule, Chapter II. Students, Section IX. Admission to Graduate Study.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the revision of Board Rule, Chapter II. Students, Section IX. Admission to Graduate Study.*

Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Dean of the Graduate School (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), explained the rationale for updating and revising the Board Rule noted in E.6.

F. **Athletic Committee**

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Bruce Janet, System Executive Director for Compliance and Risk Management, to present the items. After discussion, upon motion of Mr. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, the Board voted to approve Items F.1.-F.8., with Mr. Davison recusing himself from Items F.1.-F.3.

- F.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Matthew Nantais, Head Women's Bowling Coach, between Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana Tech University Foundation, effective October 1, 2023.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Matthew Nantais, Head Women's Bowling Coach, between Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana Tech University Foundation, effective October 1, 2023.*

- F.2. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Amy Sargeant, Head Women's Tennis Coach, between Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana Tech University Foundation, effective August 24, 2023.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Amy Sargeant, Head Women's Tennis Coach, between Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana Tech University Foundation, effective August 24, 2023.*

- F.3. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Matthew Terry, Head Men's Golf Coach, between Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana Tech University Foundation, effective August 1, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Matthew Terry, Head Men's Golf Coach, between Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana Tech University Foundation, effective August 1, 2023.

- F.4. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Ayla Guzzardo, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective September 1, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Ayla Guzzardo, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective September 1, 2023.

- F.5. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Jeremy White, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, effective September 1, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of a contract with Mr. Jeremy White, Head Women's Volleyball Coach, effective September 1, 2023.

- F.6. Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of contractual agreements between various Assistant Coaches, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the Lion Athletics Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Southeastern Louisiana University's request for approval of contracts with the following Assistant Coaches: Ms. Aja Ochie and Ms. Ronneka Robertson.

- F.7. University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of Amendment 6 to the Contract with Mr. Matt Deggs, Head Baseball Coach, effective October 26, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Lafayette's request for approval of Amendment 6 to the Contract with Mr. Matt Deggs, Head Baseball Coach, effective October 26, 2023.

- F.8. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Missy Bilderback, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective March 30, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval of a contract with Ms. Missy Bilderback, Head Women's Basketball Coach, effective March 30, 2023.

G. **Audit Committee**

Mr. Busada chaired the Committee, and Ms. Jennifer Oberthier gave the report.

- G.1. University of Louisiana System’s report on internal and external audit activity for the period of August 21 to October 22, 2023.

This is a report only and no action by the Board is necessary.

H. **Facilities Planning Committee**

Mr. Busada asked Mr. Janet to discuss the items listed on the agenda. Mr. Janet described Items H.1.-H.6. Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Peterson, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following items:

- H.1. Grambling State University’s request for approval to name the football field at Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium, James “Shack” Harris and Doug Williams Field.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University’s request for approval to name the football field at the Eddie G. Robinson Memorial Stadium the James “Shack” Harris and Doug Williams Field.*

- H.2. Nicholls State University’s request for approval to name the recently renovated portion of Stopher Gymnasium, the future Baseball Fieldhouse, and the Women’s Basketball locker room.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Nicholls State University’s request for approval to name the recently renovated portion of Stopher Gymnasium, the future Baseball Fieldhouse, and the Women’s Basketball locker room.*

- H.3. Northwestern State University’s request for approval to enter a Ground and Facility Lease with the Demons Unlimited Foundation for interior/exterior renovations to the baseball complex, as authorized by La. R.S. 17:3361.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Northwestern State University’s request for approval to enter a Ground and Facility Lease with the Demons Unlimited Foundation for interior/exterior renovations to the baseball complex, as authorized by La. R.S. 17:3361.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Northwestern State University has obtained final review from UL System staff, legal counsel, and shall secure all other appropriate approvals from agencies/parties of processes, documents, and administrative requirements prior to execution of documents.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of Northwestern State University or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents associated with said Ground Lease and Facility Lease.

AND FURTHER, that Northwestern State University will provide the System office with copies of all final executed documents for Board files.

- H.4. University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for approval to name the building located at 501 Saint Mary Boulevard, the “James D. Moncus Hall.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for approval to name the building located at 501 Saint Mary Boulevard, the “James D. Moncus Hall.”

- H.5. University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for authorization to utilize designated Capital Outlay funds for the acquisition of the 804 E. St. Mary Blvd., Lafayette, Louisiana, known as the One Acadiana Building.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s request for authorization to utilize designated Capital Outlay funds for the acquisition of the 804 E. St. Mary Blvd., Lafayette, Louisiana, known as the One Acadiana Building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has obtained final review from UL System staff, legal counsel, and shall secure all other appropriate approvals from agencies/parties of processes, documents, and administrative requirements prior to execution of documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and/or his designee are hereby designated and authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to execute the purchase of the 804 E. St. Mary Blvd. One Acadiana property at such times as deemed appropriate to facilitate the purchase transactions.

AND FURTHER, that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will provide the System office with copies of all final executed documents for Board files.

- H.6. University of Louisiana at Monroe’s request for approval to accept donations of the Malone Stadium field turf, Wally Jones short game practice facility, and the softball field turf from the University of Louisiana Monroe Facilities, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Monroe’s request to accept donations of the Malone Stadium field football turf, Wally Jones short game practice facility turf area, and the softball field turf from University of Louisiana Monroe Facilities, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ULS staff and legal counsel ensure that all documents conform to statutory and administrative requirements.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of University of Louisiana at Monroe or his or her designee is hereby designated and authorized to sign any and all documents related to the donation.*

***AND FURTHER**, that the University of Louisiana at Monroe will provide the System office with copies of all final executed documents for Board files.*

I. **Finance Committee**

Mr. Mark Romero asked staff to present the campus requests. Mr. Eddie Meche, System Vice President for Business and Finance, and Ms. Ashley McIntyre discussed the items on the agenda. Upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Items I.1.-I.2.

- I.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to update and extend the Affiliation Agreement with the Louisiana Tech Applied Research Corporation (LTARC) for an additional three-year term.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request to develop and execute such documents, subject to review and approval of Board Staff and Legal Counsel, necessary to update and extend its existing Affiliation Agreement with the Louisiana Tech Applied Research Corporation for an additional three-year term.*

- I.2. University of Louisiana System's request for acceptance of Fiscal Year 2202-23 Financial and Compliance and Federal Award Programs Representation Letters for the University of Louisiana System, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, and University of New Orleans.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby accepts Fiscal Year 2022-23 Financial and Compliance and Federal Award Programs Representation Letters for the University of Louisiana System, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, and University of New Orleans.*

- I.3. University of Louisiana System's financial status of alternatively financed projects for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

This is a report only and no action by the Board is necessary.

- I.4. University of Louisiana System's report of Fiscal Year 2022-23 fourth quarter financial reports and ongoing assurances.

Ms. McIntyre presented the report, and no Board action is necessary.

Concerning I.3., Mr. Busada inquired about the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Parking Project having a .9 debt coverage ratio, and Ms. McIntyre reported that the University explained that additional debt securing revenues were available to cover the ULL Parking

Project bonded debt payments. It was stated that additional information will be requested from the University and the findings reported to the Board at the next meeting.

Additionally, Mr. Busada expressed concern about recurring campus budget deficits and indicated that he would like to be more aggressive in addressing them. Further he asked that the campuses submit plans to address budget deficits and that the System develop best practices.

Another topic of concern to members was the effect on campus finances that increased dual enrollment numbers are having. Members asked that they be kept informed about these and that the financial impact of dual enrollment be included in financial reporting. System President Henderson suggested a Board Development session in conjunction with the December 7 meeting to discuss dual enrollment and metrics that measure financial stability.

J. **Personnel Committee**

Mr. Dana Peterson asked Ms. Kecia Neal to describe the campus requests. Upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Stevens, the Board voted unanimously to approve Items J.1.-J.2.

J.1. Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Sumeet Dua as Executive Vice President for Research effective October 1, 2023.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Louisiana Tech University's request for approval to appoint Dr. Sumeet Dua as Executive Vice President for Research effective October 1, 2023.*

President Guice introduced Dr. Dua and commented on the remarkable impact Dr. Dua has had on the campus. Dr. Dua thanked Dr. Guice and said he was grateful and honored to be selected as Executive Vice President. He stated his commitment to discipline and excellence to the students.

J.2. University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to appoint Dr. Wendy Bailes as Interim Dean of the College of Health Sciences effective July 1, 2023.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves University of Louisiana at Monroe's request for approval to appoint Dr. Wendy Bailes as Interim Dean of the College of Health Sciences effective July 1, 2023.*

K. **System President's Business**

K.1. Personnel Actions

President Henderson said that System staff had reviewed the personnel action requests and recommends approval.

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Davison, the Board unanimously voted to approve the System personnel actions.

K.2. System President's Report

Reginald F. Lewis Scholars Annual Report

Dr. Henderson stated that each member had received a copy of the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars Annual Report. As well as introducing the cohorts of Scholars, the report includes inspiring narratives about some of the Scholars. In addition, Dr. Henderson said that, to fund the program, a goal of \$20 million has been set.

Title IX/Mental Health Funding

Dr. Henderson asked Dr. Calais to report on Title IX and Mental Health Funding. Dr. Calais stated that the second annual Title IX Summit is scheduled for November 1-2 on Southeastern's campus and invited the Board members to attend. She stated that the schedule includes a panel discussion, keynote speakers, and timely concurrent breakout sessions.

Dr. Calais also stated that University of Louisiana System's member institutions will receive a one-time allocation for mental health from the Louisiana Department of Health. Campus administrators have developed their spending plans and submitted to Board of Regents for review and approval. The funding will enhance the area of mental health on our campuses.

Update on 2024 Conference

President Henderson announced the dates of February 25-27, 2024 for the next *For Our Future Conference* in New Orleans. The conference emphasis will be on growth, fiscal health, technology, and inclusion. As well, a Women's Leadership pre-conference is being added to the schedule.

K.3. Recommendation to award the title of President Emeritus of Southeastern Louisiana University to Dr. John L. Crain.

Dr. Henderson directed the Board members' attention to a letter from Dr. William Wainwright recommending the title of President Emeritus to Dr. John Crain. President Wainwright made remarks and commended Dr. John Crain for his leadership as President, as well as the years of service he has given to the University.

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Clarke and Ms. Dunahoe, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves a recommendation to award the title of President Emeritus of Southeastern Louisiana University to Dr. John L. Crain.

Dr. Crain thanked Dr. Wainwright for recommending him for the honor, and he expressed thanks to the Board for the great support given to him over the years.

L. **Board Chair's Business**

L.1. **Board Chair's Report**

Nominating Committee/Next Meeting

Chair Pierre announced that she was appointing a Nominating Committee to recommend 2024 Board officers. She appointed Mr. Al Perkins as Chair, with Mr. Mark Romero and Ms. Kristine Russell as members. The Nominating Committee will meet prior to the December 7 meeting of the Board.

M.-N. **Other Business/Adjournment**

There being no other business, upon motion of Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Busada, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:11 p.m.