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## **1.5 State Organization and Management**

Under the 1974 Constitution of the State of Louisiana, the Board of Regents was created to plan, coordinate, and have budgetary responsibility for all public higher education. The Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities was established as the managing board with direct jurisdiction over Nicholls State University. In 1995, the Legislature provided that the term "University of Louisiana System" could be used to describe the group of colleges and universities under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. The official name of the Board is now the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System. The President of the University is appointed by the Board and is directly responsible to it and for administering the University.

Copies of documents (such as the *Rules of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System*) that pertain to the general governance described above are available at the Nicholls State University Library.

### **1.5.1 Board of Regents**

The State Board of Regents replaced the Louisiana State Board of Education by act of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution. The Constitution of 1974 vests in the Board of Regents the responsibility to approve, disprove, or modify all existing and proposed degree programs in Louisiana's public colleges and universities

The 16-member Board meets on or before the second Monday in January of each year, at other times fixed by the Board, or upon call of the Chairman. The Regents also meet twice yearly on mutually agreed upon dates with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The officers of the Board are the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the Secretary, each of whom is a member of the Board of Regents. The Board employs a staff with a Chief Administrative Officer; The Chief Administrative Officer has the title of Commissioner of Higher Education.

Current members of the Board of Regents may be found at the Board web site,  
<http://www.regents.state.la.us/Board/regents.htm>.

## **1.5.2 Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System**

### **1.5.2.1 *Institutions Managed by the Board of Supervisors***

The Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities was established as the managing board for those institutions listed in Act 313 1975 (R.S. 17:3217). In 1995, the Legislature provided that the term “University of Louisiana System” could be used to describe the group of colleges and universities under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. The official name for the Board is now the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System. Currently the institutions managed by the Board of Supervisors are (by category)

#### *Four-Year 2*

University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

#### *Four-Year 3*

Louisiana Tech University at Ruston

University of Louisiana at Monroe

#### *Four-Year 4*

Grambling State University at Grambling

McNeese State University at Lake Charles

Northwestern State University of Louisiana at Natchitoches

Southeastern Louisiana University at Hammond

#### *Four-Year 5*

Nicholls State University at Thibodaux

The institutional categories listed above have been determined using specific criteria by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) (see <http://www.sreb.org/main/EdData/InstCategories/instcategorindex.asp>).

### **1.5.2.2 *Constitutional Definition of the Board of Supervisors***

According to the Louisiana Constitution, the Board of Supervisors shall exercise all power to direct, control, supervise and manage the institutions of higher learning under its control including but not limited to the following:

- select the Presidents of the System institutions;
- receive and expend or allocate for expenditure to the System institutions all monies appropriated or otherwise made available for the purpose of the Board and schools;

- purchase land and purchase or construct buildings necessary for the use of the state colleges and universities;
- determine the fees which shall be paid by students;
- formulate curricula and programs of study;
- adopt, amend and repeal rules and regulations necessary for the business of the Board, for the governance of the System colleges and universities and for the governance and discipline of students;
- lease land or other property belonging to it or to any college or university within the System, as well as, sell or exchange land or other property not needed for university purposes;
- actively seek and accept donations, bequests, or other forms of financial assistance for educational purposes.

The *Rules (Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures) of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System* is the document that lists policies and procedures for the Board and all of the institutions and employees under the Board's jurisdiction.

### **1.5.2.3 Composition of the Board of Supervisors**

The Board is composed of 16 members, two from each of the seven Congressional Districts, one member from the state at large and one student member elected by the Student Government Association presidents from the System's institutions. The Governor appoints the members, with the consent of the Senate. Members serve staggered six-year terms, except the student member who serves from September 1 through August 31 of the year following election and appointment. The Board annually elects a chairman and vice chairman from its membership. All regular meetings of the Board are open to the public except when otherwise voted for the consideration of executive matters.

The Board of Supervisors also employs a full-time staff whose responsibility, under the supervision of the President, is to execute and enforce all decisions, orders, rules and regulations of the Board with respect to the conduct of the System. The office of the Board is located in downtown Baton Rouge in close proximity to the State Capitol, the Louisiana Board of Regents and other state agencies.

Current Board members and system office staff list may be found at UL System website at <http://www.uls.state.la.us/>.

#### **1.5.2.4 Growth and Demographics**

The institutions under the control of the Board have experienced significant growth and development over the past several years despite the financial limitations within which they, the System office, and the Board have been operating. Since fiscal year 1986–87 to fiscal year 1993–94, overall System enrollment has grown from 75,893 students to 100,930 students, an increase of 32.8 percent. During that period the overall employment and staffing of the System institutions has increased by about 400 full-time equivalent positions, an increase of only 4.4 percent.

Institutions governed by the Board represent more than 60 percent of the total public higher education enrollment in Louisiana. This totals more students than both the Louisiana State University and Southern systems enrollment combined. The Supervisors is also the only governing board which oversees the operation of institutions located statewide, and it is the only governing board in Louisiana which encompasses historically white and historically black institutions.