

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 13, 2024

- Item E.1.** **Nicholls State University and University of New Orleans’** request for approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to offer engineering courses on the campus of Nicholls State University.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nicholls State University (Nicholls) and the University of New Orleans (UNO) would like to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will set the groundwork for UNO to offer engineering courses on Nicholls’ campus. The proposed MOU would allow for the two universities to develop an Action Plan to offer UNO’s Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) at Nicholls. Such a plan would address all specifics to allow for delivery of up to six (6) semesters of coursework relevant to the BSME to students domiciled on the campus of Nicholls. This educational opportunity would assist in meeting local industry needs of the region served by Nicholls.

The Universities have previously collaborated to establish transfer agreements involving pre-engineering coursework (2+2). This new endeavor would capitalize and expand upon the existing agreement. Such a proposed partnership would provide Nicholls’ students with a BSME option that would allow for them to reside in the Houma/Thibodaux area and not have to relocate in order to study engineering.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Nicholls State University and the University of New Orleans’ request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to offer engineering courses on the campus of Nicholls State University.*



Nicholls State University

Office of the President

P.O. Box 2001 | Thibodaux, LA 70310 | 985.448.4003 | 985.448.4920 [F]

E.1.

May 22, 2024

Via Electronic Transmittal Only

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

Dear President Gallot:

Nicholls State University requests consideration and approval of the following to be placed on the agenda for the June 13, 2024 meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System:

*Memorandum of Understanding between
Nicholls State University & University of New Orleans.*

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jay Clune, PhD
President

JC/apf

Enclosures

c: Dr. Sue Westbrook, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Terry Braud, Vice President for Finance & Administration
Mr. Jonathan Terrell, Vice President for Collegiate Athletics/Athletic Director
Dr. Michele Caruso, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Todd Keller, Vice Provost
Ms. Renee Hicks, Assistant Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness Access & Success
Ms. Alison Hadaway, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Jerad David, Director of Communications
Ms. Paige Thomas, Director of Alumni Affairs
Ms. Paulette Mayon, Controller & Ethics Liaison
Ms. Claire Bourgeois, Faculty Senate President



Nicholls State University

Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

P.O. Box 2002 | Thibodaux, LA 70310 | 985.448.4011 | 985.448.4026 [F]

TO: Dr. Jay Clune, President

From: Dr. Sue Westbrook, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Sue Westbrook

DATE: May 21, 2024

RE: MOU Between Nicholls and the University of New Orleans

The College of Sciences and Technology has collaborated with the University of New Orleans' College of Engineering to create a memorandum of understanding for UNO to offer engineering courses on our campus. The University of New Orleans has reviewed the agreement and have agreed to the terms within.

I ask for your consideration to recommend the approval of the MOU with the University of New Orleans to the Board of Regents at the June 2024 meeting.

SW/mpb



THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 15, 2024

Dr. Richard J. Gallot, Jr.
President
The University of Louisiana System
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: University of New Orleans Memorandum of Understanding

Dear Dr. Gallot,

I am requesting approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of New Orleans and Nicholls State University to offer UNO's B.S. in Mechanical Engineering on the Nicholls State University campus. The program is accredited by ABET. The agreement promotes collaborative academic offerings focused on improving engineering workforce talent through curricular delivery with the goal of addressing current and future needs of the engineering workforce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy E. Johnson
President

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is written and established by and between the University of New Orleans, hereinafter referred to as “UNO” and Nicholls State University, hereinafter referred to as “Nicholls.” UNO and Nicholls are hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Universities.”

WHEREAS, the Universities are both institutional members of the University of Louisiana System and are governed by its Board of Supervisors;

WHEREAS, the Universities are both committed to addressing the needs of students interested in engineering study and training, as well as the needs of diverse industries interested in increasing local engineering workforce pools and talent;

WHEREAS, the Universities have previously collaborated to establish transfer agreements involving pre-engineering coursework.

WHEREAS, the Universities both offer well-established degree programs accredited by ABET; and both Universities currently hold, and have continuously held, regional accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

WHEREAS, UNO offers multiple degree-earning engineering curricula relevant to local industry needs;

WHEREAS, Nicholls has identified a large population of students in their service area who have left the area to study engineering at distant universities; and

WHEREAS, the Universities wish to establish stable cooperation to enhance the capacity of each in addressing within their respective academic missions’ important needs in engineering workforce training.

Therefore, the Universities agree to the extent possible but without limitation as follows:

1. The Universities agree to design, pursue, and effectuate collaborative academic offerings focused on improving engineering workforce talent through curricular delivery with the goal of addressing current and future needs of the engineering workforce.
2. The Universities agree to develop an Action Plan to offer UNO’s Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering on the campus of Nicholls. The Action Plan will include but is not limited to:
 - 2.1 delivery of up to six semesters of coursework relevant to the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering to students domiciled on the campus of Nicholls;

- 2.2 developing modes of course delivery to facilitate learning and earning course credit by students domiciled at Nicholls, including by not limited to virtual, hybrid, low residency, and in-person delivery;
 - 2.3 developing guides for reliable and unambiguous transfer of coursework between the Universities;
 - 2.4 developing a process that assures faculty members on both campuses are sufficient to accommodate adequate levels of student-faculty interaction, student advising and counseling, professional development, and interactions with industrial and professional practitioners, as well as employers of students, and,
 - 2.5 developing a process that assures faculty have sufficient authority to ensure the proper guidance of the program, including processes for evaluation, assessment, and continuing improvement of the program.
3. The Universities will pursue activities that will promote future collaboration beneficial to the Universities by:
 - 3.1 providing mechanisms for sharing faculty activity and intellectual resources in the interest of continuously improving student offerings with particular regard to the components of this collaboration; and,
 - 3.2 facilitating collaborative research and service ventures between faculty at UNO and Nicholls, with particular regard to involving students and improving their practical knowledge of engineering issues.
 4. The Universities agree to undertake this collaboration in the shared interest of both Universities.
 5. The signing of this MOU is not a formal undertaking, nor is it intended to be a binding agreement. It implies that the Universities will strive to negotiate binding agreements to accomplish the objectives detailed in the Action Plan in a timely manner. It is understood that the Parties shall not be contractually bound unless and until all definitive agreements have been negotiated, prepared, and executed.
 6. Neither University shall have the right to commit the other University to any contractual, legal, or financial liability, and each University's actions under this MOU shall be considered to be that University's sole and separate action for all purposes, including liability. Neither University shall claim to be acting on behalf of, or as agent for, the other University to this MOU unless the University has received the prior agreement of the other Party in writing.
 7. Either University may terminate this MOU, in whole or in part, upon written notice to the other. Signed, emailed, or faxed documents shall constitute originals and written notice.
 8. No provision in the MOU shall supersede or intend to supersede, violate, or negate rules and regulations set forth by the governing bodies of the Universities, including the University of

Louisiana System and the Louisiana Board of Regents, or the accrediting bodies of the Universities, including ABET and SACSCOC.

- 9. The Effective Date of this MOU is the latest date undersigned below.
- 10. The term of this MOU shall remain in force for a period commencing with the Effective Date and terminating five (5) years hence, unless the Parties agree in writing to extend the term of this MOU.
- 11. The contact persons responsible for coordinating activities arising from this MOU are Dr. Lizette Chevalier on behalf of UNO and Dr. John Doucet on behalf of Nicholls.

In witness whereof, the Universities have executed this agreement on the date set forth below.

 Dr. Kathy Johnson, President
 University of New Orleans

 Date

 Dr. Jay Clune, President
 Nicholls State University

 Date

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 13, 2024

Item E.2. University of New Orleans' request for approval to revise its Mission Statement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During Spring 2024, the University of New Orleans (UNO) engaged in a strategic planning process (UNO 2030) to refresh its strategic priorities in five (5) areas: (1) Enrolling and Retaining Thriving Students; (2) Alumni and Community Engagement; (3) Supporting Our People and Enhancing Our Culture; (4) Research, Innovation and Economic Development; and (5) Finance, Infrastructure and Sustainability. Planning was intentionally aligned with both the ULS Strategic Framework and the Louisiana Board of Regents Master Plan (Louisiana Prospers). During the planning process it became evident that a slightly updated mission statement was necessary. The recommended changes are relatively minor in nature and do not impact the scope of UNO's mission as an urban public research university. Proposed changes are noted in yellow:

The University of New Orleans is an urban research university committed to providing educational excellence to a diverse undergraduate and graduate student body. The University is one of the region's foremost public resources, offering a variety of world-class, research-based programs, many of which are uniquely linked to the rich and vibrant city of New Orleans. The University of New Orleans, as a global community asset, advances shared knowledge and enhances the sustainability and quality of life in New Orleans, the state, the nation, and the world, by participating in a broad array of research, community-engaged learning, cultural and academic activities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the University of New Orleans' request to revise its Mission Statement.



E.2.

THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW ORLEANS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 15, 2024

Dr. Richard J. Gallot, Jr.
President
The University of Louisiana System
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: University of New Orleans

Dear Dr. Gallot,

The University of New Orleans requests approval to revise the University's mission statement to better reflect the University's current programs and activities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy E. Johnson, Ph.D.
President



THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 23, 2024

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

Dear President Gallot,

During the spring, 2024 semester the University of New Orleans engaged in a strategic planning process (UNO2030) to refresh our strategic priorities in 5 areas: 1) Enrolling and Retaining Thriving Students, 2) Alumni and Community Engagement, 3) Supporting our People and Enhancing our Culture, 4) Research, Innovation, and Economic Development, and 5) Finance, Infrastructure and Sustainability. Planning was intentionally aligned with both the ULS Strategic Plan and the Louisiana Board of Regents Master Plan.

Our planning priorities and related tactics may be found on this website: <https://www.uno.edu/2030>. Metrics and goals (based on data from peer institutions) will be added later in the summer as we complete our SIS transition to Workday Student. The “launch” date for the plan will be July 1, 2024.

Early in the planning process as discussion unfolded among faculty, staff, students, and community leaders, there emerged a need to slightly update our mission statement to better reflect our current programs and activities. These recommended changes are relatively minor and do not impact the scope of our mission as an urban public research university. However, we would be grateful if they could be reviewed for potential approval by the Board of Supervisors at their June, 2024 meeting. The original statement and the proposed revision (with changes highlighted) appear below:

Previously Approved Mission Statement for the University of New Orleans:

The University of New Orleans is a comprehensive urban research university committed to providing educational excellence to a diverse undergraduate and graduate student body. The University is one of the region's foremost public resources, offering a variety of world-class, research-based programs, advancing shared knowledge and adding to the region's industry, culture and economy. The University of New Orleans, as a global community asset, serves national and international students and enhances the quality of life in New Orleans, the state, the nation, and the world, by participating in a broad array of research,



THE UNIVERSITY *of*
NEW ORLEANS
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service learning, cultural and academic activities.

Proposed Revision to University of New Orleans Mission Statement:

The University of New Orleans is an urban research university committed to providing educational excellence to a diverse undergraduate and graduate student body. The University is one of the region's foremost public resources, offering a variety of world-class, research-based programs, many of which are uniquely linked to the rich and vibrant city of New Orleans. The University of New Orleans, as a global community asset, advances shared knowledge and enhances the sustainability and quality of life in New Orleans, the state, the nation, and the world, by participating in a broad array of research, community-engaged learning, cultural and academic activities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Kathy Johnson, Ph.D.
President
The University of New Orleans