The University of Louisiana at Lafayette announced Friday that it has named Patricia Frilot Cottonham as vice president for Student Affairs.

Her appointment is subject to approval by the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors.

Cottonham has been interim vice president for Student Affairs since 2012 and interim dean of students since 2009.

"She is well qualified to continue to lead this vital component of the University," said UL President Joseph Savoie, Ph.D. "Her professional experience is broad and she has earned a reputation for her concern for students."

In her application letter, Cottonham said UL "has been part of my life for nearly 40 years. As an undergraduate in the 1970s, the years were filled with leadership opportunities, life-changing experiences, lifelong memories and most importantly, I earned a valuable degree..."

She worked as a speech therapist in Opelousas for five years after graduating with a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology. In 1984, she was hired by the University as a financial aid counselor.

In 1998, she became associate dean of students and director of Greek Life. She had direct oversight of over 150 student organizations.

After Cottonham was named interim dean of students in 2009, she supervised several departments and assumed the duties of a Title IX investigator "alongside the Title IX compliance officer."

As interim vice president for Student Affairs, Cottonham supervised the departments of Housing, Recreational Sports, Counseling and Testing, and Student Health Services, as well as University Police, the Child Development Center, Student Union, Career Services, Career Counseling, Disability Services, Student Life and Conduct, Student Engagement and Leadership, Student Publications, and the Office of International Affairs.

"I understand the mission of the University and its plans for the future. I am committed to diversity and providing the best possible experience for each and every student," she stated.

Cottonham has had a leadership role in the recent addition and renovation of residence halls; about 3,000 students now live on campus.

She has also been involved with the expansion and renovation of the Student Union.