Facilities and Property Committee
(Following Personnel Affairs and Policy Committee)
Friday, April 20, 2007
Board of Supervisors’ Meeting Room
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building
Southern University - Baton Rouge

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Public Comments
5. Action Item(s)
   A. Naming of New Classroom Building, SUSLA
   B. Naming of Reading Rooms, SULC
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

Committee Members:
Mr. Walter Guidry, Jr.-Chairman; Mr. Louis Miller, Vice Chairman;
Mr. Richard J.Caiton, Atty. Tony M. Clayton, Mr. Chris Jackson,
Ms. Anne Z. Kiefer, Mr. Myron K. Lawson, Mrs. Lea P. Montgomery,
Mr. Johnny G. Anderson, Ex officio
March 12, 2007

Dr. Ralph Slaughter, President
Southern University System
4th Floor, J. S. Clark Administration Bldg.
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

RE: Request To Name Building-Dr. Walter M. Austin Hall

Dear Dr. Slaughter:

This correspondence is submitted requesting your support and endorsement, particularly relative to the naming of a building on the Southern University at Shreveport campus.

As you are aware, SUSLA currently occupies eleven (11) buildings on 103 acres of land located at 3050 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive in Northwest Shreveport. Until recently, the institution has never engaged in the task of naming buildings and at present, many names associated with facilities are geriatric in nature (i.e., Fine Arts Building, New Classroom Building, Library, etc.). Therein, this initiative attempts to name one building in recognition of an individual who has contributed significantly to the evolution of the Shreveport campus. More specifically, it is recommended that the New Classroom Building be named Dr. Walter M. Austin Hall, a distinction that highlights the first Chief Executive Officer of the Shreveport campus.

As recommended by Dr. Felton G. Clark, in May 1966, the State Board of Education appointed Dr. Walter Austin as Dean of Southern University at Shreveport to head the second branch of the Southern University–Baton Rouge campus. Southern University at Shreveport/Bossier City (SUSBO), under Austin’s leadership was a vital part of the Cooper Road community. As a member of the Cooper Road Planning Commission, he successfully spearheaded an effort to incorporate the area into the city limits, to provide adequate police, fire, drainage and other municipal services to the citizens of the area. He designed and supervised a socioeconomic survey of the area and championed the drive to purchase a fire truck and build a fire station in the community. Through such associations, SUSBO became a factor in addressing the needs and concerns of the people in the Cooper Road area as well as a resource of higher education for the residents.
In addition, Dr. Austin was intricately involved in the development of the Shreveport campus. He provided oversight in the clearing of land, the architectural designs and the construction of those building that opened on September 1967. He further, provided oversight to the design and construction of the Library and New Classroom Building which was completed in 1971.

The naming of buildings on the Shreveport campus is seen as a project that deservedly needs to be completed. Appropriately then, the proposed name heretofore mentioned is an individual who was identified by an AD Hoc committee deliberately charged to respond to this initiative. He is one who has invested in the Shreveport campus and generally the Southern University System.

Again, your endorsement of this candidate is requested. If you find favor, I would further request that this initiative be directed to the Southern University Board of Supervisors for their respective consideration.

With warm regards,

Ray L. Bonfón, Ph.D.
Chancellor

JAB/lw
April 11, 2007

Dr. Ralph Slaughter
President
Southern University System
J.S. Clark Administration Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Re: SULC Room Naming

Dear President Slaughter:

This communication serves as a formal recommendation to rename two reading rooms in the Oliver B. Spellman Law Library of the Southern University Law Center for retiring professor Washington Marshall and Alvin Roche, Director of Library Services.

Based on over thirty (30) years of teaching in the area of Louisiana Family Law which includes courses in:

- Successions
- Matrimonial Regimes
- Family Law I

I am recommending that the Louisiana Reading Room be renamed the Washington Marshall Louisiana Reading Room.

And based on thirty-seven (37) years with the Southern University System, of which nineteen (19) years were serving as Director of Library Services at the Southern University Law Center, I am recommending that the Reserve Reading Room be renamed the Alvin A. Roché, Jr. Reserve Reading Room.

Your recommended approval to the Southern University System Board of Supervisors is greatly appreciated.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Freddie Pitcher, Jr. (Judge Ret.)
Chancellor SULC

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