FACILITIES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE  
(Following the Student Affairs Committee)  
Friday, February 27, 2009  
Board of Supervisors’ Meeting Room  
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Southern University – Baton Rouge, LA

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of the Agenda

4. Public Comments

5. Action Item(s)
   A. Request for approval of Parking Lot Construction, SUNO

6. Other Business

7. Adjournment

MEMBERS
Mr. Walter Guidry (Chairman); Mr. Murphy Nash, Jr. (Vice Chairman);  
Mr. Patrick W. Bell; Mr. Richard J. Caiton; Atty. Walter Dumas;  
Atty. Warren A. Forstall; Mr. Myron K. Lawson;  
Atty. Tony M. Clayton- Ex Officio
February 11, 2009

Dr. Ralph Slaughter
President
Southern University System
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Dr. Slaughter:

This letter is written to request your support as well as pre-approval to move forward on seeking consideration and approval from the U.S. Department of Education to redirect a portion of our Title III Program funds to begin the construction of a badly needed Parking Garage on our Park Campus.

As a result of a survey that was conducted by the consultants for our most recent Master Plan, students, faculty and staff ranked a parking garage as the third most important and relevant campus service needed for the growth and advancement of Southern University at New Orleans. In addition, the majority of the respondents involved in the Master Plan process conclusively stated that parking needs to be strongly considered in the infrastructure development of the campuses as they are renewed and developed going into the future.

As you are aware, the enrollment of Southern University at New Orleans has increased each semester since our return in 2006 from the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. However, due to this increase, parking continues to be a major problem for our students, faculty, staff and visitors alike. While there is some parking available, it is extremely limited. Many times our students, employees and visitors have to circle around the campus several times looking for a place to park. Individuals who park on the perimeters of the Park Campus have reported that many are constantly being ticketed for illegal parking, i.e., blocking fire hydrants, blocking walkways, parking in no parking zones, etc. Additional parking would most definitely help reduce stress, alleviate frustration, eliminate unnecessary problems, and improve the overall attitude of our constituents.

The proposed parking facility would be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 would include the construction of 200 parking spaces at an estimated cost of $3,000,000. We are, therefore, proposing that this amount come from Title III prior years unspent monies, a portion of our current Title III-B allocations and from our College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA) grant as follows:

"An Equal Educational Opportunity Institution"
An amount of $1,085,248 was requested and allocated to us under the 2008-09 CCRAA grant for the cost associated with the preliminary plans and design of the School of Social Work Building. The completed School of Social Work Building is estimated to cost nearly $9 million. Since making the request to the Department of Education (CCRAA), we have sought other possible funding sources, as you are aware, and it appears as though we will be successful in getting the total amount needed for this project from one of these other sources.

Also, $750,000 was requested and approved in the 2008-09 Title III-B grant for use towards the construction of an overhead bridge (link) which would connect the Lake and Park campuses. In recent discussions with city planning officials and others, we have learned that this would be a very expensive project and could be a long and drawn out process with many required approvals. While this bridge would be extremely beneficial to Southern University at New Orleans and our students, some city officials feel that this construction would be destructive to the overall flow of traffic in the area.

Redirect $600,000 of the balance remaining in the 2006-2007 Title III-B grant to the parking garage project. Monies remain in this grant mainly due to unfilled and vacated personnel positions along with its associated fringe benefits, and the Endowment Enhancement component not meeting its proposed match. Redirect $564,752 of the balance remaining in the 2007-2008 Title III-B grant to the parking garage project. Monies remain in this grant also mainly due to unfilled and vacated personnel positions along with its associated fringe benefits, and the Endowment Enhancement component not meeting its proposed match.

Dr. Slaughter, we strongly feel that this project would greatly enhance and strengthen the overall infrastructure of Southern University at New Orleans while satisfying some of our parking problems.

Thank you in advance for your support and I look forward to discussing these proposals with you in more detail.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Victor Ukpolo, Ph.D.
Chancellor

Approved: ______________________
Ralph Slaughter, Ph. D.
President, SUS

Cc: Dr. Brenda Jackson
    Mr. Endas Vincent