PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
(Following the Academic Affairs Committee)
Friday, June 6, 2014
Board of Supervisors’ Meeting Room
2nd Floor J.S. Clark Administration Building
Southern University and A&M College
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  70813

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Public Comments
5. Action Item
   A. Sabbatical Leave Extension Request for the 2014-15 Academic Year, SULC
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

MEMBERS
Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr. – Chair; Mr. Darren G. Mire – Vice Chair;
Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr., Mr. Willie E. Hendricks, Dr. Eamon M. Kelly
Mr. Mike A. Small, Mrs. Ann A. Smith
Atty. Bridget A. Dinvaut – Ex Officio
May 15, 2014

Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr.
President
Southern University System
J.S. Clark Administration Building, 4th Floor
Southern University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813

Re: Professor Okechukwu Oko Leave Extension Request for the 2014-15 Academic Year - Southern University Law Center

Dear Dr. Mason:

Professor Okechukwu Oko is requesting an extension of a previously granted Sabbatical Leave that will cover the 2014-2015 Academic Year. If granted, this will be Professor Oko’s third successive leave accorded him - all without pay.

In April, 2012 the Southern University Board of Supervisors approved a leave without pay request from Professor Okechukwu Oko for the 2012-2013 academic year. Professor Oko’s stated request for the leave was to pursue a research project for his third book that took him back to his native country, Nigeria. In his requested leave for the 2013-2014 academic year, he stated that an outdated archival and storage system coupled with the rising insecurity in Nigeria considerably slowed the pace of his research. He goes on to state that he is optimistic that the research will be completed by the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. In his leave request for the 2014-2015 academic year he states that his research is still ongoing and that the Nigerian Government has requested his assistance in the following areas:

a. How to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of legislators in Nigeria;

b. How to address the institutional problems that frustrate efforts to deepen democracy;

c. Helping to stabilize the newly established National Institute of Legislative Studies;

d. Contributing to the ongoing constitutional review process and electoral reform.

"An Equal Educational Opportunity Institution"
Professor Oko's absence will not impact our course coverage for the upcoming academic year. I am, therefore, recommending that Professor Oko's leave without pay be extended through the 2014-2015 academic year. Please submit his request to the Board of Supervisors for approval at its meeting on June 6.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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

Attachment
Okechukwu Oko. LL.M. J.S.D  
Dodson-Hook Professor of Law

May 5, 2014

The Chancellor  
Southern University Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  

Re: Request for an Extension of Leave to the end of 2014/2015 Academic Year

Dear Chancellor Pitcher:

I respectfully apply for a one year leave of absence without pay for the 2014-2015 academic year to enable me fulfill my research commitments in Africa. I have spent the last two years conducting a groundbreaking and pioneering study on the challenges for legislators in Africa. A book documenting my research findings will be published this fall.

During the course of my research, the leadership of the Nigerian Congress (National Assembly) granted me unfettered and unprecedented access to all the documents and materials I needed for my study. Based on their assessment of my competence and expertise in the pressing areas of need for Nigeria, the Nigerian government requested my assistance in the following areas:

a. How to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of legislators in Nigeria;  
b. How to address the institutional problems that frustrate efforts to deepen democracy;  
c. Helping to stabilize the newly established National Institute for Legislative studies;  
d. Contributing to the ongoing constitutional review process and electoral reform.

These projects will improve my effectiveness as a law teacher and a law professor and bring favorable attention and recognition to my parent institution, Southern University
Law Center. I also intend to publish my research in these areas as my fourth book titled Institutional Problems of Democracy in Africa.

During my stay in Africa, I hope to work on establishing a linkage between Southern University and Nigeria. My goal is to establish an exchange program whereby Southern University professors and students can spend time in Nigeria researching into areas of interest to them. I will pressure the leadership of the National Assembly to bear the cost of the exchange program.

Hopefully, my efforts will lead to the establishment of a summer in Africa Program for our students, a program analogous to the program currently offered by Howard University in South Africa. As you can see from the above, my leave of absence will be immensely beneficial to Southern University.

I hope to return to the law center at the end of the 2014/2015 academic year. I regret any inconvenience this request might cause the law center.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Okechukwu Oko

[Signature]

[Approved/Disapproved]

By: __________________________

Date: __________________________