

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

1:00 p.m.

Friday, July 31, 2009

J.S. Clark Administration Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Southern University - Baton Rouge

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was convened by the Chairman, Atty. Tony M. Clayton. The invocation was given by Atty. Jefferson.

**PRESENT**

Atty. Tony M. Clayton - Chairman  
Mrs. Lea P. Montgomery - Vice Chairman  
Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr.  
Mr. Patrick W. Bell  
Mr. Richard Caiton  
Atty. Walter C. Dumas  
Atty. Warren Forstall  
Atty. Randal L. Gaines  
Mr. Walter Guidry  
Atty. Patrick O. Jefferson  
Mr. Myron K. Lawson  
Atty. Patrick D. Magee  
Mr. Murphy Nash, Jr.

**ABSENT**

Ms. Raushanah Hunter  
Mr. Darren Mire  
Mr. Achilles Williams

**UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING**

Interim System President Kassie Freeman  
Vice Presidents Napoleon Moses and Tolor E. White  
Chancellors Leodrey Williams; Vice Chancellors Mwalima Shujaa and John Pierre,  
representing Chancellors Kofi Lomotey and Freddie Pitcher, respectively.

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**BOARD COUNSEL**

Attys. Winston DeCuir, Sr. and Winston Decuir, Jr.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: WAIVER OF TEN-DAY ADVANCED NOTICE OF MEETING REQUIREMENT**

On motion of Mr. Caiton, seconded by Atty. Jefferson, the Board waived its ten-day advance notice of meeting requirements.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

On motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. M. Bell, the agenda was amended to add Agenda Item 6B: Aramark Food Service Lease Contract, SUBR.

Motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote: **10 yeas:** Clayton, Montgomery, M. Bell, Caiton, Dumas, Forstall, Guidry, Jefferson, Lawson, and Nash; **0 nays; 0 abstentions**

**AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

On motion of Mrs. Montgomery, seconded by Atty. Bell, the amended agenda was adopted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Comments in opposition to Item 5D: Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Reduction/Organizational Restructuring Plans for the SU System were tendered by the following individuals:

- Dr. Diola Bagayoko, SUBR, Professor of Physics
- Atty. Frances R. Smith, SU System, Assistant and Counsel to the President
- Dr. Bruce M. Craig, SUBR Alumnus

Atty. Smith requested permission from the Board to discuss a personnel matter related to her regarding Agenda Item 6.D. in an executive session.

A motion was offered by Mr. Guidry and seconded by Mr. Lawson, that the Board convene into executive session with its counsel to discuss a personnel matter regarding Atty. Frances Smith.

The motion failed to get the required unanimous vote of the members.

Roll call vote: **8 yeas:** Clayton, Montgomery, M. Bell, Forstall, Guidry, Jefferson, Lawson, and Magee; **3 nays:** Caiton, Dumas, Nash; **0 abstentions**

**AGENDA ITEM 6A: APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR FOR THE CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS, SUBR**

Several concerns were raised concerning the Administration's employment of the individual being recommended for this position before Board approval was obtained.

In response to an inquiry from the Board Chairman, Dr. Dana Carpenter reported that the salary for the position will be paid from a Title III grant and that no state funds will be used. He also indicated the importance of timely hiring a person who could work with the student appeals process in time for Fall Registration.

On motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Atty. Magee,

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the appointment of Dr. Nadia Comaneci Gadson as the Director of the Center for Student Success, effective July 1, 2009 at an annual salary of \$63,000, be and it is hereby approved.

Motion carried. **9 yeas:** Clayton, Montgomery, M. Bell, P. Bell, Forstall, Guidry, Jefferson, Lawson, Magee; **3 nays:** Caiton, Dumas, Nash;  
**0 abstentions**

Atty. McGee asked for a full transcript of the proceeding relative to this Agenda Item.



**AGENDA ITEM 6B: ARAMARK FOOD SERVICE CONTRACT, SUBR**

The Administration reported that the concerns raised at the July 24th Board Meeting regarding students' concerns with the Food Service Contract with Aramark had been addressed.

On motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Guidry, upon the recommendation of the SUBR Administration, the Food Service Lease Contract between Southern University - Baton Rouge and Aramark Educational Services, LLC, effective July 1, 2009, be and it is hereby approved.

Motion carried unanimously. **12 yeas:** Clayton, Montgomery, M. Bell, P. Bell, Caiton, Dumas, Forstall, Guidry, Jefferson, Lawson, Magee and Nash. **0 nays: 0 abstentions**

**AGENDA ITEM 6C: INTERIM SU SYSTEM PRESIDENT'S COMPENSATION PACKAGE**

Board Vice Chair Lea Montgomery reported that she and Board Member Walter Guidry met to develop a compensation package for the Interim System President for submission to the Board for its consideration and action. Mrs. Montgomery advised that factors such as the national average for System Presidents, the salaries of the SU Chancellors and the salary of the immediate past president were considered in reaching a decision.

Based upon the Committee's findings, the following recommendation was offered.

On motion of Mrs. Montgomery, seconded by Mr. Guidry,

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that Dr. Kassie Freeman, in her capacity as Interim President of the SU System and as System Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, be and she shall receive a compensation package consisting of an annual base salary of \$298,000 and Housing and Car Allowance of \$25,000, effective July 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009, pro-rated monthly.

Should the search process extends beyond the six-month timeline that has been set, the compensation package will continue until a permanent System President is selected.

Motion carried unanimously. Roll Call Vote: **12 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.**

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**AGENDA ITEM 6D: FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BUDGET REDUCTION/  
ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING PLAN,  
SU SYSTEM**

Interim President Kassie Freeman presented the System's plan. She indicated that the \$800,000 shortfall in the Board and System 2009-2010 Operating Budget had been addressed by the proposed budget reduction/organizational restructuring plan which called for the elimination of positions, employee terminations and the addition of new positions and new hires in some existing positions.

Considerable discussion ensued. The following questions were raised by members of the Board:

- Should the Interim President be allowed to reorganize the System's organizational structure during the six-month process established by the Board for the search and selection of a permanent President?
- Could budget reductions have been realized through the implementation of employee furloughs to substantially minimize the need for employee terminations?
- What was the rationale for eliminating positions and proposing new positions during an interim appointment?

Attention was called to the absence of a Board policy to define the parameters of the authority granted to administrators serving in an interim capacity.

Responding to the Board members' concerns, Dr. Freeman advised that the proposed plan represented the best response to the \$800,000 budget shortfall. She



warned that should the Board fail to take timely action on the Plan, additional loss of funds needed for the System's operation would result.

Responding to an inquiry from Mr. Lawson, Vice President Tolor White indicated that the Board's action on the System's Plan could be deferred until the Board's regular August meeting without the budget being negatively impacted further.

A motion was offered by Atty. Magee and seconded by Mr. Caiton, that the Board approve the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Reduction/Organizational Restructuring Plan for the SU System.

A substitute motion was offered by Mr. Lawson and seconded by Mr. Patrick Bell, that the Board defer action on the proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget/Organizational Restructuring Plan until its regular meeting in August. In the interim, Dr. Freeman is to get input on the Plan from Mr. White, the faculty and the heads of other affected University units.

The motion failed. Roll call vote: **7 yeas:** Clayton, Montgomery, P. Bell, Forstall, Guidry, Jefferson, Lawson; **6 nays:** M. Bell, Caiton, Dumas, Gaines, Magee, and Nash; **0 abstentions.**

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A roll call vote was taken on the original motion for the Board's approval of the Plan.

The motion failed. Roll call vote: **6 yeas:** M. Bell, Caiton, Dumas, Gaines, Magee, and Nash; **7 nays:** Clayton, Montgomery, P. Bell, Forstall, Guidry, Jefferson, and Lawson, **0 abstentions**

Chairman Clayton asked Vice Chair Montgomery, Atty. Forstall, and Mr. Guidry to work with Interim President Freeman to develop a revised plan, taking into consideration the concerns expressed by Board Members, and to present a revised plan to the Board at its August 28 meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Atty. Jefferson, the meeting was adjourned.

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Secretary, SU Board of Supervisors

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Chairman, SU Board of Supervisors