

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Friday, April 30, 2010

9:00 A.M.

J. S. Clark Administration Building – 2nd Floor

Baton Rouge, LA

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. Patrick O. Jefferson.

PRESENT

Atty. Tony M. Clayton, Chairman
Mr. Darren G. Mire, Vice Chairman
Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr.
Mr. Patrick W. Bell
Mr. Richard J. Caiton
Atty. Walter C. Dumas
Atty. Warren A. Forstall
Atty. Randal L. Gaines
Mr. Walter Guidry
Ms. Raushanah S. Hunter
Atty. Patrick O. Jefferson
Mr. Myron K. Lawson
Atty. Patrick D. Magee
Mrs. Lea P. Montgomery
Mr. Murphy Nash, Jr.
Mr. Achilles Williams

ABSENT

None

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING

Interim System President Kassie Freeman
Vice President Tolor White
Chancellors Ray Belton, Kofi Lomotey, Freddie Pitcher, Victor Ukpolo and Leodrey Williams

BOARD COUNSEL

Atty. Winston DeCuir, Jr.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Mr. Guidry, the agenda was adopted, as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment:
Item 10A: Ethics Disclosure

AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Sudhir Trivedi assured that the Board of the Southern University Baton Rouge's faculty support of the candidate selected as the new SU System President.

Dr. Albert Samuels, SUBR Faculty Members, registered concern regarding the SU President Search process.

Mr. Roderick Miller, Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce Representative, commended the SU Presidential Search Committee for its work.

Ms. Toni Jackson, SUBR Staff Senate representative registered concern for the absence of an official Staff Senate representative on the Presidential Search Committee.

Ms. Leah Peoples, NAACP – SU Chapter admonished the Board to make its choice of president with the student body in mind.

AGENDA ITEM 4A: SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Mr. Joshua White, a McKinley Magnet School Student, for his outstanding artwork—one of which was a painting of Southern University. Mr. White is the son of Mrs. Deborah White, former employee of the Southern University System Foundation.

AGENDA ITEM 5: RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE OF THE THREE FINALIST CANDIDATES FOR THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM PRESIDENCY

Attorney Domoine Rutledge, Co-Chair of the SU Presidential Search Committee, thanked the Board for having the opportunity to assist in the process. Presidential Search members of the Presidential Search Committee were recognized and extended the Board's commendation for their services.

Attorney Murphy Bell submitted the names of the following persons who were being recommended to the Board for its selection of a new System President. The names were submitted unranked.

- Dr. Leonard L. Haynes III
- Dr. Robert Jennings

-- Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

On motion of Mr. Mire, seconded by Atty. Forstall, the Board accepted the above recommendation of the Presidential Search Committee and interviewed each candidate for the president's position.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM PRESIDENT'S POSITION

On motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Atty. Forstall, the Board convened into an executive session to discuss the character qualifications and competencies of the three finalist candidates for the SU System presidency.

Motion carried unanimously. ROLL CALL VOTE: 14 (yeas), 0 (nays), 0 (abstentions); 2 (out): Mr. Bell and Atty. Magee.

---EXECUTIVE SESSION---

---OPEN SESSION---

On motion of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Atty. Bell, the Board reconvened into open session.

Motion carried unanimously. ROLL CALL VOTE: 16 (yeas), 0 (nays), 0 (abstentions)

* * *

On motion of Mr. Caiton, seconded by Atty. Forstall, the names of the three candidates --- Dr. Leonard L. Haynes, III, Dr. Robert Jennings and Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. -- were placed in nomination for the presidency.

Motion carried unanimously. ROLL CALL VOTE: 16 (yeas), 0 (nays), 0 (abstentions).

* * *

On motion of Mr. Caiton, seconded by Atty. Forstall, the names of the three candidates -- Dr. Leonard L. Haynes III, Dr. Robert Jennings and Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr.—were placed in nomination for the presidency.

Motion carried unanimously. ROLL CALL VOTE: 16 (yeas), 0 (nays), 0 (abstentions).

* * *

A roll call on the three nominations produced the following vote: Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. – 14 votes: Clayton, Mire, M. Bell, P. Bell, Caiton, Dumas, Forstall, Gaines, Guidry, Jefferson, Lawson, Magee, Montgomery, and Williams.

Dr. Leonard L. Haynes III – 2 votes: Hunter and Nash.

Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. was selected as the new president for the Southern University System.

Dr. Mason expressed his appreciation to the Board for his appointment and pledged his best efforts towards fulfilling the duties of his new position.

* * *

On motion of Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Mire, Board Chairman Clayton was authorized to begin negotiations with Dr. Mason regarding a compensation package.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Clayton reported that he would submit a recommendation for the presidential compensation in the Executive Committee to the Board at its May 14, 2010 meeting.

* * *

Dr. Kassie Freeman expressed appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to serve as Interim System President .

The Board's gratitude was extended to Dr. Freeman for her tireless efforts in executing the duties of the System president as an interim basis.

AGENDA ITEM 8: RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES, 2010 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Mr. P. Bell,

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University that candidates for degrees at the 2010 Spring Commencement Exercises at Southern University-Baton Rouge, as submitted by the Interim System President and the Chancellor upon the approval and recommendation of the Faculty, Council of Academic Deans, and appropriate administration be, and they are hereby approved.

* * *

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University that candidates for degrees at the 2010 Spring Commencement Exercises for the Law Center, as submitted by the Interim System President

and the Chancellor upon the approval and recommendation of the Faculty, Council of Academic Deans, and appropriate administration be, and they are hereby approved.

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RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University that candidates for degrees at the 2010 Spring Commencement Exercises at Southern University-New Orleans, as submitted by the Interim System President and the Chancellor upon the approval and recommendation of the Faculty, Council of Academic Deans, and appropriate administration be, and they are hereby approved.

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RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University that candidates for degrees at the 2010 Spring Commencement Exercises at Southern University-Shreveport, as submitted by the Interim System President and the Chancellor upon the approval and recommendation of the Faculty, Council of Academic Deans, and appropriate administration be, and they are hereby approved.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CHECKING ACCOUNT FOR THE FEDERAL DIRECT LENDING PROGRAM, SUBR

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

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University that the administration be and it is hereby authorized to establish a checking account for the Federal Direct Lending Program at Southern University-Baton Rouge.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: 2010 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Jason Hughes reported that House Bill 996 that seeks to change the current Louisiana Higher Education Structure did not obtain a majority vote in Committee.

The bill could resurface on the House Floor if it can get a sufficient number of votes.

Mr. Hughes also provided an update on the upcoming meeting of the House Appropriations Committee and the proposed Louisiana Grad Act.

AGENDA ITEM 10A: ETHICS DISCLOSURES

Attorney Winston DeCuir, Jr. reported that the Louisiana Ethics Law requires that public officials, including members of State Board and Commissions, to file a personal financial disclosure statement with

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the Louisiana Ethics Board on or before Friday, May 15, 2010. Each member was provided a copy of the Form and general information regarding its completion and submission.

AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Nash, the meeting was adjourned.

Kassie Freeman, Secretary
Board of Supervisors
Southern University System

Tony Clayton, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
Southern University System