

Southern University and A&M College System
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
9 a.m.
Friday, July 5, 2018
Minutes

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Mrs. Ann A. Smith. The invocation was given by Rev. Montrell Henderson, Senior Pastor of The Family Christian Center of Baton Rouge, LA.

PRESENT

Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Mr. John Barthelemy, Atty. Tony Clayton, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Ms. Xavieria Jeffers, Atty. Patrick Magee, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Mr. Mike Small and Dr. Leon R. Tarver II

ABSENT

Rev. Donald R. Henry, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr., Rev. Samuel Tolbert and Dr. Rani Whitfield

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING

System President Ray Belton, Chief of Staff Katara Williams, Executive Vice President/Executive Vice Chancellor James Ammons, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs Flandus McClinton, Vice President for Strategic Planning, Policy and Institutional Effectiveness Vladimir Appeaning, Vice President for External Affairs Robyn Merrick, Chancellors Dr. Lisa Mims Devezin (SUNO), Dr. Bobby Phills (SUAREC), Dr. Rodney Ellis (SUSLA), and Atty. John Pierre (SULC).

BOARD COUNSEL

Attys. Winston DeCuir, Jr., and Deidre Robert

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon the motion by Mr. Barthelemy and seconded by Dr. Tarver the agenda was amended to add action item 7

AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Louisiana Representative Ted James spoke to members of the Board about the fact that tuition

AGENDA ITEM 5: WAIVER OF TEN-DAY NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Board Chair Smith thanked Board members for adjusting their schedules to attend the meeting. She explained that the meeting was necessary because the University was unable to plan on the actual budget appropriation until after the close of the special legislative session and input from the Board of Regents regarding the application of the funding formula. It was important to meet on short notice because the Board must meet to consider the necessary fee increases before the time that fee bills must be sent to students. The timing is critical so that parents and students are well informed.

Upon the motion by Dr. Leon Tarver and seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee waiver of the ten-day meeting notice was recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 6: INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

A. Yearbook Status Update

Dr. Kimberly Scott, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at SUBR provided the update to Board members. She stated that there is a \$25.00 media fee for undergraduate and graduate students. The 2017-18 yearbook is in final production and will be delivered during the Fall semester usually homecoming week. Student Board Member Xavieria Jeffers stated that students at the law center pay a \$15 fee for the *Public Defender* and the law review and the journal. Chancellor John Pierre stated that full-time students pay a Student Publication Fee (Yearbook) and Student Newspaper fee (*Public Defender*). Vice Chancellor McClinton explained that at one time all of the fees for publishing were sent to the Baton Rouge campus because a yearbook was produced for both campuses (SULC and SUBR). President Belton stated that because the funds collected are restricted for publishing finance staff will be able to research the matter. He stated that he would meet with the finance staff and a report would be forthcoming. Atty. Clayton stated that he also was requesting that a report be given to members of the Board after the appropriate research has been conducted.

B. Litigation Update Dorothy Jackson v. Board of Supervisors, et. Al., No. 18-cv-603 United States District Court, Middle District of Louisiana

Board Chair Smith announced that the Board may meet in executive session to discuss the pending litigation of Dorothy Jackson under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute 42:17. Consideration of the litigation is such a matter. While in executive session, the Board may meet with its staff, attorneys or other persons it deems necessary. No votes or other action will be taken while in executive session.

Upon the motion by Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee the recommendation to convene in executive session was presented for approval.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Smith, Barthelemy, Clayton, Davis, Gaines, Hilliard, Jeffers, Fondel, Magee, Rutledge, Small, Tarver

Nays: None

Motion passed.

RECONVENTION

Board Chair Smith announced that the Board met in executive session to discuss the pending litigation of Dorothy Jackson. While in executive session no motions were made, nor votes taken

Upon the motion by Dr. Tarver and seconded by Dr. Curman Gaines the recommendation to reconvene in regular session was presented for approval.

Roll Call:

Yeas: Smith, Barthelemy, Clayton, Davis, Gaines, Hilliard, Jeffers, Fondel, Magee, Rutledge, Small, Tarver

Nays: None

Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Minutes of June 22, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Upon the motion by Atty. Patrick Magee and seconded by Dr. Leroy Davis, the minutes for the June 22, 2018 meeting were recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the minutes of the June 22, 2018 meeting be and they are hereby approved.

B. Request Approval to Implement Increase in Fees Effective Fall 2018 (All Campuses)

President Belton stated that there should be clarification about higher education being fully funded by the legislature. He explained that higher education received flat funding which constitutes a reduction in funding when there is increased mandated costs. A standstill budget does not take into consideration the state appropriations being run through a funding formula. It amounts to a 5% reduction in the budget.

Vice President Flandus McClinton distributed copies of a report that outlines by campus the revenue that would be generated by a 5% fee increase in student fees by semester.

Dr. Leon R. Tarver II asked whether inflationary factors are considered?

Student Board member Xavieria Jeffers asked whether the University pursued any other ways to generate revenue. She stated that it is unfair to pass the increase to students when the University continues to hire faculty and staff with large salaries.

In response to Student Board Member Jeffers, Dr. Belton stated that a reduction in class offerings and furloughs were considered. He stated that over the last ten years higher education has had to respond to significant reductions in revenue with revenue declining by about \$46 million. Additionally, SUNO and SUBR had to respond to declining enrollment due to policy. Dr. Belton stated that the University has been in survival mode. There is a \$14 million increase in unfunded mandated costs. The revenue generated from the proposed fees will aid the University in fulfilling its mission. Dr. Leroy Davis asked that the legislature be informed about the funding formula and solicited their help with it. Dr. Davis asked where the funds are redistributed after they are run through the formula.

Board Member Domoine Rutledge thanked Rep. Ted James for expressing his concerns. He also acknowledged the work of the LA Black Caucus on behalf of Southern University. He also stated that he had reservations about the student support fee increase. Atty. Rutledge asked for additional information regarding the formula distribution. System Vice President McClinton said that at SUBR prior to 2008-09 state appropriations was approximately \$92 million. Appropriations for 2018 is roughly \$41 million. Additional revenue above the \$18 million that is appropriated through the Board of Regents comes from self-generated fees. He also said that of the \$18 million that the state appropriates 99% of the

appropriation is given back to the state to cover unfunded mandates. Atty Rutledge asked for an austerity plan developed by Dr. Belton's administrative team that will be imposed system wide. He requested the plan to be presented at the August board meeting. He also wants to know who will manage the plan and who will measure it and update the Board at every other meeting. In addition, Atty. Rutledge would like to see what plans are in place to create additional revenue.

Atty. Clayton suggested that salaries of top administrators could generate additional revenue and stated that the burden should not be placed on the students. Additionally, he said that SUBR should assist SUNO with its financial challenges. He encouraged the administration to develop new streams of revenue.

Board Member Raymond Fondel asked if there is a time period that the proposed fees would remain in effect. President Belton stated that it would be an established fee increase. Mr. Fondel asked that there be a time limit placed on the fees so that it will not be permanent.

Board member Patrick Magee said that he is not in support of the proposed fees. He said that last year the Board discussed the fact that the University would outprice the students that we serve. Students should not provide the remedy for the spending or mismanagement in the System. He stated that the Board should not force the fees on the students and their parents.

Board member Barthelemy wanted to know what would happen in the SU System if the proposed fees are not imposed. He suggested that the University become more aggressive with its online program recruitment and it will generate more revenue.

Dr. Leroy Davis stated that when prices go up, demand goes down, He said the timing is bad.

President Belton stated that there is never a good time to raise fees. The proposed fee increase is requested out of necessity. Dr. Belton explained that the state legislature has not invested in higher education. He said that students ultimately pay the cost if they pay the newly imposed fees or not. Because the educational experience is compromised when there are no resources or there is a faulty infrastructure.

Board member Xavieria Jeffers reiterated her concerns that the University hasn't planned well and Stated that it would be irresponsible of the Board to

Board member Tarver stated that the principal reason the University is in this position is because the state has not fully funded higher education. The standstill funding is not a burden that the University is not accustomed to. He suggested that the University find a way to manage the business enterprise in an efficient and effective way. In addition, he said that someone should reassess the formula used by the Board of Regents. There are many reasons that the revenue is important. The fiscal year has begun and the dollars are not in place. The University will lose faculty, students, and would not be able to host accreditation visits. Dr. Tarver told Dr. Belton that the suggestions presented should be done on a continuous ongoing basis. What would be the impact if the fees are not imposed? President Belton responded that 10 years of budget reductions leaves the University in a challenging place. There would be drastic and painful cuts that would vary by campus. The budget would have to be cut by \$1.5 million. It would compromise the ability to make the case that the University is compliant with the principles of accreditation as outlined by SACS COC.

Dr. Curman Gaines would like the University to engage in a process to determine places that may be cut. He also stated that an accountability or spending plan should be in place.

Upon the motion by Mr. John Barthelemy and seconded by Dr. Tarver the recommendation to implement fee increase for all campuses was presented for approval.

Dr. Leroy Davis made a substitute motion recommending that the fee be implemented and sunset after one year seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Smith, Barthelemy, Davis, Gaines, Rutledge

Nays: Clayton, Jeffers, Fondel, Hilliard, Small, Tarver

In response to a question by Atty. Clayton regarding the legality of implementing a fee for a specified period, Atty. Winston DeCuir stated that there is nothing impermissible with adopting a one-time fee. The fee would be implemented for one fiscal year and would go away until the Board approves

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Smith, Barthelemy, Fondel, Gaines, Hilliard, Small, Rutledge, Tarver

Nays: Clayton, Davis, Jeffers, Magee,

10 Minute Recess

Atty. Clayton made a motion to reconsider the original motion seconded by Atty. Rutledge.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Smith, Barthelemy, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Hilliard, Small, Rutledge, Tarver

Nays: Jeffers, Magee

Abstention: Davis

Motion passed.

Upon the motion by Mr. Barthelemy and seconded by Dr. Leon R. Tarver II the recommendation to implement a fee increase for all campuses was presented for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Smith, Barthelemy, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Hilliard, Small, Rutledge, Tarver

Nays: Jeffers

Abstention: Davis

Atty. Magee was not present for the vote.

Motion passed.

C. Request to Use Prior Year Funds for University Housing (SUBR)

System Vice President Flandus McClinton explained that the request from Residential Housing is to make minor repairs, replace the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, paint, and clean the dormitories.

Upon the motion by Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Atty. Rutledge the request to use prior year funds for University Housing (SUBR) was recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

Atty. Rutledge stated that the pot holes on the road that leads to the dormitories needs repair.

Dr. Davis stated that the softball field needs to be prepared for use which may be a Title IX issue.

System Vice President McClinton stated that the work has begun on the softball field.

Mr. John Barthelemy wanted to know if the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) provided support for infrastructure.

Board members were informed that the National Alumni Federation conference begins on July 19th.

Atty. Clayton asked that President Belton meet with Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Kimberly Scott regarding the intramural sports program.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Dr. Tarver the meeting adjourned.

Motion passed