

Southern University Board of Supervisors

9:00 a.m.

Friday, March 18, 2016

Southern University-Baton Rouge
2nd Floor; J. S. Clark Administration Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Minutes

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Leon R. Tarver II. The invocation was given by The Rev. Joe R. Gant.

PRESENT

Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Sr., Atty. Tony Clayton, Mr. Dominique Diamond, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Rev. Donald Ray Henry, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Atty. Patrick Magee, Mr. Darren Mire, Mr. Michael Small, Mrs. Ann Smith, Rev. Samuel Tolbert and Dr. Rani Whitfield.

A quorum was established.

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING

System President Ray Belton, Chief of Staff Robyn Merrick, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost (EVPAAP) M. Christopher Brown, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs Flandus McClinton, Chancellor Victor Ukpolo (SUNO), Interim Chancellor Adell Brown (SUAREC), Interim Chancellor Sam Gilliam (SUSLA), and Atty. Alfreda Diamond, (SULC)

BOARD COUNSEL

Attys. Winston Decuir, Jr. and Tracie Woods

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon the motion of Rev. Gant and seconded by Mr. Myron Lawson the agenda was adopted with the following change: to invert the order of agenda Item 4-Public Comments and agenda Item 5-Special Presentations.

Motion carried unanimously

AGENDA ITEM 5: SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Special Presentations were made as listed below.

- **Devon Gales** – President-Chancellor Belton presented a resolution to Devon Gales and his mother and father on behalf of the Board and the University System. Board members also presented the Gales family with a Holy Bible.
- **SUBR Honda All-Star Quiz Bowl Team** – Executive Vice President and Provost M. Christopher Brown introduced Professor Deadra James Mackie, coach of the SUBR Quiz Bowl team, and informed Board members that the team would be travelling to Torrance, CA April 2-4 to participate in the national competition. Professor Mackie allowed members of the team to introduce themselves.
- **Southern University Laboratory School Basketball Athletes Grades 5th - 9th** - EVPAAP M. Christopher Brown introduced the SU Laboratory School 5th-9th grade boys basketball team. Coach Kevin Augustine thanked the Board for supporting them and also thanked Southern Lab athletics staff and the school's Interim Director Kim Williams. He stated that the group has never lost a game. The team was recognized for winning the Louisiana Youth Sports Junior High School State Basketball Championship held in Grambling, LA. Each member of the team introduced themselves. Dr. Rani Whitfield commended the team and coaching staff and presented certificates of achievement on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the University System.
- **SUNO Girl's Track Team** - Dr. Victor Ukpolo introduced Yhann Plummer, coach for the SUNO Women's Track team and interim athletic director at SUNO. Coach Plummer stated that the team garnered their first championship in 12 years. Team members introduced themselves.

- **LIGO Presentation** – In the absence of Dr. Stephen McGuire, Dr. Luria Young made remarks about the recent detection of gravitational waves and introduced SUBR alumnus Everett Parker who was in the LIGO control room when the detection occurred. Dr. Moustapha Diack, co-principal investigator of the LIGO program gave remarks about his involvement. Dr. Young also announced an upcoming LIGO Science Saturday activity and invited members of the Board to attend.
- **SUBR Music Department Initiatives** - Dr. Thomas Miller announced upcoming Music Department events including an opera, jazz festival, and faculty recital. Dr. Casarotti also spoke to members of the Board about performance activities in the department and possible collaborations with the SU Marching Band in his home country of Brazil.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 6: ACTION ITEMS

A. Minutes of the February 19, 2016, regular meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors

On the motion of Rev. Joe R. Gant and seconded by Rev. Donald R. Henry the minutes of the February 19, 2016, meeting were presented for approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the minutes of the February 19, 2016, regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, be and it is hereby approved.

B. COMMITTEES

1. Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs Committee was called to order by Mrs. Ann Smith, Chair.

Roll Call

Present: Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Dr. Curman Gaines, Vice Chair, Atty. Tony M. Clayton, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr., Mr. Michael Small, Dr. Rani G. Whitfield, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II

Absent: **None**

A quorum was established.

Items for Consideration by the Academic Affairs Committee

- **Honorary Degree for Governor John Bel Edwards, 2016 Commencement Speaker, SUNO**
Chancellor Victor Ukpolo stated that the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences voted favorably to recommend that Governor John Bel Edwards be awarded an honorary degree
- **Approval of Endowed Professorship Policy**
- **Myra A. Kleinpeter Endowed Professorship in Science, SUBR**
- **Endowed Professorship Appointments, SUBR**

Endowed Professorship	Appointee	School/Department
1. Alphonse Jackson-Casino Rouge Endowed Professorship	Dr. Revathi Hines	Public Administration
2. Rupert Richardson/Casino Rouge Endowed Professorship	Dr. Eric Horent	Public Administration
3. Louis Jetson-Lamar Corporation	Dr. William Arp III	Political Science
4. Leon Tarver/Casino Rouge Endowed Professorship	Dr. Leslie Taylor-Grover	Public Administration
5. Barbara Dixon/Kellogg Endowed Professorship	Dr. Bernestine McGee	Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences
6. BASF Corporation Endowed Professorship	Dr. Edwin Walker	Chemistry
7. Walter Dumas Endowed Professorship	Dr. Wesley Gray	Environmental Toxicology
8. Formosa/Prince Hall Endowed Professorship	Dr. Edward Doomes	Chemistry
9. James & Ruth Smith Endowed Professorship	Dr. Zhu Hua Ning	Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences
10. James & Ruth Smith Endowed Professorship	Dr. Stephen McGuire	Physics
11. James & Ruth Smith Endowed Professorship	Dr. Rao Uppu	Environmental Toxicology
12. Dr. James and Jewel Prestage Kellogg Endowed Professorship in Nursing	Dr. Cheryl Taylor	School of Nursing
13. Baton Rouge Area Foundation Endowed Professorship in Nursing	Dr. Janet S. Rami	School of Nursing
14. Baton Rouge General/General Health System Endowed Professorship in Nursing	Dr. Sharon Bator	School of Nursing
15. Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center Endowed Professorship in Nursing	Dr. Wanda Spurlock	School of Nursing
16. Woman's Hospital Endowed Professorship in Nursing	Dr. Sandra Brown	School of Nursing
17. College of Engineering/Contractor's Educational Trust Fund Endowed Professorship	Dr. Joshua Joseph	Civil Engineering
18. School of Architecture/Contractor's Educational Trust Fund Endowed Professorship	Dr. Patrick Carriere	Civil Engineering
19. Formosa Plastic Endowed Professorship in Mechanical Engineering	Dr. Patrick Mensah	Mechanical Engineering
20. The Entergy Corporation Endowed Professorship	Dr. Fred Lacy	Electrical Engineering
21. Dow Chemical Company Endowed Professorship	Dr. Samuel Ibekwe	Mechanical Engineering
22. Cleo Fields Endowed Professorship in Mass Communication	Dr. Mahmoud Braima	Mass Communications
23. Community Coffee/Frank Hayden Memorial Endowed Professorship in the Arts	Dr. Addie Dawson-Euba	Fine Arts

Endowed Professorship	Appointee	School/Department
24. Joseph Kermit Haynes/Casino Rouge Endowed professorship	Dr. Tonya Rose	Education
25. Isabel Herson/Casino Rouge Endowed Professorship in Education	Dr. James Taylor	Education
26. Isaac Greggs/Casino Endowed Professorship in Education	Dr. Nathan Haymer	Music
27. Rosalie Guidry Daste Endowed Professorship in Urban Education	Dr. Luria Young	Curriculum and Instruction
28. Emma Glynn Trust Fund Endowed Professorship	Dr. Diana Kelly	Curriculum and Instruction
29. Joseph R. Glynn Endowed Professorship for Education	Dr. VerJanis Peoples	Curriculum and Instruction
30. Kleinpeter Family College of Education Professorship	Dr. Curtis Mustiful	Curriculum and Instruction
31. Tolor E. White/Casino Rouge Endowed Professorship in Accounting	Dr. Koffi Dodor	Accounting, Finance and Economics
32. Ben D. Johnson, Sr. Endowed Professorship in Business	Dr. Aloyce Kaliba	Accounting, Finance and Economics
33. W.E. "Bill" Tucker Endowed Professorship in Business	Dr. Sung C. No	Accounting, Finance and Economics
34. Peter Moncrieffe Endowed Professorship in Business	Dr. Mysore Ramaswamy	Management and Marketing
35. Dr. E. C. Harrision Endowed Professorship in Business	Dr. Stephen Jaros	Management and Marketing
36. The Coca-Cola Foundation Endowed Professorship in Business	Dr. Melissa Waters	Accounting, Finance and Economics
37. The Coca-Cola Foundation Endowed Professorship in International Business	Dr. Vasantha Chigurupati	Accounting, Finance and Economics
38. George Leon Netterville/Kellogg Endowed Professorship	Dr. Vineeta Hingorami	Accounting, Finance and Economics
39. Houston Alumni Endowed Professorship in Business	Dr. Victor Mbarika	Management and Marketing
40. Southern University Business & Industry Cluster Endowed Professorship	Dr. Kimberly Powell	Management and Marketing
41. The Lincoln J. Harrison-Coca Cola Foundation Endowed Professorship in Accounting	Dr. Mary Darby	Accounting, Finance and Economics

On the motion of Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Dr. Gaines all items for consideration by the Academic Affairs Committee were presented for approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

On the motion of Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Rev. Gant the Academic Affairs Committee adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee was called to order by Mr. Myron Lawson, chair.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Myron Lawson, Mr. Calvin Braxton, Atty. Tony M. Clayton, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Donald Henry, Mr. Darren Mire, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II

Absent: **None**

A quorum was established

Items for Consideration by the Finance Committee

- **Approval of BA-7 #6 –To Transfer Funds to SUSLA as authorized by the BOR’s approval of the 2nd quarter Grad Act Performance Improvement Contract Report**
- **Approval of BA-7 #7 – Reduction in State General Funds (\$67,802) and Statutory Dedicated Funds (\$95,952) as mandated for the Southern University System in HB 122 of the FY16 Special Session.**
- **Consideration of a resolution of the Southern University System to settle claims in Oil RE: Spill by the Oil Rig Deep Water Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico, MDL No. 2179 District U.S. Court, Eastern District of Louisiana**

Upon the motion of Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Mr. Calvin Braxton that the items for consideration by the Finance Committee be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

On the motion of Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Rev. Donald R. Henry the Finance Committee adjourned.

3. Personnel Affairs Committee

The Personnel Affairs Committee was called to order by Atty. Patrick Magee, chair.

Roll Call

Present: Atty. Patrick Magee, Mrs. Ann Smith, Mr. Calvin Braxton, Atty. Tony M. Clayton, Mr. Myron Lawson, Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., Dr. Leon R. Tarver II

Absent: **None**

A quorum was established

Items for Consideration by the Personnel Affairs Committee

- **Approval of Employment Contract for Dr. Rodney Ellis, SUSLA**

A copy of Dr. Ellis' contract was distributed to Board members.

Atty. Tony Clayton stressed the importance of receiving items for consideration in a timely manner. He also indicated that the contract did not seem to protect the interest of the University and was more favorable for the employee. In addition, Atty. Clayton noted that there were no benchmarks included in the contract.

Dr. Belton explained that in order to attract the best candidates certain terms are standard and common practice in higher education when hiring university chancellors. President Belton stated that the document has changed in that there is a time period included of 3 years and also the fact that the salary is comparable to that of their peers.

Rev. Gant stated that even though it may be common practice to grant tenure, the University is operating in uncommon times and perhaps the common practice may not be feasible at this time. He stated that he prefers to deal with positions and not a particular person.

Dr. Tarver stated that the contract is an evolving document and contains certain protections that the University has to provide to individuals at this administrative level. He stated that there is nothing unusual about the contract presented and that it does not differ from any other contracts that have been done in recent years for chancellors at other campuses in the system.

Call for the Question by Rev. Tolbert and seconded by Atty. Tony Clayton.

Roll Call Vote:

**Yeas: Atty. Patrick Magee, Mrs. Ann Smith, Mr. Calvin Braxton, Atty. Tony Clayton
Mr. Myron Lawson, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Leon R. Tarver**

Nays: None

Debate ends.

Mr. Myron K. Lawson made a substitute motion to ratify the contract subject to the benchmarks that are agreed upon by the President-Chancellor and the board chair. Atty. Tony Clayton asked whether or not the contract includes offering tenure. Attorney Winston Decuir stated that the contract is written with the provision of tenure.

Atty. Tony Clayton made a substitute motion to table the approval of the contract at this time.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Roll Call Vote on Mr. Lawson's substitute motion:

Yeas: Mr. Myron K. Lawson

Nays: Atty. Tony Clayton, Atty. Patrick Magee, Mrs. Ann Smith, Mr. Calvin Braxton

Abstentions: Rev. Samuel Tolbert

Motion failed.

Discussion on the original motion ensued.

Mr. Lawson asked what would be the impact of the Chancellor not having a contract as of April 1. President-Chancellor Belton stated that a delay would inhibit the leadership from moving the campus forward. He also stated that it would inhibit the University's ability to attract and hire subsequent leaders at this level given the fact that it is a common practice at other universities.

Chairman Tarver stated that it is important to grant tenure to persons at the level of chancellor because it affords the individual some level of protection from retaliation when he or she has to exercise certain decisions in the administrative position. In addition, it would be unfair to have some chancellors in the SU System with tenure and others without tenure. Chairman Tarver stated that perhaps the topic of contracts should be discussed during the upcoming retreat and that the Board should not delay approval of the contract at the expense of an individual who is prepared to begin working.

For clarity, Personnel Committee Chair Atty. Patrick Magee restated the original motion which is the approval of the contract as written.

Rev. Samuel Tolbert called for the question with a second by Mr. Myron K. Lawson.

Roll Call Vote on the question:

**Yeas: – Atty. Patrick Magee, Mrs. Ann Smith, Mr. Calvin Braxton, Atty. Tony Clayton,
Mr. Myron Lawson**

Nays – None

Motion carried and debate ended.

For clarity, Atty. Winston DeCuir stated that the Board was now at the point of voting on the original motion which would be accepting the terms of the contract as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Rev. Samuel Tolbert and Dr. Leon R. Tarver

**Nays: Atty. Patrick Magee, Mrs. Ann Smith, Mr. Calvin Braxton, Atty. Tony Clayton,
Mr. Myron Lawson**

Motion Failed.

Mrs. Ann Smith questioned whether or not another contract would be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Chairman Tarver called for a 5-minute recess.

-RECESS-

MEETING RECONVENES

Upon the motion of Rev. Joe R. Gant and seconded by Mr. Myron Lawson the Board reconvened.

C. Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Academic Affairs Committee

Upon the motion of Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Mr. Myron Lawson that the actions taken by the Academic Affairs Committee be approved.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Finance Committee

Upon the motion of Mr. Calvin Braxton and seconded by Mrs. Ann Smith that the actions taken by the Finance Committee be approved

The motion carried unanimously.

(Board reconvened without roll call)

Roll Call:

Dr. Leon R. Tarver, Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Atty. Tony Clayton, Mr. Dominique Diamond, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Atty. Patrick Magee, Mr. Darren Mire, Mr. Michael Small, Mrs. Ann Smith, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield

All members present.

Upon the motion of Mr. Myron Lawson and seconded by Atty. Tony Clayton that the reports of the Academic Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee be adopted.

Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the actions taken by the Academic Affairs Committee and the finance committee be and they are hereby approved.

3. Personnel Committee

Upon the motion of Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Mr. Myron Lawson that the full Board will make the decision on the approval of the contract of the Chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport subject to the deliverables being delineated in the written contract by President-Chancellor Belton.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Dr. Leon R. Tarver, Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Mr. Dominique Diamond, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Mr. Darren Mire, Mr. Michael Small, Mrs. Ann Smith, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield

Nays: Rev. Joe R. Gant, Atty. Patrick Magee

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the contract for the Chancellor at the Shreveport campus be amended to include deliverables and it is hereby approved.

D. Request Suspension of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center Chancellor Search

President-Chancellor Belton stated that he would like to explore other models that may benefit the System in carrying out its land grant mission.

In response to questions about a timeline and Board input into exploring other models, President- Chancellor Belton stated that he would submit ideas about the organizational structure during the upcoming Board Retreat. In response to a question about the leadership in the Ag Center, President Belton stated that during the Retreat, Board members would be involved in the discussion as it relates to the type of leadership that the Ag Center may need based on the new model that will be adopted. He also stated that some administrative efficiencies could be realized immediately.

Upon the motion of Dr. Curman Gaines and seconded by Atty. Tony Clayton that the chancellor search for the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension center be suspended.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Dr. Leon R. Tarver, Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Mr. Dominique Diamond, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, , Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Atty. Patrick Magee, Mr. Darren Mire, Mr. Michael Small, Mrs. Ann Smith, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield

Nays: Rev. Donald R. Henry, Mr. Domonique Diamond

Motion carried.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the search for Chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center be suspended and it is hereby approved.

(At the request of Dr. Victor Ukpolo, SUNO Chancellor, Chairman Tarver yielded the floor to allow Dr. Ukpolo to address the Board)

Dr. Victor Ukpolo announced his resignation as Chancellor of the Southern University New Orleans campus. He thanked members of the Board for their support over the years and recognized his wife who also thanked Board members for their support over the years.

E. Finalists interviews for Chancellor, SU Law Center

PUBLIC INTERVIEW OF FINALISTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Atty. John M. Guidry
2. Atty. Russell Jones
3. Atty. John Pierre
4. Atty. Roederick White

Executive Sessions followed each candidate's public interview.

Chairman Tarver announced that the Board would be convening for executive session and no actions would be taken nor any votes taken during the executive sessions.

Upon the motion by Mr. Myron Lawson and seconded by Rev. Joe R. Gant the Board convened for executive session.

Motion passed unanimously.

Upon the motion by Rev. Joe R. Gant and seconded by Atty. Tony Clayton the board reconvened.

Roll Call:

Dr. Leon R. Tarver, Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Atty. Tony Clayton, Mr. Dominique Diamond, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Atty. Patrick Magee, Mr. Darren Mire, Mr. Michael Small, Mrs. Ann Smith, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield

All members were present.

President Belton presented Atty. John Pierre as the candidate recommended for the position of Chancellor of the SU Law Center.

Upon the motion of Rev. Gant and seconded by Mr. Calvin Braxton, Atty. John Pierre was recommended for the position of Chancellor of the SU Law Center.

Atty. Tony Clayton entered a substitute motion to accept Professor Roederick White as Chancellor of the SU Law Center.

Roll Call Vote on Substitute Motion:

Yeas: Mr. Domonique Diamond and Atty. Tony Clayton

Nays: Dr. Leon R. Tarver, Mr. Calvin W. Braxton Rev. Donald R. Henry, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, , Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Mr. Darren Mire, Mr. Michael Small, Mrs. Ann Smith, Dr. Rani Whitfield

Absentions: Atty. Patrick Magee, Rev. Samuel Tolbert

Motion Failed.

Roll Call Vote on Original Motion:

Yeas: Dr. Leon R. Tarver, Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Atty. Tony Clayton, Mr. Dominique Diamond, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Atty. Patrick Magee, Mr. Darren Mire, Mr. Michael Small, Mrs. Ann Smith, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield

Nays: None

Absentions: None

Motion Passed Unanimously.

F. Resolutions

Upon the motion by Rev. Samuel Tolbert and seconded by Mr. Myron Lawson the following resolutions were approved:

Condolences:

The Edward Rubin, Jr. Family. Mr. Rubin, 38, a 2006 alumnus of the Southern University Law Center and the son of Judge Edward Rubin of the 15th JDC passed away on February 27.

The Robert Smith Family. Mr. Smith, a retired lieutenant with the University Police Department at SUBR, passed away on March 4.

The Leonard Wilmer Family. LTC Wilmer, an alumnus of SUBR and former professor of chemistry and math at Southern University Shreveport, passed away on February 21.

The Edward Gilmore Family Mr. Gilmore, brother of SUNO's Purchasing Director, Marilyn Manuel. Mr. Gilmore passed away February 15.

The Bernice Cospser Family. Mrs. Cospser, mother of SUNO Campus Police Officer Stanley Cospser Sr. passed away February 28.

The William Arp Jr. Family. Mr. Arp, a native of Oakdale, LA, and father of SUBR Public Policy Professor William Arp III and Father-in-Law of System Vice President for Finance Flandus McClinton passed away on February 24.

Commendations:

Dr. Sandra Brown, SUBR School of Nursing professor and director of the Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program was inducted into the Louisiana State Nurses Association (LSNA) Hall of Fame during the 15th annual Louisiana Nurses Foundation Nightingale Awards and Gala.

Dr. Wanda Spurlock, SUBR School of Nursing professor, was named "Nursing Educator of the Year," during the 15th annual Louisiana Nurses Foundation Nightingale Awards and Gala.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the resolutions be and they are hereby approved.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Informational Items

A. Interim Financial Report as of December 2015, SUS

System Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs Flandus McClinton reviewed the written financial report that was included in the packet for each Board member.

B. Legislative Update

Mr. Rodney Braxton of Southern Strategies-LA appeared before the board and reviewed a summary of the bills that would affect higher education and those that are scheduled to be brought before the Legislature during the current session. Each Board member received a copy of the summary. He informed Board members that there remains a \$70 million shortfall in the state budget and stated that there would probably be a special session immediately following the regular session to address the state's budget issues. Dr. Tarver asked that Mr. Braxton prepare a synopsis of all of the bills for the board retreat in April.

C. System President's Report

President-Chancellor Ray Belton publicly acknowledged the work of Dr. Victor Ukpolo in his role as Chancellor of the New Orleans campus and commended him for his 15 years of leadership. He stated that the Dr. Ukpolo has been an effective administrator and that the campus foundation is stronger because of him. Dr. Belton also thanked the Law Center Chancellor Search Committee for their invaluable work in bringing forth finalists for the position.

D. Campus Reports

SUNO - Dr. Victor Ukpolo submitted a printed copy of the report which was included in the meeting packet.

SUSLA - Mr. Sam Gilliam submitted a written report that was included in the Board packet. Mr. Gilliam informed Board members that there was massive flooding in the area and commended Communications Director Krystle Grindley for assisting in mobilizing the Red Cross to set up a shelter for those persons impacted in the area. He also thanked the campus police for their assistance during the flooding.

SUAREC - Dr. Adell Brown submitted a written report of the activities of the SU Agricultural, Research and Extension Center. He announced that the Annual Livestock Show would be held March 5-7.

SULC - Atty. John Pierre submitted a written report to Board members with updates and news from the SU Law Center. Atty. Pierre announced that Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser was the featured guest speaker for the Maritime Law Society event on March 15. Also on March 15, the Louisiana Supreme Court was in Session at the SULC, to hear oral arguments on a family law case. The session is part of an ongoing effort to educate and inform students and the general public about the work of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Chancellor Pierre also acknowledged Student Bar Association President Patrick Harrington whose tenure would be ending as Student Bar Association president on April 15.

SUBR – Dr. M. Christopher Brown stated that reports had been submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for both SUBR and SUNO campuses. He also reminded Board members that SU Day at the Capitol would be held March 31 and announced that former SUBR Public Policy professor Eric Horent was named Undersecretary in the Division of Management and Finance at the LA Department of Children and Family Services.

E. Board Retreat

Chairman Tarver announced that the Board would have its Spring Retreat Thursday, April 21 at the A.W. Mumford Fieldhouse.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Other Business

Board member Fondel stated that both the men's and women's basketball teams at SUBR made appearances in post-game season championships in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. He stated that he'd like to recognize the teams during the next board meeting. Mr. Fondel also reminded Board members of National Signing Day that would be held April 23.

Board member Patrick Magee also stated that he and Rev. Donald R. Henry attended the HBCU Expo held at 1st Community Antioch B.C. in Litcher, LA. They publicly thanked Dr. Brandon Dumas and Mr. Robert Rene for assisting in the endeavor.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Adjournment

Upon the motion by Mr. Myron Lawson and seconded by Atty. Tony Clayton the meeting adjourned.