

**Southern University and A&M College System  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

Strand 12 Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hyatt Regency  
601 Loyola Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
**9 a.m.**

**Friday, November 25, 2016**

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

**ABSENT**

Ms. Jordan Franklin

**UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING**

System President Ray Belton, Chief of Staff Robyn Merrick, Executive Vice President and Provost M. Christopher Brown, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs Flandus McClinton, Interim Chancellor Lisa Mims Devezin (SUNO), Chancellor Bobby Phillips (SUAREC), Chancellor Rodney Ellis (SUSLA), and Chancellor John Pierre (SULC).

**BOARD COUNSEL**

**Attys. Winston DeCuir, Sr., and Tracie Woods**

**AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon the motion by Rev. Joe R. Gant and seconded by Mr. Myron K. Lawson the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Louise Kaltenbaugh, faculty member at SUNO spoke about the respect and support that the faculty and staff at SUNO have for Dr. Lisa Mims Devezin. Dr. Russell Dawkins, Criminal Justice Professor, SUBR spoke in support of the appointment of Dr. Damien Ejigiri as the Dean of the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences. Other SUNO representatives that spoke in support of the appointment of Dr. Lisa Mims Devezin at SUNO was Mr. Dwayne Hayes, Editor-in-Chief of the SUNO student newspaper, Mr. Dominique Carter, SUNO Student Government Association president, Mr. Brian Alexander, former president, SUNO Student Government Association, Dr. Cynthia Ramirez, SUNO Faculty Senate president, and SUNO student Ms. Juanita Martin.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Deputy Undersecretary, U.S. Department of Education and Acting Executive Director, White House Initiative on HBCUs spoke to Board members about the state of higher education and stressed the importance of education and investing in higher education and the value of education and thanked Board members for their dedication to the work that they do.

Ms. Juana Marine-Lombard of the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control spoke about the success of the initiative to sell alcoholic beverages at A.W. Mumford Stadium.

Mr. Adonis Expose, SUBR graduate and King Zulu 2017, of the Zulu Social and Pleasure Club thanked the board for acknowledging him and distributed commemorative coconuts to each board member.

Chairman Tarver made remarks about his tenure as chairman and expressed his appreciation for the extraordinary opportunity to serve with the board members for the last 2 years as chairman.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: Election of Board Officers for 2017**

##### **A. Chairman**

Upon the motion by Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Rev. Donald Henry, Mrs. Ann Smith was nominated as Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Atty. Clayton also asked that the nominations be closed.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Ann Smith expressed her gratitude for being selected to serve and thanked current Board members who have previously served as chair. She also thanked Chairman Tarver for the wisdom and guidance he has provided to the Board. She also thanked her family and friends in attendance and recognized them.

##### **B. Vice Chairman**

Upon the motion by Rev. Samuel Tolbert and seconded by Mr. Raymond Fondel, the Rev. Donald R. Henry was nominated as vice chairman of the Board for 2017 and Rev. Tolbert asked that the nominations be closed.

Motion passed unanimously.

Reverend Henry expressed appreciation to Board members for their support and made a promise to be a better vice chairman. He also thanked his wife who could not be in attendance and recognized family members in the audience. He stated that Southern University is waiting on everyone in the room to be fully engaged in the work that needs to be done to bring the University to another level of excellence.

#### **Chairman Tarver recognized Atty. Clayton.**

Atty. Tony Clayton stated that as the chair of the Board's Athletics Committee, he would like to propose the reduction of ticket prices for football games because the Department of Athletics is unable to balance the budget.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Minutes of the October 25, 2016, regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors**

Upon the motion by Mr. Raymond Fondel and seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee the minutes of the October 25, 2016, meeting were recommended for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the minutes of the October 25, 2016, regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, be and they are hereby approved.

### **B. Approval of Endowed Professorships, SULC**

1. The Joy Clemens Endowed Clinical Professorship
2. The Louisiana Outside Counsel Louis A. Berry Endowed Professorship
3. The Louisiana Outside Counsel Judge Freddie L. Pitcher, Jr., Endowed Professorship

Upon the motion by Atty. Patrick Magee and seconded by Rev. Donald R. Henry, The Joy Clemens Endowed Clinical Professorship, The Louisiana Outside Counsel Louis A. Berry Endowed Professorship, and The Louisiana Outside Counsel Judge Freddie L. Pitcher, Jr., Endowed Professorship at the SU Law Center were recommended for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that The Joy Clemens Endowed Clinical Professorship at the SU Law Center be and it is hereby approved.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that The Louisiana Outside Counsel Louis A. Berry Endowed Professorship at the SU Law Center be and it is hereby approved.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that The Louisiana Outside Counsel Judge Freddie L. Pitcher, Jr., Endowed Professorship at the SU Law Center be and it is hereby approved.

### **C. Approval to Award Honorary Doctoral Degree, SUBR**

Upon the motion by Mr. Calvin Braxton and seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee that SUBR's Fall 2016 commencement speaker Xernona Clayton be awarded an honorary degree of humane letters.

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the recommendation to award Xernona Clayton an honorary degree of humane letters be and it is hereby approved.

**D. Certification of SUBR Candidates for Graduation (Fall 2016)**

Upon the motion by the Rev. Joe R. Gant and seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee the resolution for the degree candidates for Fall 2016 commencement at SUBR were recommended for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Fall 2016 Commencement Resolution for degree candidates Southern University -Baton Rouge be and it is hereby approved.

**E. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) and the Southern University Law Center (SULC) for the SULC Study Away in the Caribbean Program**

Upon the motion by Atty. Patrick Magee and seconded by Atty. Tony Clayton the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) and the Southern University Law Center (SULC) for the SULC Study Away in the Caribbean Program was recommended for approval.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) and the Southern University Law Center (SULC) for the SULC Study Away in the Caribbean Program be and it is hereby approved.

**F. Approval to Use Prior Year Funds, SUBR**

On the motion of Mr. Myron K. Lawson, Sr., and seconded by Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Sr. the request from the Department of Student Affairs to use prior year funds to renovate and repair Residential Housing facilities was recommended for approval.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the request from the Department of Student Affairs to use prior year funds to renovate and repair Residential Housing Facilities be and it is hereby approved.

**G. Request Approval of Small Capital Project, E.C. Harrison Street ADA Upgrade, SUBR**

Upon the motion by Mr. Raymond Fondel and seconded by the Rev. Donald Ray Henry the small capital project, E.C. Harrison Street ADA Upgrade, was recommended for approval.

**Motion Passed unanimously.**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the small capital project, E.C. Harrison Street ADA Upgrade, be and it is hereby approved.

## **H. Approval of Personnel Action on Positions greater than \$60,000**

### **1. Recommendations for Appointments of Deans and Director, SUBR (Executive Session may be required)**

Upon the motion by Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Mr. Myron Lawson that the personnel actions be approved but not at the salary requested due to impending budget cuts;

Dr. Belton stated that a percentage of the CUPA average was used in calculating the salaries of Deans. Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. M. Christopher Brown stated that the University could be in violation of several SACSCOC Standards if the appointments are not made to stabilize the academic units.

Board members expressed concern about Dr. Brown's presentation including the fact that the cost savings is not as much as he stated for merging the engineering dean and the sciences dean positions.

Dr. Brown explained that the calculations were first done at 85% of the CUPA average and in light of a possible mid-year budget cut the salaries were calculated at 75% of the average so that the current budget would support the salary recommendations.

Rev. Gant encouraged Board members to take action on the appointments so that the academic unit could be stabilized and a leader in place to effect change. He also stated that the search committees have completed their work.

Atty. Clayton withdrew his motion.

Atty. Magee stated that he would like to act on each of the personnel items individually.

#### **1. Dr. Cynthia Bryant**

Upon the motion by Rev. Joe Gant and seconded by Dr. Curman Gaines the appointment of Cynthia Bryant, as Dean, College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, SUBR at a salary of \$103,445 was recommended for approval.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Yays:** Tarver, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Hilliard, Mire, Small, Smith, Tolbert

**Nays:** Braxton, Clayton, Lawson, Magee, Whitfield

Motion passed.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the appointment of Dr. Cynthia Bryant as Dean, College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, SUBR at a salary of \$103,445 be and it hereby is approved.

**2. Dr. Patrick Carriere**

Upon the motion by Mr. Raymond Fondel and seconded by Mrs. Ann Smith the appointment of Dr. Patrick Carriere as Dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering, SUBR at a salary of \$142,658 was recommended for approval.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yays:** Tarver, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Hilliard, Lawson, Mire, Small, Smith, Tolbert

**Nays:** Braxton, Clayton, Magee, Whitfield

**Motion Passed.**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the appointment of Dr. Patrick Carriere as Dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering, SUBR at a salary of \$142,658 be and it hereby is approved.

**3. Dr. Damien Ejigiri**

Upon the motion by Mr. Lawson and seconded by Atty. Magee that the Board convene in executive session to discuss the appointment of Dr. Damien Ejigiri as Dean of the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences, SUBR at a salary of \$128,267.00.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yays:** Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Hilliard, Lawson, Magee, Small, Mire, Smith, Tolbert, Whitfield

**Nays:** None

**Motion passed.**

Chairman Tarver stated that no motions would be made nor any action taken during the executive session.

Upon the motion by Rev. Joe R. Gant and seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee the board reconvened.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yays:** Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Hilliard, Lawson, Magee, Small, Mire, Smith, Tolbert, Whitfield

**Nays:** None

**Motion passed.**

Upon the motion of Mr. Raymond Fondel and seconded by Mr. Michael Small the appointment of Dr. Damien Ejigiri as Dean of the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences, SUBR at a salary of \$128, 267 was recommended for approval.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yays:** Tarver, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Hilliard, Lawson, Small, Mire, Smith, Tolbert,

**Nays:** Braxton, Magee, Whitfield

**Motion passed.**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the appointment of Dr. Damien Ejigiri as Dean of the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences, SUBR, at a salary of \$128,267 be and it hereby is approved.

**4. Dr. Verjanis Peoples**

Upon the motion by Mr. Raymond Fondel and seconded by Mrs. Ann Smith the appointment of Dr. Verjanis Peoples as Director, School of Education, SUBR at a salary of \$127,000.00 was recommended for approval.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yays:** Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Hilliard, Lawson, Magee, Small, Mire, Smith, Tolbert, Whitfield

**Nays:** Braxton, Magee, Whitfield

**Motion passed.**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the appointment of Dr. Verjanis Peoples as Director, School of Education, SUBR at a salary of \$127,000.00 be and it hereby is approved.

**5. Clyde Robertson**

Upon the motion by Mr. Darren Mire and seconded by Mr. Michael Small the appointment of Mr. Clyde Robertson as Director, Center for African American Studies, SUNO, at a salary of \$ 62,000.00 was recommended for approval.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yays:** Tarver, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Hilliard, Lawson, Small, Mire, Smith, Tolbert, Whitfield

**Nays:** Braxton, Clayton, Magee, Whitfield

**Motion passed.**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the appointment of Mr. Clyde Robertson as Director, Center for African American Studies, SUNO, at a salary of \$ 62,000.00 be and it hereby is approved.

**I. Recommendation to appoint Dr. Lisa Mims Devezin for Southern University at New Orleans**

*(Executive Session may be required)*

Upon the motion by Atty. Patrick Magee and seconded by Mr. Darren Mire the appointment of Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin as Chancellor, Southern University, New Orleans was recommended for approval.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yays:** Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Hilliard, Lawson, Magee, Small, Mire, Smith, Tolbert, Whitfield

**Nays:** None

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**J. Resolutions**

NONE

**8. Informational Items**

**A. NCAA Update**

Interim Director of Athletics Roman Banks spoke about the recent NCAA ruling on infractions. He stated that due to a great staff and the outside consultant and years of probation and post season bans, the program is on the right track. The NCAA has confidence in the leadership of the institution and the program. The NCAA has imposed a 5-year plan to provide oversight to the programs. Banks commended Mr. Trayvean Scott of the athletics staff, for efforts with the APR and announced the projected APR numbers for all programs for the 2015-16 year.

Mrs. Ann Smith made a presentation to Mr. Myron Lawson on behalf of the LA Student Financial Assistance Commission. She stated that Mr. Lawson serves on the commission as a member of the SU Board.

**B. Priority Projects Updates, SUS**

Vice President McClinton stated that the priority projects were included in the meeting packet and on the Board's website. Mr. McClinton stated that Dr. Belton submitted a letter to Governor Edwards requesting assistance with the repair to B.A. Little Road. The Board of Regents has agreed to assist the University with the repair.

**C. System President's Report**

President-Chancellor Belton recognized Zana Harris SGA president and also recognized Board Member Calvin Braxton who will be honored by the National Black Caucus of Legislators during their 40<sup>th</sup> annual conference. He also thanked the Chancellor's search committee for SUNO and congratulated Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin on her appointment.

**D. Campus Reports**

**SUNO** - Dr. Devezin thanked the Board members for their confidence in her as leader of the SUNO campus and reminded Board members of the Appreciation Brunch on Saturday morning and announced that SUNO has been selected as the Tom Joyner Foundation's School of the Month for the month of February 2017.

**SUSLA** - Chancellor Ellis stated that the report was included in the meeting packet.

**SUAREC** – Dr. Phills stated that the medical cannabis program is progressing and that information would be forthcoming about a town hall meeting that is being planned for the public in January. He also stated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) would be disseminated in February to solicit vendors.

**SULC** – Chancellor Pierre stated that the Kendall Vick Foundation has donated over \$600,000 to the SULC for students for financial support. Chancellor Pierre recognized Atty. Jerome Reso, partner in the Baldwin, Haspell, Burke and Mayer Law Firm of New Orleans. Also stated that the SULC received notification of their continuing accreditation by the ABA and that the SULC would be offering classes in downtown Baton Rouge beginning January 2017.

**9. Other Business**

Atty. Clayton recognized Sherman Copeland and applauded him for his years of support with the Louisiana Legislature.

Atty. Clayton also congratulated Dr. Leon R. Tarver for his service as chairman of the Board and said he would put forth a motion in support of Dr. Tarver as chairman emeritus at the next Board meeting.

Rev. Gant stated that he would like to make sure that the work of the Law Center would continue in the Shreveport area.

**10. Adjournment**

Upon the motion by Mr. Michael Small the meeting adjourned.