

Southern University Board of Supervisors
Friday, February 20, 2015
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building
Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Minutes

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was convened by Chairman, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II. The invocation was given by Rev. Donald R. Henry.

PRESENT

Dr. Leon R. Tarver II - Chairman
Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Sr. - Vice Chairman
Atty. Tony M. Clayton
Mr. Raymond M. Fondel, Jr.
Mr. Diangleo S. Frazer
Dr. Curman L. Gaines
Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr.
Mr. Willie E. Hendricks
Rev. Donald R. Henry
Mr. Richard T. Hilliard
Dr. Eamon M. Kelly
Atty. Patrick D. Magee
Mr. Mike A. Small
Mrs. Ann A. Smith
Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.
Dr. Rani G. Whitfield

ABSENT

None

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING

System President Ronald Mason, Jr.
Chief of Staff Evola Bates
System Vice Presidents Kevin Appleton, Tony Moore, and Monique Guillory-Winfield
Interim Chancellor Flandus McClinton (SUBR); Chancellors Victor Ukpolo (SUNO), Ray Belton (SUSLA), and Freddie Pitcher (SULC); and, Vice Chancellor Adell Brown (representing Chancellor Leodrey Williams) (SUAREC)

BOARD COUNSEL

Atty. Winston DeCuir, Jr. and Tracie Woods

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion of Atty. Clayton, seconded by Atty. Magee, the agenda was adopted as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Former Board Member, Atty. Walter C. Dumas was recognized by the Board and Campus Chancellors for his service and valued contribution to the Southern University System.

Chairman Tarver presented Rev. Gant with a memento for his service as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors (December 2014), and the Presidential Search Committee (October 2014 - December 2014). Rev. Gant expressed his appreciation for having had the opportunity to serve as Chairman and being a member of the Board.

Atty. Clayton took a point of personal privilege and introduced Mr. John Young, President of Jefferson Parish, and a candidate for Lt. Governor for the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Young presented a book to the Board on the life and the contributions that Mr. Ellis Marsalis, Sr., franchise owner and civil rights activists, contributed to the civil rights movement.

Atty. Dumas thanked the Board and Administrators for their mementos and expressed his appreciation for having had the opportunity to serve as a Board Member.

Chairman Tarver announced that former Chairwoman, Atty. Bridget A. Dinvaut is the first African American woman in Louisiana to be elected as a District Attorney.

Atty. Bridget A. Dinvaut congratulated the newly appointed Board members on their appointments, and expressed her appreciation to have served as a Board member and Chairwoman.

Atty. Dinvaut was presented with parting gifts from the Campus Chancellors for her valued service to the Southern University System.

Former Board Member, Mr. Darren G. Mire was recognized by the Board for his service and valued contribution to the Southern University System.

Mr. Mire thanked the Board and President Mason for the pleasurable experience as a Board member. He also stated that his service is always available, if called upon for the Southern University System.

Mr. Mire was presented with mementos by the Campus Chancellors for his valued service to the Southern University System.

Former Board Member, Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr. was recognized by the Board for his service and valued contribution to the Southern University System.

Atty. Bell thanked the Board and Administrators for with whom he worked with for the past six years, and he also encouraged the newly appointed Board members to help keep Southern University System around for the next 100 years.

Atty. Bell was presented with mementos by the Campus Chancellors for his valued service to the Southern University System.

Rev. Gant informed the Board that Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Pastor Emeritus of Trinity United Church of Christ, in Chicago, Illinois spoke to the Southern University - Baton Rouge Faculty, Staff and Students. Rev Gant encouraged the Board to get a copy of the speech. He also stated that Rev. Wright stated that Southern University needs to put their trust in God and not the government.

Continuing, Rev. Gant stated that he concurs with Rev. Wright and the only reason Southern University is still standing, it is not because of the Legislators or the Governor, but because of our faith in God.

Rev. Gant thanked the persons that were responsible for inviting Rev. Wright to Southern University - Baton Rouge.

President Mason introduced Southern University System - Southern Strategy Legislative Advisories, Mr. Kevin Cunningham and Mr. Rodney Braxton.

Mr. Cunningham thanked the Board and President Mason for entrusting the representation of the Southern University System to Southern Strategy.

Mr. Cunningham informed the Board that the State budget has a structural deficit of a billion dollars. He also stated that the Governor Jindal is proposing a \$420 million reduction to higher education.

Continuing, Mr. Cunningham encouraged the Board to come together, coordinate, and focus to make sure the reductions do not occur to higher education.

Chairman Tarver announced that the Board will have a Retreat in Lake Charles, LA on March 26 -27, and Mr. Fondel and Rev. Tolbert will be the host. He also stated that the Retreat will be to assist in finding an approach to the Southern University System budget shortfall and other important issues.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Thomas Miller, SUBR Faculty Senate President, spoke in opposition of Action Items 6B, 6B-1 and 6C.

Continuing, Dr. Miller informed the Board, that Board Member, Dr. Whitfield will be meeting with the SUBR Faculty for open discussion, and encouraged other Board members to attend.

Dr. Albert Samuel, SUBR Professor and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Political Science, spoke in opposition of Action Items 6B and 6B-1.

Atty. Preston Castille, National President for Southern University Alumni Federation, spoke in support Action Item 6B.

Mr. Alonzo Johnson, SUBR Assistant Professor of Computer Science, spoke in opposition of Action Item 6B.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ACTION ITEMS

- A. Minutes of the January 9, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors

On motion of Atty. Clayton, seconded by Atty. Magee the following resolution was approved.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the minutes of the January 9, 2015 regular meeting of the Board, be and it is hereby approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Consideration of an action item to merge the SUS President and SUBR Chancellor positions, effective, July 1, 2015

A motion was offered by Atty. Clayton, seconded by Mr. Hendricks, for Board approval for consideration of action item to merge the SUS President and SUBR Chancellor positions, effective July 1, 2015.

Motion carried. Roll call vote: 15 yeas: Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Fondel, Frazer, Gaines, Hendricks, Henry, Hilliard, Kelly, Magee, Small, Smith, Tolbert, Whitfield; 1 nay: Gant; 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the Consideration of an action item to merge the Southern University System and Southern University Baton Rouge Chancellor positions, effective July 1, 2015 be and it is hereby approved.

Atty. Clayton stated that at the November 28, 2014 Board meeting, he made the motion to have the Presidential Search suspended and have it resurrected under the leadership of the 2015 Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Continuing, Atty. Clayton asked Chairman Tarver will he take the task to appoint a new committee for the President/Chancellor Search.

Responding, Chairman Tarver stated that he has begun appointing new members to the President/Chancellor Search Committee.

Continuing, Chairman Tarver introduced Dr. Albert Sam, Chair of the President/Chancellor Search Committee, and Dr. Thomas Miller and Ms. Toni L. Jackson members of the Committee, who were in attendance at the Board meeting. Continuing, Chairman Tarver announced the Vice-Chair and other members of the President/Chancellor Search Committee:

Mrs. Jacqui Vines-Wyatt, Vice-Chair
Atty. Preston J. Castille, Jr.
Atty. Tony M. Clayton
Mr. Diangleo S. Frazer
Mr. Nicholas Harris
Ms. Sonya D. Hester
Atty. Patrick D. Magee
Mrs. Charlotte Placide
Atty. Domoine D. Rutledge
Atty. Erin Monroe Wesley
Mr. Howard White
Dr. Leon R. Tarver - Ex Officio

C. Consideration of an action item to authorize the hiring of a National Search Firm to Facilitate the President/Chancellor Search

A motion was offered by Rev. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. Fondel, for Board approval for consideration of an action item to authorize the hiring of a National Search Firm to Facilitate the President/Chancellor Search.

Motion failed. Roll call vote: 2 yeas: Fondel and Tolbert; 14 nays: Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Frazer, Gaines, Gant, Hendricks, Henry, Hilliard, Kelly, Magee, Small, Smith, and Whitfield.

D. Approval of Endowed Professorships, SUBR

On motion of Dr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Small, the following resolution was approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the Administrator's recommendation for the Endowed Professorship appointments listed below, they are hereby approved.

-Dr. Patrick Mensah - Formosa Plastics Endowed Professorship in Mechanical Engineering

-Dr. Guoqiang Li - Engineering/Contractor's Educational Trust Fund Endowed Professorship

E. Approval to authorize the President to hire Littler Mendelson to defend Southern University Baton Rouge in the Sackos v. NCAA, etal matter (Executive Session may be required)

Atty. DeCuir explained to the Board the legal logistics regarding the Sackos v. NCAA matter.

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Mr. Braxton the following resolution was approved.

Motion carried. Dr. Kelly voted nay.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University that the recommendation to authorize the Southern University System President, Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. to hire Littler Mendelson to defend Southern University - Baton Rouge in the Sackos v. NCAA, etal matter be and it is hereby approved.

F. Request approval to modify the terms of the GRAD Act targets for years 5 and 6, SUBR

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Mr. Small the following resolution was approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University that the administrator's recommendation to modify the terms of the GRAD Act targets years 5 and 6 for Southern University - Baton Rouge be and it is hereby approved.

- G. Resolution authorizing the President to pursue legal claim including litigation against Felicia Hawkins/Crimson Distinctive Interiors
(Executive session may be required)

On motion of Dr. Gaines, seconded by Mr. Small, the Board convened into executive session to discuss authorizing Southern University System President, Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. to pursue legal claim including litigation against Felicia Hawkins/Crimson Distinctive Interiors.

Motion carried unanimously.

-EXECUTIVE SESSION-

-OPEN SESSION-

Chairman Tarver announced that no actions were taken by the Board during its executive session.

On motion of Mr. Braxton, seconded by Mr. Small the Board reconvened into open session.

On motion of Atty. Magee seconded by Mr Small, the following resolution was approved.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University that the a resolution authorizing Southern University System President, Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr., to pursue legal claim including litigation against Felicia Hawkins/Crimson Distinctive Interiors be and it is hereby approved.

H. Resolutions

On motion of Mr. Braxton, seconded by Mr. Hilliard the following resolution was approved:

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the resolutions of condolences to the families name below be and they are hereby approved:

The Robert Lee "Granson" Hayes Family
The Wilbert Harris, Jr. Family
The Faye Brown Blackwell Family

AGENDA ITEM 7: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Video Presentation, Special Recognition, and Updates from the SU Laboratory School

Dr. Ronnie Harrison, Director of the SU Lab School, informed the Board, that the school has reached more than 1,000 students with the virtual school, and enrollment has increased tremendously since 2011.

Dr. Harrison recognized the following students for being winners of the Southern University Law Center Marshall-Brennan Project High School Moot Court competition, and First Place in the Louisiana Senior Beta Competition.

-Taylor Harris
-Deonta Lafayette
-Christian Proper
-Louis Russell
-Robert Harris

He also introduced the following members of the SU Lab 2014 Football Team for their advancement to the State runner-up:

- Dorian Welch
- Deon Rainey
- Chris Allen
- Darbbeon Prophet
- Bladrick Veal

Continuing, Dr. Harrison, presented a video to the Board reflecting on the SU Lab accomplishments.

Atty. Preston Castille, National President for the SU Alumni Federation, presented a video regarding Southern University recruiting efforts.

B. Interim Financial Report, as of December 31, 2014, SU System entities

A status report was given by Mr. Kevin Appleton, System Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs.

Chairman Tarver asked Mr. Appleton to give an update at the Board Retreat, regarding the budget shortfall for the Southern University System.

C. New Board of Regents Mandated Admission Policy, SUNO

Chancellor Ukpolo presented a power point on the impact the New Board of Regents Mandated Admission Policy will have on Southern University at New Orleans.

D. Priority Projects Updates, by Campuses

Mr. Kevin Appleton, System Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, provided a written and oral report on the Priority Projects, by campuses.

Mr. Appleton informed the Board, that an invitation was mailed to them inviting them to Southern University - Shreveport Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Classroom Building.

Continuing, Mr. Appleton, informed the Board that the Facility Planning and Control Division (FPC) will use unused funds from the erosion of the ravine to repair the Steptoe Bridge on the Baton Rouge Campus, but they still need additional funding to complete the project.

E. Update on the status of the Donald Wade House

Mr. Endas Vincent, System Director of Facilities and Planning, provided a report on the Donald Wade House.

Mr. Vincent stated that the Donald Wade House is 100% completed, and a Dedication will be given in the month of March 2015.

F. System President's Report

Dr. Mason stated that an appeal has been filed with the NCAA regarding the post season ban for Athletics at Southern University - Baton Rouge.

Dr. Mason also informed the Board, that the National Initiative on black males that is called the Five Fifth Agenda for America, and the pilot, the Honore' Center at Southern University at New Orleans will receive \$500,000 dollars from the Ford Foundation and \$200,000 from a private donor.

Continuing, Dr. Mason expressed to the Board that he will work very close with Chairman Tarver to close out his administration, and make sure that he does whatever he can to assist with the Legislative Session, upon his departure as President for the Southern University System.

G. Campus Reports

Monthly updates were given by campus Chancellors. Details can be found on the Board's website and tape.

Interim Chancellor McClinton, invited the Board members to the Southern University - Baton Rouge 135 Founders' Day Activities on March 9.

Interim Chancellor McClinton informed the Board that March 9 was his Birthday.

Chancellor Ukpolo informed the Board that Senator Mary Landrieu will be Southern University at New Orleans commencement speaker.

Board Member Small asked was there an update on the Thurgood Marshal School.

Responding, Chancellor Ukpolo stated that the school is looking for a location within the City of New Orleans.

Chancellor Belton introduced Faculty Senate President, Ms. Sonya Hester and faculty members, Professors Calvin Wilson, Sheila Smith and Pat Brown, from Southern University - Shreveport that was in attendance at the Board meeting.

Vice-Chancellor Brown informed the Board that Southern University Agricultural and Research and Extension Center will have National Footage of a Smoke- Free Campus.

Chancellor Pitcher thanked Chairman Tarver and Board Members, Ann Smith, Patrick Magee, and Diangleo Frazer for meeting with the SACS Site Committee for the Law Center.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

On motion Atty. Magee, the meeting was adjourned.