

**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

Friday, January 10, 2020

**9:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chairman Atty. Domoine Rutledge.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Miss Ragan Abdula, a twelfth-grade student at Southern University Laboratory School.

**The Invocation** was given by Bishop Michael Duca, the Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana.

**PRESENT**

Atty. Domoine Rutledge – Chairman

Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr. – Vice Chairman

Dr. Leroy Davis

Mr. Raymond Fondel

Dr. Rani Whitfield

Rev. Donald R. Henry

Mrs. Ann A. Smith

Dr. Leon R. Tarver II

Mrs. Arlanda Williams

Mr. Sam Gilliam

Mr. John Barthelemy

Atty. Edwin Shorty

Mr. Richard Hilliard

Atty Patrick Magee

Mr. Donald Dunbar

**ABSENT**

Dr. Curman Gaines

**UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING**

System President, Ray Belton

Chief of Staff, Dr. Katara Williams

Interim Executive Vice President/Executive Vice Chancellor Bijoy Sahoo (SUBR)

Systems Vice Presidents Flandus McClinton (Finance and Business Affairs), Vladimir Appeaning (Strategic Planning, Policy and Institutional Effectiveness), and Robyn Merrick (External Affairs) Chancellors Dr. James Ammons (SUNO), Dr. Orlando F. McMeans (SUAREC), Dr. Rodney Ellis (SUSLA), and Atty. John Pierre (SULC).

## **BOARD COUNSEL**

Attys. Brandon DeCuir, and Deidre Robert

**INSTALLATION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2020** – Atty Brandon DeCuir administered the oath of Office to the Chairman Atty Domoine Rutledge and Vice Chairman Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Jr.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION** – Atty Rutledge welcomed Governor John Bel Edwards to the Board of Supervisors Meeting. Atty Rutledge asked everyone to welcome Governor Edwards. Governor Edwards thanked the board for allowing him to be at the meeting and he expressed how excited he was to be on “The Bluff”, he congratulated the Chairman and Vice Chairman for being elected to serve another year on the board. Governor Edwards congratulated SU on all the great work. He said, “it’s a New Day in Louisiana and I think this is the right time to come because we're about to start a new term. And I'm excited about what lies ahead for the state of Louisiana. What lies ahead for higher education and for this system, I am mindful, and I say it often the only HBCU system in the United States of America. So, I congratulate all of you on your work here.” Governor Edwards spoke about his continued commitment to Higher Education, dual enrollment programs, the spending plan he plans to submit based on the forecast, and the construction projects on the Baton Rouge Campus which are scheduled to be complete by the end of 2020. He said in closing, “I stand before you today, very excited about the future. I hope that you are too. And I just remind you of something that I know, you know, and you think about, you're a big part of shaping the future of Louisiana, you are a huge part of that. And then so the decisions that you make here in this boardroom are incredibly important and significant. And so, I know you take your jobs very seriously, to the extent that I can do anything to be of assistance to you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman of the Board members, Dr. Belton, please don't hesitate to reach out to me and I look forward to coming back to this campus many times in the future, so that I can see the good work that you all are doing and that we're going to be doing together.”

Dr. Belton was recognized to give a few comments to the Governor. He said, “Mr. Governor, I take great pleasure in speaking on behalf of the administration, the faculty, staff and most importantly, the students of Southern University College System and just expressing a statement of gratitude to you. It is apparent, you know that your actions align with your values and you have been a champion for the state of Louisiana and particularly for higher education. You should know that the Southern University system in its entirety really embrace the master plan as adopted by the Louisiana Board of Regents. Enrollment has increased over the last three years and we’re hosting dual enrollment students. Your leadership matters and clearly, you have been a friend to higher education and to Southern University. You have responded immediately to the conditions on campus, Fisher Hall and the bridge project. For supplemental appropriations, we are grateful to you. And again, on behalf of the university community, we want to express our

appreciation, and our willingness to fulfill our roles, scope and mission and advancing the interests of the state of Louisiana.”

Governor Edwards thanked Dr. Belton and reminded everyone before leaving that “there is a teacher shortage and he is asking everyone to assist in recruiting young people to come to Southern University and become teachers. “

Governor Edwards took a group photo with the board members before departing.

***Chairman, Atty Domoine Rutledge announced the convening of the Athletics Committee. Chair John Barthelemy called the committee meeting to order.***

**AGENDA ITEM 6: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon the motion and second, the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Request Approval on the Suspension of SUNO Athletics Program and Withdrawal of SUNO from the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (SUNO)**

Dr. Ammons thanked the board for giving him an opportunity to share the rationale and thinking around athletics at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO). He stated, “we’re on a seven-month mission with the goal to document through a monitoring report in compliance with core requirement 13.1 financial resources of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and to have the institution removed from probation.” He mentioned “the core requirement 13.1 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools expects the institution to have a sound financial base which demonstrates financial resources to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services.” Dr. Ammons reminded everyone that a special committee is going to visit SUNO April 14 through the 16th of this year. He is looking to submit the monitoring report around Mid-March, prior to their visit. He stated, “We developed an overall strategy and athletic is a part of that strategy. The major emphasis as an educational institution is that we have a mission, we stay true to it and strengthen the academic core of the institution. So therefore, we must contain costs, increase revenue, and balance this current year budget. Additionally, we must also eliminate the deficit, demonstrate it, and sustainability is key. Enrollment growth is the highest priority and maintaining quality student life. We went in and did an in-depth budget analysis. That analysis revealed that athletics was a major driver of the deficit in the institution. So, after looking at the major drivers’ athletics, to the deficit, we had discussions across the campus with key stakeholders, students, our faculty, the athletes themselves, the Commissioner of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference, the athletic director and coaches. We're all a part of this decision.

And so, as we talked with them, we had some scenarios that we needed to examine. Dr. Ammons, stated, “This was one of the most difficult decisions that I've made as a university administrator to suspend athletics because I understand how athletics contribute to overall student life and contribute to alumni support, camaraderie, etc. However, when we took a look at all of the scenarios, and the fact that athletics is a major contributor to current and past deficits, we decided that the best option for the University at this time with the university being on probation with its accredited to suspend athletic program.”

Dr. Ammons informed the board of the next step in this process is to replace athletics in student life. They have created a wellness Task Force, an intramural and health education with intramural and health education initiatives being a major part of the work of this task force. And the goal, again is to improve campus life and provide a robust athletic experience that includes all students, all 2300 students, as opposed to 56 students on the campus. And so that committee is made up of administrators, faculty and students, and will begin its work doing this current semester.”

Dr. Ammons concluded his report and asked for questions from the board members. Dr. Leroy Davis asked, “how many of the athletes will be able to stay in the university in an academic setting even though they might lose their athletic scholarship?” Dr. Ammons stated “there are 56 athletes and 42 of them on scholarships and 19 or 20 of them on full scholarships. They have begun to look at the student’s majors, grade point averages and working to find ways to award them academic scholarships to stay at the institution after this year. He mentioned many of the students are scholars that’s why it was a hard decision. “

Dr. Davis suggested Dr. Ammons have a tracking system to track those students who leave the university because of the change and recommended he attend conferences and converse with others.

Atty Edwin Shorty echoed Dr. Ammons by mentioning the savings for the athletic department if SUNO cut athletics. He mentioned the “budgetary impact for this fiscal year for the athletic department. Dr. Ammons has all the numbers. He can provide the information if requested. “

There was a motion and second. All voted Yes. Motion passed.

**B. Request Approval of the MOU between Southern University at Baton Rouge and the Southern University System Foundation regarding the Leasing of Equipment (SUBR)**

There was a motion and second for approval. All voted yes. Motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Fondel recognized athletics for their win of Bayou Classic and their advancing to the SWAC Championship he presented them with a Bayou Classic logo Framed Art – which was presented to Coach Banks.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Whitfield made a motion to adjourn, Atty Rutledge second the motion. Motion passed.

**FACILITIES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE  
(Following Athletics Committee)**

2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Friday, January 10, 2020  
**9:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

Board Chair Atty. Domoine Rutledge announced the convening of the Facilities and Property Committee. Facilities and Property Committee Chair Rev. Donald R. Henry called the committee meeting to order.

**Present:** Rev. Donald R. Henry, Dr. Rani Whitfield, Mr. John Barthelemy, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mrs. Ann Smith and Atty. Domoine Rutledge

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

Upon the motion and second, the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 5: INFORMATION ITEM**

A. Priority Projects Updates by Campuses

Everyone agreed that the governor did a good job with the campus updates. There were no additional comments or updates.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the motion and second, the Facilities and Property Committee was adjourned.

Motion Passed

**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
(Following the Facilities and Property Committee)**

2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Friday, January 10, 2020  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Minutes**

The Finance Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Atty Edwin Shorty

**Present:** Atty Edwin Shorty, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Dr. Leon Tarver II, Mrs. Arlanda Williams, Mr. Sam Gilliam, and Atty Domoine Rutledge

**Absent:** Dr. Curman Gaines

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

Upon the motion and second, the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Dr. Tietzel, SUNO Faculty**, commended the faculty at SUNO as an outstanding faculty. He said, "I would like to present to you the faculty at SUNO as an outstanding faculty. They are dedicated to their work even in difficult situations. Even though we were teaching classes we taught one extra class last semester for free, during it all, we were still able to write grants to mentor students and we are happy to have student graduates." He thanked the board for their time.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**A. Fiscal Status Update (SUNO) – See handout**

SUNO Interim Chancellor Ammons presented the fiscal update. He said, "When I made the presentation a few minutes ago on athletics, I gave the context for the actions that we're taking at SUNO. Again, our goal is to have the institution removed from probation and to strengthen the academic core of the institution. As I said before, we have been conducting various budget analyses. We have looked at everything financial, and we have developed various scenarios. But I want to say to you that we have a plan, we have a strategy for moving forward. And the core of

the strategy is strengthening the academic programs at the institution balance in this year's current budget, we got to live within our means and demonstrate sustainability through enrollment growth and maintaining the quality student life. So, what we have done is to identify three major areas of effort. One is revenue generation. Secondly, cost reduction, and then thirdly, allocation and reallocation of resources to support the academic mission of the institution. In the cost reduction of fiscal stability arena, we have eliminated positions. We have frozen vacant positions. There have been early retirements and furloughs. And as Dr. Tietzel mentioned earlier, the faculty have taken on additional courses, thereby reducing or minimizing the use of adjuncts and overloads. We have seen some increases in class size, and we have renegotiated contracts with vendors. And as we just completed our discussion of athletics, we have decided to suspend athletic programs after this academic year. The major revenue generation activity is increasing enrollment. That is our focus, increasing enrollment. So, we have strengthen partnerships with the local community colleges, Delgado Community College charter schools, and community organizations. And the focus that we have here with the enrollment is to match our efforts with the state funding formula. So therefore, Community College transfers, those students who are 25 years and older, and then of course, STEM disciplines. We have undertaken an unaggressive fundraising initiative. And the major focus of that fundraising initiative is to raise scholarship dollars Dr. Davis to have scholarships available for students who want to come to SUNO, and those who want to stay. But, again, when we look at all the outstanding offerings that we have at SUNO, we have some signature programs that have both undergraduate and graduate programs. And so, our focus in recruitment is in those areas, areas such as social work, business, computer information systems, education, STEM disciplines, and others. Another part of the strategy is related to allocation and reallocation of resources. There is a deficit which resulted from expenditures after Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. Some of the funds that were spent to bring the campus back to life have not been reimbursed by FEMA. We have an initiative where we are working with FEMA to recover some of the funds which will strengthen the financial position of the institution. We're also making efforts to recover funds from our account's receivables. We are allocating charges across the institution from the general fund to the place where they should be charged. And then we're looking at our indirect cost's funds. And at the end of the day, we're also going to depend upon your support and a support of the system to ensure that SUNO remains a viable institution. So those are the strategies that we put in place that are part of our overall plan."

Chair Atty Rutledge thanked Chancellor Ammons. He requested in the future that he present numbers with his plan when he's talking about eliminating positions and early retirements. What he's projecting the cost savings to be? The information will help when we get questions about these things." Before taking additional questions, the chair said, "I just like to have some numbers."

Atty Magee questioned the "Human aspect of what is going on at SUNO?" "What is your approach to the human aspect of it all?"

Dr Ammons comment was, "all of this is real but one of the things that I've attempted to do is to have open communications with all components of the university community and the larger community. And the thing is, that since I've been there now for about six weeks, the thing that makes it even tougher is that I have come to know some of the people who have been directly impacted by these moves that we must make

on behalf of the institution. And that is tough, but I try as often as I can to have meetings, to have conferences with the various components of the university community, and explain, always explaining that as an educational institution. It's an academic mission that matters, most athletics for instance are extracurricular activities, but they play a major part in the life of the university and so I had opportunities to meet with the students, the student athletes, on several occasions, Student Government leadership faculty and again, I am getting to know the people who are being impacted and it's tough but the viability of SUNO is paramount."

Dr. Ammons informed the Chairman and the board that his plan is to come to them next month with a complete packet. He said, "there are some actions that you must take as a board for the SACSCOC report that is due for the March meeting, so when we come in February, you will have a more robust packet to consider that will have all of the numbers. It's still a work in progress, we're discovering different things, but by the February meeting, I think that we will be in a position to give you a complete picture of where we are and what we would need in order to balance the budget and eliminate the deficit. "

**B. Interim Financial Report as of November 20, 2019 (see packet)**

Mr. McClinton, Vice President of Finance and Business Affairs presented the operating budget and financial statement for the month ending November 30, 2019 for each campus. He informed the board that he's gone through the documents for each campus to ensure they are in line with the budget.

There were no questions or comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded that the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

***(Following the Finance Committee)***

2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Friday, January 10, 2020

**9:00 a.m.**

**Minutes**

The Governance Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Sam Gilliam

**Present:** Mr. Sam Gilliam, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Atty Patrick Magee, Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, and Atty Domoine Rutledge

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

Upon the motion and second, the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 5: ACTION ITEMS**

- A.** Request Approval of Policy for Minimum Percentage of Program Credit Hours Earned at Southern University at Baton Rouge to Receive a Bachelor's Degree (SUBR)
- B.** Request Approval of the Southern University Board of Supervisors' Conflict of Interest Policy (SUS)
- C.** Request Approval of the Registration Refund Policy (SUSLA)
- D.** Request Approval of the Fundraising Policy for Campus Organizations (SUSLA)

Dr. Appeaning was asked to give a quick presentation on items A through D. He mentioned that item A and B are required by SACSCOC. He explained the importance of the board completing two disclosure statements. One is a personal financial disclosure that is due in May of every year and to complete the one-hour code of ethics training. The other one is simply one of the boards, this bylaws regarding the conflict of interest provision. This was passed in April of last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And as part of that this board agreed to complete a conflict of interest disclosure statement, which you did in 2019." So, we're able to demonstrate evidence to SACSCOC or anybody else, that indeed this board takes the conflict of interest provisions very seriously. Dr. Appeaning said he spoke to Chancellor Ellis, and Per Chancellor Ellis, Item C is where he is clarifying in writing, the registration refund policy on the process and procedures on the SUSLA campus. He said, "And finally Item D is s a fundraiser policy for

the campus. Chancellor Ellis, says, he is demonstrating in writing the policies and procedures by which campus organizations can raise money such as student organizations.

Rev. Samuel Tolbert made a motion to adopt Items 5A through 5D and there was second to the motion.

Motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Atty Patrick Magee and seconded that the Governance Committee meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed.

**PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
*(Following the Governance Committee)*

2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
 Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
 Friday, January 10, 2019  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Minutes**

The Personnel Affairs Committee was called to order by Committee Vice Chairman, Mr. Barthelemy

**Present:** Mr. Sam Gilliam, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, and Atty. Domoine Rutledge

**Absent:** Ms. Arlanda Williams and Dr. Curman L. Gaines

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

It was moved by Dr. Leon Tarver and second that the agenda be accepted.

Motion passed

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**Agenda Item 5: Action Items**

A motion was made by Dr. Leon Tarver, II and seconded by Rev. Donald Henry, Jr. to approve agenda items 5A - 1 through 9

Motion passed

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Alex Appeaning	System VP for Strategic Planning, Policy, Institutional Effectiveness and SUBR VC for Academic Compliance (Title Change) SUS/SUBR	N/A	N/A
2. Teresa Hardee	Interim Vice Chancellor for Admin & Finance Office of the Chancellor (Interim Appointment) SUNO	\$104,000.00	State

3.	Alfred Harrell	Executive Director of Institutional Advancement - SUBR (Clarification)	N/A	N/A
4.	Justin James	Director of Internal Audit (Reinstatement) SUNO	\$70,000.00	State
5.	Belinda Mack	Comptroller SUAREC Finance Unit (New Appointment) SUAREC	\$85,200.00	State/Federal
6.	Toni Manogin	System AVP for Strategic Planning, Policy, Institutional Effectiveness and SUBR AVC for Academic Compliance (Title Change) SUS/SUBR	N/A	N/A
7.	Oscar O. Udoh	Director of Grants & Facility Program Management SUAREC Planning & Evaluation (New Position) SUAREC	\$90,000.00	State
8.	Edward Willis	Interim Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (Interim Appointment) SUBR	\$140,000.00	State
9.	De'Shoyn York	Associate Vice Chancellor Extension & Outreach/Specialist, Nutrition, Health & Wellness (New Position) SUAREC	\$100,000.00	State/Federal

### Agenda Item 6: Other Business

None

### Agenda Item 7: Adjournment

A motion was moved by Dr. Leon Tarver, II and seconded that the Personnel Affairs Committee meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed.

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
***(Following the Recruitment and Admissions Committee)***

2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Friday, January 10, 2020  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Minutes**

Regular Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board Atty. Domoine Rutledge

**Present:**

Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., Rev. Donald Henry, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Mr. Sam Gilliam, Ms. Arlanda Williams, Mr. John Barthelemy, and Atty. Edwin Shorty

**Absent:**

Dr. Curman Gaines

**Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda**

Upon the motion and second the agenda was recommended for adoption  
Motion passed

**Agenda Item 4: Public Comments**

None

**Agenda Item 5: Special Presentations**

**A. Above and Beyond Award**

Presented by Ms. Cary Clark-Hollins, Associate Controller. The recipient was Ms. Linda E. Wilkins, Travel supervisor for eleven years. She has a staff of two. Ms. Linda is a dedicated employee who has been at Southern University for 20 years. She loves her job and don't mind working extended hours when needed. She is a dedicated employee who goes above and beyond for the department.

Atty Rutledge congratulated and thanked Ms. Wilkins for her services.

**B. Agnihotri Global Conflict Resolution Institute Gift**

Atty Rutledge introduced and acknowledged the Chancellor Emeritus Agnihotri. He thanked him for his lifetime service to Southern University and the world. He mentioned, "Agnihotri

is global and he thanked him for being a part of his life and helping him in many ways.” Chancellor Pierre presented the check in the amount of \$45,000 that Chancellor Agnihotri donated to the Southern University Law Center.

Chancellor Agnihotri thanked the chairman and chancellor for having him at the meeting. He complimented Chancellor Pierre on the great work he’s done and doing at SULC.

Atty Rutledge again thanked Chancellor Agnihotri for the donation. He also acknowledge Dr. Barbara West Carpenter, who attended the meeting. He thanked her for her all her work and her husbands work. Dr. Carpenter thanked everyone for their support. She said, “I am a two-time graduate of Southern University, I am still employed at Southern University. I just love Southern University. If you ever need me, please call me anytime.”

### **Agenda Item 6: Action Item(s)**

A motion was moved and second to approve action items 6A through 6C.

Motion passed.

- A. Approval of Minutes of November 29, 2019 Regular Meeting of the SU Board of Supervisors
- B. Approval of Committee Reports and Recommendations
- C. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Southern University and A&M College Baton Rouge and the Southern University System Foundation regarding the lease/option to purchase Howell Place (SUBR)
- D. Resolutions

Dr. Katara Williams, Chief of Staff read resolutions and commendations for the following:

- Mr. James E. Hogan, Sr.
- Mr. Lloyd Carroll Edwards
- Mr. Ronald Jerome Parms

Rev. Donald Henry made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Leroy Davis to adopt the resolutions. Motion passed.

### **Agenda Item 7: Informational Items**

- A. **SUBR Counseling Services Update** – Dr. Belton introduced Ms. Irving- Who gave a comparison of Fall 2018 vs Fall 2019 service hours at the University Counseling Service. She mentioned the primary concerns that students bring to the counseling center. She said, “based on national data and University counseling center data, the three top concerns are anxiety, depression, and stress.” She gave data on the three top concerns. After providing the data to the members, they could ask questions. Dr. Whitfield

commented and questioned Dr. Irving about referring patients to hospitals. Mrs. Williams advised Dr. Irving about partnering with other agencies to assist with students and she recommended Daughters of Charity. Dr. Tarver inquired about her senior Staff. Mr. Fondel thanked Dr. Irving for coming and giving presentation. He commended her and her staff on what they are doing in the counseling center to improve and move it forward Mrs. Smith and Dr. Tolbert commented on expanding to the other campuses and having additional staff. Chancellor Pierre mentioned the process has begun for a solution. "Some of the law students will assist in the next month because anxiety for law school is big."

Dr Belton thanked Dr. Irving for coming and asked her to please send the presentation so it can be distributed to the board members.

Atty Rutledge asked that Dr. Irving meet with Dr Willis, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. He thanked her for coming.

#### **B. System President's Report**

Rose Bowl - Dr. Belton acknowledged the Human Juke Box and Fabulous Dancing Dolls for participating in the Rose Bowl. He asked them to stand. He also acknowledged Mr. Kedric Taylor and Dr. Akai Smith.

Faculty Convocation - Dr. Belton thanked Dr. Albert Samuel for his leadership. It was a huge success.

Dr. Belton commended the chancellors for their contributions to the institution.

He informed the board that General Counsel Deidre Robert has resigned. He recognized her for all her hard work. He asked Deidre for comments.

#### **C. Campus Reports**

**Southern University New Orleans (SUNO) – Presented by Dr. James Ammons.** "I would like to recognize the passion and tremendous commitment that the faculty of SUNO has for the students. I have some of the faculty senate here today that I would like to thank for being here. They have a passion and commitment as it relates to our students. Last semester we graduated 59 students from the institution and that is great, but it makes our job a little tougher because we got to replace them so that we can show net growth to the institution to SACSCOC, but they are committed to teaching. This faculty has agreed to take on an extra course in order to assist the university in maintaining fiscal stability. And I want to commend them for that. As I told the Provost the other day, that could have been Mutiny on a university campus, asking a faculty to take on an extra course or heavier teaching load without compensation. And it just shows again, their commitment to the institution. But at the same time, we've seen increases in the grant productivity. I just want to thank them for their support and their cooperation. Again, thank you. This concludes my report."

**Southern University Shreveport Louisiana (SUSLA) – Presented by Dr. Rodney Ellis.** “Our report for SUSLA is enclosed in the packet, however, I would like you to pay special attention to one article which is the report on Shunterika Fields. She is a graduate of our radiology program. She is attending Northwestern State University, working towards her Bachelor’s degree in Radiologic Sciences. She received acceptance into an Introduction to Clinical Pathology Basic Science of Infection Disease Medical Internship that is taking place in Iquitos, Peru for a week. She is the first student from North Louisiana to have this experience. She will also be attending a course in Germany in Summer 2020. She is the first and only African American female to have the opportunity to attend a Masters of Virology course. Both honors are under one of the top surgeons in the country: Dr. Lane Rolling. The SUSLA community is very pleased for Fields’ outstanding accomplishments empowering the next generation of future doctors.

**Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC) – Presented by Dr. Orlando McMeans.** “there are a number of things that has occurred at the college since our last meeting and to date, so I'll try to be brief on updating you on these four different areas. The first is that the agriculture appropriations bill passed recently, and one of the significant aspects of that bill was some advocacy. From the Congressional Black Caucus, which led to an increase of \$27 million for 1890 Land Grant institutions. And this is by far the highest that we've ever been appropriated as far as an increase from one fiscal year to another. And I want to thank Dr. Belton for encouraging me to stay on as chairman of the legislation and budget for the land grant system. I think its benefits not only the land grant system, but more particularly it benefits the 18 on historically black land grants. One of the increases was an additional \$5 million for the new USD 1890 scholarships. Initially each campus was going to receive \$500,000 because of the additional 5 million that number will be \$750,000 in scholarships annually to support relative discipline, so we are truly excited. Funding is needed for some of the initiatives we have in recruitment and retention. We are developing a new position for approval, for a recruitment and retention counselor. I, in my research found that we did not have a person positioned in recruiting for agricultural related and family consumer science related areas in more than almost 30 years. And so, I feel that if we're going to be intentional in recruitment, and retention, and graduation rates increasing, we must also have a person that's 100% committed to that. And I think one of the reasons why is the restrictions in dollars as it relates to hiring a person that can go out and recruit from federal dollars. So, we have found funds that we will dedicate to that endeavor, and we're looking forward to engaging high schools as well as two-year community colleges. You've heard that the state of Louisiana has been approved as relates to industrial hemp. We're one of three states to be approved. One of the things that I had to convey to our stakeholders is that in the legislation it states that LSU and Southern University ag centers will work as relates to research in HEMP to develop new varieties of hemp that will grow in this area and that will flourish and that will contain various compounds, whether that be CBD or THC. And so, in taking this seriously, our first step is that we're going to decide what licenses we're going to apply for. And then at the next meeting that being the February meeting, it will be a pleasure because we will bring to you our first full time

research scientist that will focus on HEMP. That individual we unfortunately couldn't get the paperwork done prior to this meeting, but we have identified that individual and they will be coming aboard upon your approval. So, we are excited about that. And we will be working with LSU on certain aspects of that. And of course, we will be working with my friend here, Chancellor Pierre. One of the unique things about Southern and this system is that out of all the land grant institutions that can grow medical marijuana and grow HEMP, we're the only two that has the agricultural piece and the law and legal piece working together hand in hand. So, I'm excited about that and I enjoy that relationship." Dr. Davis asked Dr. McMeans "if there is a contact person until the person is hired because he's getting calls and texts?" He said, "That person is Dr. Walker." He said, as for the medical marijuana program, we will have assistance from General Counsel Robert, Attorney Decuir, Dr. Snowden and Janean Tate. We have an excellent team working as relates to medical marijuana. In my opinion, we have finally reached an historical milestone as it relates to the medical marijuana program. We will be releasing our first pure CBD products this upcoming week; I think it may be on the shelves in Lafayette and Lake Charles as we speak. And, one of the individuals said, you know Southern is unique in that we're setting the template for the other HBCUs that will come along. But the other thing they want to make sure that we are to make sure I convey to everybody here that we are the first HBCU to release a line as such. So, I think that's great and this semester is going to be busy. I know that Chairman Rutledge and President Belton individually we will be contacting you because we will be taking tours and we will be making announcements. We will be doing a ribbon cutting, but those days are not yet set in stone. We will have a nine-city tour as relates to that. Just listening to what all we must do makes me tired. The other day we had our meeting and found out some of it involves during Mardi Gras. The other thing is the marketing that is going to be very critical the labeling which is going to be also very critical. So those are the things that we are working with the next couple of weeks. And if you don't have anything to add that concludes my report."

**Southern University Law Center (SULC) – Presented by Chancellor John Pierre.** "We had a very successful HEMP symposium at the Southern University Law Center. We had over 200 individuals in attendance at the event which was on the same day as commencement. The secretary was in attendance as well. We have been able to work very well with the Ag Center, because a lot of what's happening is all dependent upon legal legislation, regulatory and compliance issues which are very, very important. And we are working together to continue planning an additional two events related to educating people about this topic one in March, which will be done by law review and one in April that was going to connect with some medical folks. We will have our mid-year commencement and hooding ceremony at the River Center on this coming Saturday morning at 11:15. Rev Henry will provide us with invocation and benediction. We anticipate about 30 students that will be participating in their mid-year ceremony. On Monday, we have two new leaders that will be inaugurated into government. One in Lafayette by the name of Joshua Guillory and James Cain of Lake Charles. So, we are seeing the Southern University Law

Center alums continue to grow in the lawyer leaders. And I want to thank this board for allowing us to do the great things that we get to do. Thank you, this concludes my report.”

**Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR) – Presented by Dr. Bijoy Sahoo.** “This week we had our fall 2020 Faculty Convocation. We provided a SACSCOC update to our faculty. There were nearly 250 faculty in attendance. I would like to acknowledge their attendance, participation and contribution.” Dr. Sahoo again “thanked US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue who served as the speaker during the fall commencement exercise at Southern University Baton Rouge Campus. There were nearly 430 students participating. 326 undergraduates, 91 master’s degree recipients, and 10 PhD students who received their degrees. He mentioned the campus is gearing up for the 140th anniversary celebration and a university wide committee has been formed to plan a series of events. The events will be coordinated through the president chancellor’s office. The team of 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is celebrating 140 years of excellence This concludes my report”

It was mentioned that Dr. Sahoo would come back next month with recommendations on how the department will address the students going forth as they participate in graduation ceremony.

#### **Agenda Item 8: Other Business**

Atty Magee made comment on Governor’s speech and he again thanked the Governor for all he’s done for us and told everyone “in the next four years – we must have a strong presence.”

Chairman Atty Rutledge reminded members there are new committee assignments and the 2020 meeting schedule which they should have received by email.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Adjournment**

Motion was moved and seconded for adjournment.

Motion passed