

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**Committee of the Whole**

**Friday, April 16, 2021**

Shreveport Convention Center

104 Market Street

Shreveport, LA 71101

9:00 AM

**Minutes**

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chairman Attorney Domoine Rutledge. The invocation was given by Reverend Thereon Jackson of Morning Star Baptist Church in Shreveport, La.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Jody Amedee

Roll Call by Dr. Ray Belton.

Board Members Present: Chairman Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Vice Chairman Atty. Edwin Shorty, Atty Jody Amedee, Mr. John Barthelemy, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Jr., Mr. Bakari Garvey, Mr. Sam Gilliam, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Ms. Christy Reeves, Dr. Leon Tarver II, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield, and Ms. Arlanda Williams

Board Member Absent: Mrs. Ann Smith

**AGENDA ITEM 5: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon the motion by Dr. Rani Whitfield and second by Ms. Christy Reeves, the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion Approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 7: SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Above and Beyond Award**

Presented by Dr. Rodney Ellis and Dr. Melva Williams from Southern University at Shreveport Campus to Dr. Alan Jackson, Assistant Director of Enrollment Services and Financial Aid. Dr. Williams thanked Dr. Jackson for his service and for going above and beyond the call of duty for the students during the month of February when it was freezing and unsafe to travel. Dr. Ellis, Dr. Williams and the student affairs and enrollment management team along with Chairman Rutledge and Dr. Belton presented the plaque to Dr. Jackson. Dr. Jackson thanked his wife for being present as well as the entire team and university. He thanked Dr. Williams and the Board of Supervisors for the award and mentioned he did what he had to do for the students.

**B. Frank Taylor, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**

Board Member Gilliam and Mrs. Dottie Bell presented \$35k donation on behalf of the Frank Taylor, Jr. Family. Mr. Frank Taylor, Jr. sister gave remarks and comments on behalf of the family. They presented the check to Dr. Ellis.

Franklin Williams also presented funds to SUSLA on behalf of the SUSLA foundation.

**C. Billie Jones Donation**

Dr. Robyn Merrick along with Atty Felicia Hamilton (representative for Billie Francis Stokes Jones estate) presented a generous gift to SUBR on behalf of Mrs. Jones who was a 1954 graduate of Booker T High School in Shreveport and a 1959 SUBR graduate. She was an educator and a generous alumna who wanted to leave a gift to SUBR upon her passing on September 28, 2019 at the age of 83. Atty Hamilton represents the estate for Ms. Jones and she presented a check in the amount of \$21,500 for five \$4,000 scholarships to African American Students (juniors/seniors) from Shreveport, Louisiana majoring in secondary education with the remaining \$1,500 placed in the discretionary fund to be used at the directive of the Chair and made in memory of Billy Francis Stokes Jones. She presented the check to Chairman Rutledge, Dr. Belton and Dr. Sahoo who represents academic Affairs for the SUBR campus. Mr. Gilliam and Hilliard are members of the board from Shreveport so they were asked to come up for photo.

**D. SU Army ROTC**

Dr. Robyn Merrick introduced Colonel David Marshall who will be attended via zoom. Colonel Marshall is the commander and professor at SUBR. He was united with his counterpart at Grambling this morning beginning at 5am. Making history as the bayou classic game football, for the first time is being run from Grambling State University to Shreveport by both the Southern University and the Grambling State University Army ROTC units. Colonel Marshall thanked Dr. Merrick for having him and he mentioned he is joined by Colonel Mason More from Grambling. He mentioned the weather isn't good but they are over halfway to Shreveport and they have three more hours to go. He have a total of 60 cadets who are there and they have a lot of support from state troopers and others who is in the caravan. He thanked his staff and everyone for all they have done for him. He thanked Dr. Merrick for the exposure and he hope to see everyone tomorrow. Dr. Merrick and Chairman Rutledge thanked Colonel Marshall.

**E. Greetings from GSU President Rick Gallot**

Chairman Atty Rutledge acknowledged President Gallot for his presence at the board meeting. He thanked him for attending the board reception and commended him on his leadership at Grambling. President Gallot thanked Chairman Rutledge, Dr. Belton and the SU Board Members for inviting him to come and speak. He mentioned "both universities mission is the same and they both provide the best possible training for the graduates to go out and change the world. He also discussed other HBCUs and racism

in the country but the goal and the task of everyone is to do what we have to do and change people's lives and prepare the young people not to only be a part of the world but to change the world. He congratulated Southern University on all the great work and congratulated Chancellor Pierre for his great work and God bless all of you and thank you again and welcome to North Louisiana." Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked President Gallot again for being present and he mentioned to him that he had a special presentation for him and asked Dr. Merrick to come up and make the special presentation of the signature mask to President Gallot.

#### **F. Bayou Classic signature Mask**

Dr. Merrick announced the unveiling of the Bayou Classic signature mask. She mentioned, "This was part of the universities Don't Wait Vaccinate public awareness campaign as it relates to the vaccine participation amongst the communities." She mentioned "the mask will be available for all members of the board and those in the audience today." She also mentioned everyone at the Bayou Classic would receive a mask at the game as well. She presented the signature mask to President Gallot and Chairman Rutledge presented him with the shadow box which included the mask as a token of his appreciation.

#### **G. Check Presentations**

##### **1. McDonald's (SUSLA)**

Stephanie Rogers introduced Mr. Roy Griggs who is the President and CEO of McDonald's and his wife along with his family. Mr. Griggs came and gave a presentation and pledged an initial seed gift of his own in the amount of \$250k to SUSLA on behalf of Griggs Enterprise. There were additional \$250k in matching gifts from Mr. John Hopkins and other friends of Mr. Griggs.

##### **2. SUSLA Alumni (SUSLA)**

Rev. James Brown, SU Alumnus from Houston, TX presented a check on behalf of Mr. Stephen Thomas who couldn't be in attendance. He presented the check to Dr. Ellis (SUSLA) in the amount of \$20k.

##### **3. Precious Memory Funeral Home (SUSLA)**

There wasn't a representative from Precious Memory Funeral Home in attendance.

Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked everyone for the donations and contributions this morning. He thanked everyone for their patience. Chairman Rutledge acknowledged the Student Representatives from SGA, the newly elected president from SUBR Mr. Kevin Taylor-Jarrell II and the immediate past president from SUBR Mr. Chandler Vidrine and some of the members of their cabinet. He asked them to stand and thanked them for being there.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ACTION ITEM(s):**

There was a motion by Dr. Leon Tarver and second by Mr. John Barthelemy to approve Action Item 8A.

Motion Approved

**A. Request Approval of the Minutes from March 12, 2021 meeting of the Board of Supervisors**

There was a global motion by Mr. John Barthelemy and second by Ms. Christy Reeves to approve in global (action items 8B – 8E)

Motion Approved

Brief Comments were provided by Dr. Sahoo (SUBR) on Item 8C, Chancellor Pierre/ Board Member Garvey (SULC) on Item 8D and Chancellor Ammons on Item 8E. They were all available for any questions the board members may have. There were none .

- B. Certification of Spring 2021 Graduates (all campuses)**
- C. Request Approval to Award the Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters to J. Terrel Brown - SU College of Business (SUBR)**
- D. Request Approval for the Conferral of a Posthumous Degree in the Name of William Nabors from the Southern University Law Center (SULC)**
- E. Request Approval of Ms. Gayle Benson as Commencement Speaker and Awarding of Honorary Degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters -SUNO College of Business and Public Administration (SUNO)**

There was a global motion by Dr. Leon Tarver and second by Mr. John Barthelemy to approve in global (action items 8F – 8I )

Motion Approved

Item 8F - Dr. Albert Samuels made a brief presentation to the Dr. Jewel Limar Prestage family. Mr. Grady Prestage was in attendance on behalf of the family via zoom. Dr. Samuels acknowledged Dr. Prestage and Mr. Grady Prestage thanked Chairman Rutledge, Dr. Belton, and the board members as well as the university behalf of his father and his siblings and family for honoring his mother. There were board members that congratulated the Prestage Family with brief comments and acknowledgements .

- F. Request Approval to Establish the Southern University and A&M College Jewel Limar Prestage Public Policy, Polling and Research Center (SUBR)**
- G. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Black Farmers Hemp Research and Training Facility, LLC. (SUAREC)**
- H. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern University Agricultural Family and Consumer Sciences 1890 JAG S.T.A.R.S Scholarship and East Baton Rouge Parish School System (SUAREC)**
- I. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between LSU Health Shreveport School of Medicine MOU with SUBR and SUNO**

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There was a global motion by Mr. Sam Gilliam and second by Atty Edwin Shorty to approve in global (action items 8J – 8M)

Motion Approved.

- J. Request Authorization for the Southern University Law Center (SULC) to negotiate an Agreement with ION Tuition and Mentor Works to Provide Alternate Sources to Finance Student Educational Aspirations and Pursuits (SULC)
- K. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop remote/virtual certificate and degree programs for students and professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa by the Southern University Law Center (SULC)
- L. Request Approval of Tenure and Promotion Recommendations.

**Southern University A&M College, Baton Rouge**  
FACULTY TENURE and PROMOTION REVIEW  
Academic Year 2020-2021

College of Sciences and Engineering					Actions: Recommended or Not Recommended						
Name	Dept.	Rank	Requested Action for Tenure	Requested Action for Promotion	Department Committee	Chair	College/School Committee	Dean	VCAA Committee	Executive Vice Chancellor	
1. Yaser Banadali	Computer Science	Assistant Professor	Yes	Yes	Not Recommended for Either Tenure or Promotion	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Not Recommended Based on Stated Concerns*	Recommended for Tenure and Promotion	
**Note: Concerns of the university committee were duly investigated. Tenure and promotion are both recommended based on review of the Faculty Handbook section 4.7.B which supports time requirement for the application. Letter from the department chair confirms the credentials of applicant to teach in the Department of Computer Science. Additionally, given lack of peer review evaluation, that portion of score was removed to determine sufficiency in meeting expectations in the area of teaching excellence.											
2. Lidya Dubytska	Biology	Associate Professor	Yes	Yes	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Not Recommended Based on Stated Concerns**	Recommended for Tenure only	
**Note: Concerns of the university committee were investigated. Given lack of peer review evaluation, that portion of score was removed to determine sufficiency in meeting expectations in the area of teaching excellence. However, the time requirement for promotion is not met (see section 4.8.D Promotion Criteria, page 55, Associate Professor to Professor requirement).											
3. Xiaoping Yi	Biology	Assistant Professor	Yes	Yes	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Not Recommended for Tenure/Not Recommended for Promotion	Recommended for Both Tenure and Promotion	Not Recommended Based on stated concerns***	Recommended for Tenure only	
***Note: Concerns of university committee were investigated. Given lack of peer review evaluation, that portion of score was removed to determine sufficiency in meeting expectations in the area of teaching excellence. Based on review of the Faculty Handbook section 4.7.B, applicant meets the time requirement for the for tenure. However, time requirement for promotion was not met (see section 4.8.D Promotion Criteria, page 55, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor requirement).											

Mr. Gilliam expressed his concerns and asked questions of Dr. Sahoo and Dr. Belton in reference to the process and evaluation for this tenure and promotion recommendations. He requests more info for this section. Dr. Sahoo gave his comments. Dr. Davis expressed his concerns as well in reference to this peer review process as well.

Based on comments, Chairman Atty Rutledge requested Dr. Belton to please have an agenda item for the May meeting with the academic committee to present and explain the process for tenure and promotion recommendations. **This was noted.**

- M. Request Approval of Tenure Track Recommendation for Katherine A. McFarlane (SULC)

There was a global motion by Mr. Myron Lawson and second by Ms. Arlanda Williams to approve in global (action items 8N – 8S)

Motion approved.

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Brief comments were provided by Dr. Ammons – Item 8N (SUNO) and Dr. Ellis – Item 8O (SUSLA) – Dr. Belton – Item 8Q (SUBR). They were all available for any questions the board members may have.

Mr. Sam Gilliam and Ms. Arlanda asked Dr. Ellis to expound on Item 8O with additional details on certificate of technical study and Associate of Applied science. Dr. Ellis commented and there were no further questions for him.

Dr. Leroy Davis and Mr. Bakari Garvey commented on the faculty and their professional development - Items 8R/S - and Dr. Belton responded to their comments.

Atty Shorty commented on Item S - He mentioned “its fairly difficult to find what we’re revising sometimes when reviewing the policies when it isn’t noted or redlined.” He requested going forward if the policies can be redlined to note updates or changes.

Chairman Rutledge agreed with Attorney Shorty and requested “whenever there is a policy change, the changes be redlined as we can see what the difference is.” **This was noted.**

**N. Request Approval to Implement 100% Online Degree Courses, Effective Fall 2021 (SUNO)**

1. B.S. in Criminal Justice
2. M.A. in Criminal Justice
3. Bachelors in Interdisciplinary Studies
4. B.S. in Health Information Management Systems

**O. Request Approval Implement New Programs of Study Specifically Designed to Address the Workforce Needs in the Northwest Louisiana Region, Increase Enrollment and Provide More Options and Opportunities for Embedded Credentials. (SUSLA)**

1. Associates of Applied Science in Computer Engineering
2. Certificate of Technical Study: Engineering (Academic Transfer and Dual Enrollment)
3. Certificate of Technical Study: Quality Assurance
4. Certificate of Technical Study: Energy Technology
5. Certificate of Technical Study: Electronics Technology Technician
6. Certificate of Technical Study: Petroleum Technology Operator
7. Certificate of Applied Science: Digital Forensics
8. Certificate of Technical Studies: Aviation
9. Certificate of Technical Studies: Automotive Technology
10. Certificate of Technical Study: Precision Measurement Instruments
11. Certificate of Technical Studies: Payroll Accounting
12. Certificate of Technical Studies: Human Resources Specialist
13. Certificate of Technical Studies: Law Enforcement Administration
14. Certificate of Technical Studies: Security Studies
15. Associate and Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Graphic and Web Design
16. Certificate of Technical Studies: Graphics Design
17. Request Approval of Certificate of General Studies

**P. Request Approval to Use Prior Year Funds for Student Services (SUBR)**

- Q. Request Authorization to Advance the HBCU Capital Finance Program Application (SUBR)**
- R. Request Approval of Endowed Professorship Policy (SUSLA)**
- S. Request Approval of Revised Policy for Endowed Faculty and Chairs (SUBR)**

There was a motion by Mr. Bakari Garvey and second by Atty Edwin Shorty to approve Action Item 8T.

Motion Approved

Chancellor Pierre gave brief comments . Dr. Davis question the federal funding for Title III and Title IX. Chancellor Pierre responded and explained the funding. Mr. Garvey commended Chancellor Pierre

**T. Request Approval of Salary Adjustments for Instructors/Academic Counselors (SULC)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Campus</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
1. John Brown	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$81,000.00	Federal
2. Jessica Johnson	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$84,000.00	Federal
3. Kimberly Lamotte	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$96,000.00	Federal
6. Courtney Richardson	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$93,000.00	Federal
7. Gina Signorelli	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$81,000.00	Federal
8. Rahim Smith	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$93,000.00	Federal
9. Julie Stillman	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$81,000.00	Federal
10. Jerne' Theriot	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$81,000.00	Federal
11. Valencia Vessel	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$81,000.00	Federal
12. William Wilson	Instructor/Academic Counselor Salary Adjustment (SULC)	\$81,000.00	Federal

There was a motion by Mr. Sam Gilliam and second by Dr. Rani Whitfield to approve Action Item 8U.

Motion Approved

Dr. Belton gave brief comments. He noted the increases were not based on merit/tenure/or productivity. It was only force of equity – women/men. No Questions.

**U. Request Approval of Equity Adjustments (SUBR)**

1. Cynthia Bryant	Dean of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies Equity Adjustment (SUBR)	\$145,650.00	State
2. Barbara Carpenter	Dean of International Programs Equity Adjustment (SUBR)	\$127,500.00	State
3. Karen Crosby	Dean of the Honors College- SUBR Equity Adjustment (SUBR)	\$127,500.00	State
4. Damien Ejigiri	Dean of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs Equity Adjustment (SUBR)	\$145,650.00	State
5. Dawn Kight	Dean - Library Equity Adjustment (SUBR)	\$127,500.00	State

There was a motion by Ms. Arlanda Williams and second by Mr. Sam Gilliam to approve Action Item 8V.

**Motion Approved**

Ms. Williams asked question in reference to additional duties. She also questioned the amount prior to increase. Chancellor Pierre responded on behalf of SULC and Dr. Belton responded on behalf of SUBR.

**V. Request Approval of Personnel Action on Positions Equal to or Greater than \$60,000.00**

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Marla Dickerson	Associate Vice-Chancellor for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives New Appointment (SULC)	\$126,000.00	State
2. Adriel Hilton	Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management/Associate Professor of Education Faculty Appointment / Title Change (SUNO)	No Change	--
3. Jasmine Hunter	Director of Communication Additional Duties (SULC)	\$78,000.00	State
4. Kerii Landry-Thomas	Associate Vice Chancellor for Equity Inclusion and Title IX New Appointment (SULC)	\$120,000.00	Federal
5. Robyn Merrick	VP for External Affairs and University Relations Additional Duties (SUS)	\$145,000.00	State
6. Nadia Gadson Moses	Asst Dean and Program Director Additional Responsibilities (SUBR)	\$74,000.00	Federal
7. Ursula Ransburg	Title IX Investigator/ Campus Safety & Clery Act Coordinator New Position (SULC)	\$78,000.00	State
8. Tracie Washington	Title IX Director New Position (SULC)	\$99,000.00	Federal
9. Clarence Williams	Director of Admissions and Recruitment New Position (SUNO)	\$70,000.00	State



There was a motion by Ms. Arlanda Williams and second by Attorney Shorty to approve Action Item 8W.  
Motion Approved

W. Request approval of Sabbatical for the Fall 2021 Semester- Dr. David S. Adegboye' (SUNO)

X. Resolutions

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

- Ms. Angela Hopkins
- Mr. Robert Staple Haynes Family
- Mr. Alex Brown
- Mr. Leroy Evans, III

There was an additions:

- Ms. Kori Gauthier – LSU Student

Dr. Rani Whitfield thanked the board office for preparing the resolution for his cousin Leroy Evans, III. He and the family appreciate all the support and prayers.

Upon Motion from Dr. Leroy Davis to approve the read resolutions with the additions and Dr. Rani Whitfield second the motion.

Motion Approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Informational Items:**

A. Interim Financial Update

The Financial report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 as of March 31, 2021 was provided by Mr. McClinton for all campuses. Mr. McClinton mentioned “the detailed information is provided in the board packet for each campus. He also mentioned he monitors the expenditures monthly and he also make sure we are in line with the revenue projections. This month we are in line with the revenue projection.

Mr. McClinton mentioned he would entertain any questions from the members regarding the interim financial report. There were none.

B. Dual Enrollment Update (by campus) – Detail reports are available upon request.

- SUSLA – Dr. Williams and Dr. Kidd presented the report.

Mr. Gilliam commended the group and gave some brief comments.

- SUNO – Dr. Ammons presented the report.

Mr. Fondel, Mr. Garvey, Dr. Whitfield, Ms. Williams and Mr. Barthelemy commended Dr. Ammons. They all had questions and comments which Dr. Ammons responded.

- SUBR – Dr. Sahoo and Dr. Prestly and Dr. Smith-Ross presented the report

Mr. Garvey commended the team and asked what were their projections for the future? They are planning for the future. Mr. Fondel questions if the credits are transferrable if you leave SU? Yes the credits are transferable.

Dr. Belton congratulated the teams from SUBR, SUNO, and SUSLA for the great report. They all have enrollment increase.

- SULC – Ms. Deleso Alford presented the report. Mr. Garvey had a question on the phase 1-3 time frame. Chancellor Pierre says “5 years”

C. Update on SULC Legal Education in the Shreveport/Bossier and Northwest Region (SULC)

Chancellor John Pierre presented the update.

D. Update on Vaccination Public Awareness Campaign - Don't Wait. Vaccinate! – Dr. Robyn Merrick gave report. There were nine locations and there were a total of 2,028 persons served. Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked her for her efforts along with her staff. He also thanked Dr. Belton. Dr. Belton thanked Dr. Ellis and his team in Shreveport and all the other campuses for all their work and support.

E. Legislative Update – Dr. Merrick gave report.

F. System President’s Report ~ Southern University and A&M College Presidential Fellows -

Dr. Belton gave his president report and Dr. Katara Williams discussed the Presidential Fellows Program which she has a pleasure to work with Dr. Segura. The fellowship is an elite and unique opportunity that will provide an exceptional and unprecedented college experience to some of the best and brightest diverse student leaders and scholars of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. There will be an application process and eligibility requirements. Will choose 8 students who will receive \$2,000 Stipend and other Lagniappe. The application will open on May 10, 2021.

There were no questions.

G. Campus Reports – Each Chancellor gave their campus reports. (Detail Report is posted online and can be available upon request)

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Other Business:**

Chairman Rutledge acknowledged Athletic Director Roman Banks. He asked AD Banks if he wanted to give any remarks. AD Banks thanked the Mayor for having them in Shreveport. He thanked Chairman Rutledge, Dr. Belton and the board members for all their support and thanked everyone for coming to Shreveport. He announced we should be returning to New Orleans in the fall.

Chairman Rutledge informed the members that the May Meeting would be an in person meeting in Baton Rouge.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: Adjournment**

Chairman Atty Rutledge request a motion to adjourn. Dr. Rani Whitfield made the motion. Motion Approved.