



February Board Meeting

02/27/2026 8:30 AM CST to 12:30 PM CST

Southern University System

2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building

SPECIAL RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

A. Call to Order

The special recognition committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Clayton

B. Invocation

The meeting began with an invocation by Bishop Conway L. Knighton seeking guidance to improve Southern University.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was given by Reginald Ellis II, a senior at Southern University Lab

D. Above and Beyond Award

Presented By Dr. Robyn Merrick

Special recognition is given to Mr. Grayland Hammond for his dedication to the university, who was honored as the February 2026 Above and Beyond recipient.

E. Presentation of Students' Experimental Learning during visit to Kenya - College of Agricultural, Human and Environmental Sciences (CAHES)

Presented By Dr. Renita Marshall

The meeting featured a presentation on experiential learning opportunities in Nairobi, Kenya, through the Next Generation Global Agriculture Scholars Program.

F. Presentation of Students Receiving the Hennessey Fellows Scholarship in the Malveaux MBA Program (SUBR)

Presented By Chancellor John Pierre, Dean Donald Andrews

Discussion occurred regarding the Hennessey Fellowship Scholarship awarded to MBA students, emphasizing \$50,000 per student in employment and opportunities.

G. Adjournment

The section concluded with a motion to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Zazell Dudley - The motion to adjourn is approved, thereby adjourning the Special Recognition Committee.

III. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A. Call to Order

The Academic Affairs Committee meeting is called to order by Mrs. Ann Smith and roll call is conducted by President Orlando McMeans, confirming the presence of members and achieving a quorum.

B. Roll Call

Roll call by President Orlando McMeans.

Present: Mrs. Ann Smith – Chair, Ms. Maple Gaines - Vice Chair
Ms. Zazell Dudley, Mr. Myron K. Lawson. Mr. Aaron Manzy, Mr. Christopher Masingill, Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert, Mr. Henry Whitehorn and Atty Tony Clayton – Ex Officio

Absent: None

C. Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Henry Whitehorn to adopt the agenda for the meeting. It is moved and seconded by Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert without opposition, and the motion carries.

D. Public Comments

No public comments were made or received.

E. Action Item(s)

1. Request to confer Posthumous Degrees for Mr. Caleb Wilson and Mr. Kavon Barnhill (SUBR)

Presented By Chancellor John Pierre

The committee discusses a request to confer degrees posthumously to two students, Caleb Wilson and Davon Barnhill, who tragically passed away. Both were recognized as outstanding scholars.

- Motion - A motion to confer degrees posthumously at the May 2026 commencement is made by Chairman Atty Tony Clayton, moved and seconded by Mr. Henry Whitehorn, without any opposition, and the motion carries.

F. Informational Item(s)

None

G. Other Business

None

H. Adjournment

Motion - With no informational items or further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Mr. Henry Whitehorn.

IV. FACILITIES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A. Call to Order

The Facilities and Property Committee was called to order by Mr. Donald Ray Henry and roll call is conducted by President Orlando McMeans, confirming the presence of members and achieving a quorum.

B. Roll Call

Roll call by President Orlando McMeans.

Present: Rev. Donald Ray Henry – Chair, Ms. Maple Gaines – Vice Chair
Ms. Zazell Dudley, Mr. Chris Masingill, Mr. Paul P. Matthews, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Atty. Edwin Shorty, Mrs. Ann Smith, and Atty. Tony Clayton – Ex Officio

Absent: Dr. Rani Whitfield

C. Adoption of the Agenda

A motion is made by Mr. Christopher Masingill to adopt the agenda for the meeting. It is moved and seconded by Atty Domoine Rutledge without opposition, and the motion carries.

D. Public Comments

No public comments were made or received.

E. Informational Item(s)

1. Facilities Update (SUS)

Presented By Mr. Ken Dawson

- The committee received detailed informational items and updates regarding various construction projects across Southern University campuses, including those under construction and upcoming pre-bidding activities.
- Discussion on Scott Bluff erosion and efforts to secure funding through Congressional interactions were reported.
- The Mega Shelter project was discussed, highlighting the need for a FEMA deadline extension to prevent losing \$15 million in funding.
- Clarification sought on dormitory issues, with additional information pending from external sources.
- A request was made for a list of projects with upcoming deadlines to ensure timely action and avoid funding loss.
- Upcoming ribbon-cutting dates were announced, including an outdoor classroom on March 20th, Global Innovation Welcome Center on March 30th, and T.H. Harris Learning Lobby on April 9th. The police station ribbon-cutting is to be announced.
- A suggestion was raised for naming a facility after Dr. Marvin Yates, with further discussion pending.

F. Other Business

None

G. Adjournment

Motion - With no informational items or further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Chairman Atty Tony Clayton.

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. Call to Order

The Finance Committee was called to order by Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert and roll call is conducted by President Orlando McMeans, confirming the presence of members and achieving a quorum.

B. Roll Call

Roll call by President Orlando McMeans.

Present: Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert– Chair, Mr. Myron K. Lawson – Vice Chair
Mr. Reggie Abraham, Atty. Quincy Cawthorne, Ms. Maple Gaines, Mr. Aaron Manzy, Mr. Chris Masengill, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Mrs. Ann Smith and Atty. Tony Clayton – Ex Officio

Absent: None

C. Adoption of the Agenda

A motion is made by Mr. Christopher Masingill to adopt the agenda for the meeting. It is moved and seconded by Mrs. Ann Smith without opposition, and the motion carries.

D. Public Comments

No public comments were made or received.

E. Informational Item(s)

1. Interim Financial Report (SUS)

Presented By Mr. Flandus McClinton

- An interim financial report was presented, detailing the financial status for January 2026 for each campus and the Southern University System.
- The Southern University System and the Ag Center have a balanced budget due to no reliance on self-generated revenues.
- New Orleans and Shreveport campuses have self-generated revenues and are projected to meet their revenue estimates with balanced budgets.
- The Baton Rouge campus projects a \$4.4 million increase from self-generated revenues, primarily from tuition and fees, allocated to various expenditures.
- The Law Center projects a \$893,000 increase in self-generated revenue, allocated to various expenditures, maintaining a balanced budget.
- All campuses are projected to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget.

F. Other Business

The committee expressed gratitude to individuals for their roles in maintaining balanced financial statements.

Chairman Clayton expressed gratitude to Mr. McClinton for his service and ensuring the campuses have balanced budgets /financials.

G. Adjournment

Motion - With no informational items or any further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Mr. Myron Lawson

VI. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A. Call to Order

The Governance Committee was called to order by Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert and roll call is conducted by President Orlando McMeans, confirming the presence of members and achieving a quorum.

B. Roll Call

Roll call by President Orlando McMeans.

Present: *Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert– Chair, Mr. Myron K. Lawson – Vice Chair
Mr. Reggie Abraham, Atty. Quincy Cawthorne, Ms. Maple Gaines, Mr. Aaron Manzy, Mr. Chris Masengill, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Mrs. Ann Smith and Atty. Tony Clayton – Ex Officio*

Absent: None

C. Adoption of the Agenda

A motion is made by Atty Quincy Cawthorne to adopt the agenda for the meeting. It is moved and seconded by Mr. Henry Whitehorn without opposition, and the motion carries.

D. Public Comments

There were no public comments received during the meeting.

E. Action Item(s)

Motion - A request was made for the approval of the Data Governance Management and Oversight Policy, referenced as SUS-8-011SUS and Umbrella Policy on AI Use, Data Gov., Mgmt and Oversight, & Web Content Accessibility SUS-8-010 in global by Chairman Atty Tony Clayton.

The motion to approve the Data Governance Management and Oversight Policy and Umbrella Policy on AI Use, Data Gov., Mgmt and Oversight, & Web Content Accessibility was seconded by Mr. Christopher Masingill and unanimously passed.

1. Request for Approval of the Data Governance, Management, and Oversight Policy SUS-8-011 (SUS)

Presented By Dr. Luria Young

2. Request for Approval of the Umbrella Policy on AI Use, Data Gov., Mgmt and Oversight, & Web Content Accessibility SUS-8-010 (SUS)

Presented By Dr. Luria Young

F. Informational Item(s)

There were no informational items to report during the meeting.

G. Other Business

H. Adjournment

Motion - With no informational items or any further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Mr. Henry Whitehorn

VII. LEGAL COMMITTEE

A. Call to Order

The Legal Affairs Committee was called to order by Atty Quincy Cawthorne and roll call is conducted by President Orlando McMeans, confirming the presence of members and achieving a quorum.

B. Roll Call

Roll call by President Orlando McMeans.

Present: Atty. Quincy Cawthorne – Chair Atty. Domoine Rutledge – Vice Chair, Ms. Zazell Dudley, Ms. Maple Gaines, Aaron Manzy, Mr. Paul Matthews, Atty. Edwin Shorty, Mr. Henry Whitehorn, and Atty Tony Clayton – Ex Officio

Absent: Dr. Rani Whitfield

C. Adoption of the Agenda

A motion is made by Atty Edwin Shorty to adopt the agenda for the meeting. It is moved and seconded by Mr. Paul Matthews without opposition, and the motion carries.

D. Public Comments

There was an invitation for public comments, but none were made.

E. Action Item(s)

- 1. Request for Approval of Disqualification Plan (SUS)**
- 2. Request for Approval of Wireless Edge Tower Lease Agreement (SUBR)**

3. Request Approval for Contract Bid #10347 - Viticulture Fields (SUAREC)

4. Request Approval for Contract Bid #10348 - A.O. Williams Modular Campus (SUAREC)

Discussion about the Wireless Edge Tower lease agreement took place, raising concerns over its financial benefit and legality regarding contract length.

Motion - A motion to defer the Wireless Edge Tower lease agreement for further consideration before approval was made and seconded.

Action items E1, E3, and E4 were agreed to be approved together ('in Globo') unless there were further questions.

Concerns were raised about the simultaneous approval of a disqualification plan and an engagement without confirmation from ethics on the plan's validity.

- A request was made for a copy of the original disqualification plan and details of work done by the contractor since the employee in question was hired.

Motion - A motion was made By Atty Domoine Rutledge and Chairman Clayton and second by Atty Edwin shorty to defer action items E2 and E3, limiting action to submitting the necessary documents for review.

There was an agreement to approve action items E1 and E4 while deferring E2 and E3. Motion approved.

F. Informational Item(s)

There were no informational items to report during the meeting.

G. Other Business

None

H. Adjournment

Motion - With no informational items or any further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Atty Domoine Rutledge.

VIII. PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Call to Order

The Personnel Affairs Committee was called to order by Atty Edwin Shorty -and roll call is conducted by President Orlando McMeans, confirming the presence of members and achieving a quorum.

B. Roll Call

Roll call by President Orlando McMeans.

Present: Atty Edwin Shorty – Chair - Ms. Maple Gaines – Vice Chair
Mr. Reggie Abraham, Atty Quincy Cawthorne, Mr. Donald Ray Henry, Mr. Chris Masingill, Mrs. Ann Smith, Mr. Henry Whitehorn, and Atty Tony Clayton – Ex Officio

Absent: None

C. Adoption of the Agenda

A motion is made by Atty Edwin Shorty to adopt the agenda for the meeting. It is moved and seconded by Mr. Paul Matthews without opposition, and the motion carries.

D. Public Comments

There was an invitation for public comments, but none were made.

E. Action Item(s)

A. Request for approval of Personnel Action on Positions Equal to or Greater than \$100,000.00 (SUBR)

1. Dr. Kedric Taylor - Director of Bands - Salary Adjustment - from \$127,832 to \$137,832 - State Funding

Presented By Chancellor John Pierre

B. Request for Approval of Personnel Action on Positions Equal to or Greater than \$100,000.00 (SUNO)

1. Dr. Ceeon Quiett-Smith - Chief of Staff, Chancellor's Office - New Appointment - Search - \$100,000.00 - State Funding

Presented By Chancellor Joseph Bouie

The committee approved action items E1 and E2 without opposition after a motion by Atty Quincy Cawthorne and second by Atty Tony Clayton.\

C. Consideration to Hear Termination Appeal of Jimmy Mitchell (SUBR) EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE REQUIRED

There was discussion regarding executive session to handle a termination recommendation. It was clarified that the board has the option to vote without an executive session if the material

was reviewed, but this led to a deviation upon realizing not everyone received the necessary materials.

Motion - A motion was made by Atty Edwin Shorty and seconded by Atty Quincy Cawthorne to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters related to action item E3, in compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 4217.

Upon returning from executive session, it was confirmed no motions or votes were taken during the session.

Motion - A motion was introduced by Atty Quincy Cawthorne to deny the appeal in action item E3, which was seconded by Chairman Atty Tony Clayton and passed.

F. Informational Item(s)

There were no informational items to report during the meeting.

G. Other Business

None

H. Adjournment

Motion - With no informational items or any further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Atty Quincy Cawthorne.

IX. SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A. Call to Order

The Southern University Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairman Atty Tony Clayton and roll call is conducted by President Orlando McMeans, confirming the presence of members and achieving a quorum.

B. Roll Call

Roll call by President Orlando McMeans.

Present: Atty Tony Clayton – Chairman and Reggie Abraham – Vice Chairman, Atty Quincy Cawthorne, Ms. Zazell Dudley, Ms. Maple Gaines, Mr. Donald Ray Henry, Mr. Myron K. Lawson, Mr. Aaron Manzy, Mr. Chris Masingill, Mr. Paul Matthews, Atty Domoine Rutledge, Atty Edwin Shorty, Mrs. Ann Smith, Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbet, Dr. Rani Whitfield, Mr. Henry Whitehorn.

Absent: None

C. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion - Motion to adopt the agenda was moved and seconded, with no opposition, the agenda was adopted.

D. Public Comments

E. Resolutions

A series of memorial resolutions were presented to acknowledge the memory and legacy of several individuals who passed away recently.

A commendation was given to Ms. Katie Mae Johnson for her 100th birthday.

F. Action Item(s)

1. Request for Approval of the Minutes for January 23, 2026, SUS Board of Supervisors Meeting

2. Request for Approval of Committee Reports and Recommendations

3. Request for Approval of Recommended Food Service RFP (SUS)

- Approval of the minutes for the January 23rd board meeting was moved, seconded, and no opposition was heard, so the minutes were approved.
- Committee reports and recommendations were approved with no opposition.

Motion - There was a discussion about entering into a contract negotiation with Aramark for food services. Motion was initially presented incorrectly by the President, but later corrected and moved by a board member.

The board approved moving forward with contract negotiations with Aramark with specified modifications, including the stipulation for specific plans for two campuses and the reservation of rights to explore alternatives if desired terms are not met.

Chairman Clayton appointed Vice Chairman Reggie Abraham, Mr. Myron K. Lawson, Atty Domoine Rutledge and Atty Edwin Shorty to do the negotiations with Aramark and bring specifics back to the board.

Several board members expressed concerns about past deficiencies with the vendor Aramark and voiced the need for accountability and metrics.

Motion - A roll call vote was conducted to confirm the approval of contract negotiations with Aramark. Motion passed.

G. Informational Item(s)

The report on Southern University branding and marketing opportunities was postponed until the next meeting.

Information about ongoing business and financial items, as well as updates on upcoming projects, were provided.

H. Other Business

There was discussion on whether to waive out-of-state fees was initiated, with action to conduct a study for the board's consideration.

Office of Workforce Development and Partnerships was proposed to prepare students with workforce readiness and internships.

An announcement was made regarding the importance of including reports from the search committee at upcoming board meetings. The item will be included on next month's agenda.

I. Adjournment

Motion - With no informational items or any further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting is made by Vice Chairman Reginald Abraham