

## **SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

### **Committee of the Whole**

**Friday, January 8, 2021**

9:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

### **Minutes**

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Attorney Domoine Rutledge. The invocation was given by Atty Rutledge's pastor, Dr. Joseph James Mitchell of the True Vine Baptist Church.

#### **Installation of New Members**

Attorney Brandon Decuir administered the oath of office to new and reappointed board members, Ms. Christy O. Reeves, Mr. Myron Lawson, Attorney Edwin Shorty, Atty Jody Amedee, and Rev Samuel Tolbert.

#### **Installation of Board Officers for 2021**

Attorney Brandon Decuir administered the oath of office to Attorney Domoine Rutledge, Board Chair and Atty Edwin Shorty, the vice chair.

Chair Rutledge congratulated all the new members and welcomed the returning members. He mentioned at this time, he would allow the new members the opportunity to make any comments.

All the members are looking forward to the new year and the opportunity to serve.

Roll Call by Dr. Ray Belton.

Present: 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, Mrs. Ann Smith, Dr. Leon Tarver II, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield, and Ms. Arlanda Williams

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

Chairman Atty Rutledge mention that Item K will be deleted from the agenda. Upon the motion by Ms. Christy Reeves and second by Mr. John Barthelemy the agenda was recommended for adoption with the deletion of Item K.

Motion Approved.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Atty Rutledge acknowledged the public comments received.

**Name: Mostafa Elaasar**

Department: Natural Sciences, SUNO

Which Committee is your Public Comment in reference to?: GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Summary of Public Comment: R. Request Consideration and Approval of Recommendation to Appoint the Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans

I would like the board to consider candidate experience and the familiarity with the situation at SUNO in their selection of our New Chancellor.

The last thing that we need is a Chancellor who will learn on the job and create more problems at SUNO. We just got out of financial probation with the effort of Dr. Ammons and his team.

**Name: Mostafa Elaasar**

Department: Natural Sciences, SUNO

Which Committee is your Public Comment in reference to?: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Summary of Public Comment: Covid-19 expose the lack of technology support at SUS.

Moodle and Banner are not working as they should. Faculty are complaining but the tech support are not responding to the faculty concerns (at SUBR).

We need the board to form a committee to investigate these issues.

**Name: Mostafa Elaasar**

Department: Natural Sciences, SUNO

Which Committee is your Public Comment in reference to?: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Summary of Public Comment: the salary market adjustment should be to all faculty and staff at the system. We have full professor faculty receiving assistant professor salaries.

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

There was a motion by Mr. John Barthelemy and second by Mr. Sam Gilliam to approve Action Item 8-A.

Motion Approved

- A. Request Approval of the Minutes from November 21, 2020 meeting of the Board of Supervisors

There was a motion by Attorney Edwin Shorty and second by Mr. John Barthelemy to approve in global (action items 8B – 8E)

Motion Passed

There were no comments from Dr. Ammons or Chancellor Pierre, but they will answer questions, if any.

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes January 08, 2021

---

- B. Request Approval of MOU between SUNO and the City of New Orleans to establish Educational and Workforce Development Opportunities (SUNO)
- C. Request Approval of Articulation and MOU between SUNO and California Community Colleges (SUNO)
- D. Request Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between The City of New Orleans and SUNO / Wisner Grant to establish the Center for Grief and Trauma Therapy (SUNO)
- E. Request Approval of MOU between SULC and Education Farm to Coordinate and Design Pathways for Talent Development and Social Justice Reform (SULC)

There was a motion by Dr. Leroy Davis and second by Attorney Edwin Shorty to approve in global (action items 8F – 8I)

Motion approved.

There was no additional information from Chancellor Pierre or Dr. Ellis, but they will answer questions, if any.

Dr. Ammons commented on Action Item 8H – he mentioned “The School of Social Work at SUNO has a proud history and holds a distinctive place in social work education within the United States. Much of the credit for this work belongs to the vision and dedication that has spanned over several decades of the founding Dean, Millie M. Charles. As a result of the tireless work by Dean Charles, the building which houses the School of Social Work is now named in her honor. The faculty and staff of the School of Social Work believe that the School itself should bear the name Millie Charles.” He also mentioned, “this is a befitting recognition being Dean Charles passed a few weeks ago at the age of 97 and I wholeheartedly support.”

Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Dr. Ammons and asked if there were any questions from the members on action items F – I.

Atty Edwin Shorty had a short statement, “he echoed what Dr. Ammons said when he was a student as SUNO, he did his work study under Dean Charles and she was a mentor for him, his uncle and his good buddy. She was a powerhouse and a mentor to so many students who came to SUNO. She meant so much to many in the community and she is a great loss to the SUNO community and the SUNO family. She was a wonderful lady, and she did tremendous things in the community and he feel this is a wonderful way to honor her is befitting for such a typical person to our community.”

- F. Request Approval of MOU between SULC, Pharaoh’s Conclave, LLC (Pharaoh’s Conclave) and PCX Go, Inc. to afford SULC avenues and pipelines through its Mixed Reality, Virtual Innovation and Game and esports Institute (SULC)

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes January 08, 2021

- G. Request Approval of Agreement with SUSLA and Governance, Inc. (GOV) to Support Grant Development and Access to Financial Opportunities (SUSLA)
- H. Request Approval to rename the SUNO School of Social Work to the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work (SUNO)
- I. Request Approval of Distance Education Course Attendance Policy (SUSLA)

There was a motion by Dr. Leroy Davis and second by Attorney Edwin Shorty to approve in global (action items 8J – 8L)

Motion Approved.

There was no additional information from Dr. Ellis, but he will answer questions, if any.

Chancellor Pierre commented on Action Item 8L – he stated, “it is with great honor that he presents to the board or request to approve a Distinguished Juris of Law and Justice Professorship as specifically and making the request. He mentioned the need to have voices of justice and the need to have voices of people who have courage to face injustice. And one very important voice in this is that of Judge Clark, who is now retired.” He gave some history around the Honorable Janice Clark.

Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Chancellor Pierre and asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Leroy Davis “echoed Chancellor Pierre and mentioned that he and Janice Clark are good friends. They go back a long way and he was one of the students marching back in the day for the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act. She was his advisor, and she has helped EBR and other communities and he believe this is a great hire and great recognition.”

Chairman Atty Rutledge “join both Chancellor Pierre and Dr. Davis’s remarks. He recited Maya Angelo’s quote and mentioned Judge Clark is exemplary of courage. He believes that she is going to make an invaluable contribution to the Civil Rights Institute that we have got the Law Center. He wants to congratulate Dr. Belton and Chancellor Pierre for pulling this off and she is making the decision to continue a path to be impactful, not only to the community but the country. So, he support 100% bestowing the honor upon Judge Clark of being its inaugural recipient.

- J. Request Approval of Revised Class Attendance and No-Show Policy (SUSLA)
- K. ~~Request Approval of the Revised Policy on Endowed Faculty and Chairs (SUBR)~~ Deleted
- L. Request Approval to establish a Distinguished Jurist of Law and Justice Professorship (SULC)
- M. Request Approval of SUSLA Market Salary Adjustments (SUSLA)

Dr. Ellis gave comments on the adjustments. “He requests market salary adjustments for faculty and staff whose salaries are over the \$60,000 threshold for staff and over \$75,000 for faculty. He

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes January 08, 2021

---

mentioned the adjustments are in phases. This is phase one of a phases three plan. He explained Ms. Leslie McClellon salary and additional responsibilities. “.

Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Dr. Ellis and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Sam Gilliam ask for clarification on the Market Salary Adjustment. He commented on the general operating budget financial statements for all campuses and asked Mr. McClinton for clarification on the projected shortfall.

Dr. Ellis explained the salary market adjustments and the budget shortfall. (The entire discussion has been transcribed and included in the physical file). Dr. Ellis said “he was very comfortable with the adjustments and he was trying to reward the employees for their hard work that they do daily. He is trying to utilize the resources to ensure that they can reward them for the work that they do.”

Mr. McClinton addressed the projected shortfall as well as the CARES Act balance. He mentioned the CFO has a projection for their position, but he is concerned going forward.

Mr. Bakari questions the capital for unfilled positions that Dr. Ellis will start allocating for employees. Dr. Ellis addresses the questions.

Mr. Lawson questions if the salary increases and percentages used, could have been done without the cares act funds?

Dr. Ellis addresses the questions and explains how he calculated everyone’s increase. He didn’t want to do a blanket 3%. He is doing it in three phases.

Mr. McClinton commented that SULC/SUBR/and SUS all were approved at the last board meeting for 3% pay increase. Dr. Ellis mentioned he wanted to be more strategic. Mr. Gilliam asked to see what market is showing, He spoke of the FTE and the students.

Chairman Atty Rutledge mentioned that all the members have legitimate questions. He asked if there are any other questions? If not, he asked Dr. Belton if there was anything he wanted to add.

Dr. Belton mentioned “he appreciates that Dr. Ellis has given thoughts and forecast to do so at this board meeting, however, it may be that we will provide additional information to support the direction he is going in to be more responsive to some of the questions in dialogue.”

Dr. Belton will entertain a motion made by Mr. Gilliam and second by Mr. Lawson that we would postpone consideration of the SUSLA Market Salary adjustment item until the February Board Meeting. At this time, Dr. Ellis will provide the information that is responsive to the inquiries that have been made by the members regarding the item. Dr. Davis suggests that when Dr. Ellis does the additional analysis and provide data, that he makes it retroactive to the initial date so that employees won’t lose any income. Dr. Belton agrees 100%. Chairman Atty Rutledge asked if Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Lawson are okay with the motion, they both agree and make the motion that the board will entertain Action Item M at next month’s meeting.

Motion Approved to entertain Action Item M next month.

1. JoAnn Brown	Dean/Assoc Professor Allied Health Additional Responsibilities (SUSLA)	\$72,830.00	State
2. Devonye Brown	Director of Outcomes Assessments and Quality Mgmt Additional Responsibilities (SUSLA)	\$60,027.00	State
3. Stephanie Graham	Director of Grants & Sponsored Programs Additional Responsibilities (SUSLA)	\$71,300.00	State
4. Barry Hester	Dean/Professor of Chemistry Additional Responsibilities (SUSLA)	\$67,906.00	State
5. Leslie McClellon	Chief of Staff /Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives Additional Responsibilities/Title Change (SUSLA)	\$88,248.00	State
6. Lonnie McCray	Dean Arts, Humanities, Social Science & Education Additional Responsibilities (SUSLA)	\$61,651.25	State
7. Veloria Nanze	Director of Accounting Additional Responsibilities (SUSLA)	\$61,200.00	State
8. Joseph Orban	Professor of Biomedical Sciences/Dean of Liberal Arts & Science Additional Responsibilities (SUSLA)	\$76,049.16	State
9. Tiffany Varner	Director of Nursing Additional Responsibilities (SUSLA)	\$83,232.00	State

Dr. Belton commented on Action Item N below. He asked for considerations on all items. Chairman Atty Rutledge request the members to look at all supporting documents especially the ones for the Foundation. He gave his insight around the need to invest in areas with returns (Return on Investment)

There was a motion by Ms. Christy Reeves and second by Mr. John Barthelemy to approve Action Item N.

Motion Approved.

N. Request Approval of Personnel Action on Positions equal to or greater than \$60,000

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Toni Booker	Chief Financial Officer Additional Responsibilities (SUS Foundation)	\$82,500.00	State

## Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes January 08, 2021

2.	Janice Clark	Jurist of Law and Justice Professor New Position (SULC)	\$138,500.00	State
3.	Chris Crenshaw	Interim Head Baseball Coach Additional Responsibilities (SUBR)	\$65,000.00	State
4.	Veronica McEachin	Assoc. Vice Chancellor of Academic Innovation New Position (SUSLA)	\$73,500.00	State
5.	Shirley McLendon	Comptroller Additional Responsibilities (SUS Foundation)	\$72,000.00	State
6.	Dawn Mellion-Patin	Specialist, Small Farms New Position (SUAREC)	\$100,000.00	Federal
7.	Terry Steward	Director of Purchasing New Position (SULC)	\$84,000.00	State
8.	Jorge Sousa	Director of Enrollment and Recruitment New Position (SUSLA)	\$67,000.00	State
9.	LaTonya Wright	Interim Director of Records and Registration Additional Responsibilities (SULC)	\$79,275.00	State

There was a motion by Dr. Leroy Davis and second by Mr. Bakari Garvey to approve in global (action items 8O – 8Q)

Motion Approved.

Athletic Director Roman Banks commented on Action Item 8O. He mentioned “this year has been challenging for our athletic department amid the difficulties of the Covid-19 pandemic. Everyone was forced to adjust ourselves in the new normal. I’m extremely pleased with the athletic department’s overall leadership navigating our student-athletes during this pandemic to another successful year academically, while also dealing with mental and physical stresses from Covid-19. The NCAA through its Board of Governors has issued a blanket waiver which allows every student athlete an extra year of eligibility in a large part, because of the uncertainty that this pandemic has caused. In keeping with the decision, I would like to recommend the same practice for all Head Coaches currently under contract. I believe this is fair and meets the unexpected changes they face now and in the future. I am requesting a one-year extension for Head football Coach Odums, Head Men’s Basketball Coach Sean, and Head Women’s Basketball Coach Funchess. That concludes his report and if there are any questions or comments he would entertain them now.”

Dr Leroy Davis commented on Prime Time being all over the TV and getting a lot of airtime, he asked if Prime time has an impact on us. AD Banks responded, “You have to win the press conference and the war. He’s excited about what is coming for us and for Southern University as it relates to football season.” Dr. Davis thanked AD Banks. Chairman Attorney Rutledge thanked AD Banks for comments.



- O. Request Consideration of One-Year Contract Extensions for Head Coaches (with no other changes)
1. Dawson Odums- Head Football Coach (SUBR)
  2. Sean Woods- Head Men's Basketball Coach (SUBR)
  3. Carlos Funchess- Head Women's Basketball Coach (SUBR)
- P. Request Approval of One-year Salary Stipend Adjustments for Additional Work Under Grants for Marla Dickerson, Cynthia Reed and Charletta Fortson (SULC)
- Q. Request Approval of Family Medical Leave (FMLA) – John Alak (SUSLA)
- R. Request Consideration and Approval of Recommendation to Appoint the Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (*\*Executive Session May be Required*)

Chairman Atty Rutledge asked Dr. Belton to discuss Item R. Dr. Belton stated, “he come before the board asking for their favorable consideration to appoint the chancellor of Southern University in New Orleans. In keeping with the discussion from a couple months ago, we elected to go forth advancing a focus search for this position. And in doing so, we attracted as many as 53 candidates who indicated their interest in applying for the position. Whereas, we had originally spoke to the senior leadership team facilitating this search we conversely identified nine stakeholders from the Southern University community to facilitate the search. They were identified as the advisory council, who did an outstanding job. With your permission, I like to name those individuals who engaged in that diligence, starting with General Russell Honore’ who chaired the committee along with Dr. Katara Williams, Atty Kenya Smith, Ms. Lisa Manning Ambrose, Mr. Jamal Williams, who serves as SUNO SGA President, Ms. Cynthia Ramirez, who serves as the Faculty Senate, Mr. Edgar Blanchard, Ms. Shawn Charles, and Ms. Tiara Konate and Dr. Torin Sanders. They were provided independence as they engaged in their diligence and were voting members and they were supported by the staff, Dr. Katara Williams, Mr. Flandus McClinton, Dr. Alex Appeaning, Dr. Toni Monagin, Dr. Robyn Merrick, Attorney Tracie Woods, Atty Corrine Blache and Ms. Tracey Taylor-Jarrell. They did a phenomenal job, and their search went from 53 to 15 to 8. At that time, they considered that the semifinal and five candidates were invited to the SUNO campus to engage in in-person interviews. The community was afforded the opportunity to view the interviews via zoom and the community could ask questions of those candidates. After those five candidates were interviewed, the committee submitted three names to me. Those three candidates were exceptional and were interviewed by the senior leadership team and subsequently, I personally interviewed each of the candidates. From the interviews, I had to choose someone who would represent the best fit for Southern University at New Orleans at this time. And the person to which I think aligns with that assessment is Dr. James Ammons who has been serving as the interim Chancellor of Southern University New Orleans. You have the job description and the



proposed contract to which we would like for you to favorably consider.” Dr. Belton commented on Dr. Ammons experience. He again “commended the advisory council in their work as they worked during the holidays facilitating this special work and I want to publicly acknowledge General Honore for his exceptional leadership in guiding the advisory council.” Dr. Belton asked General Honore to offer a few comments on behalf of the Advisory Council.

General Honore gave his comment – he thanked the staff for all their assistance and the fellow advisory members – Worked in a COVID way to accomplish task – he complimented the applicants – They were all well experienced PhDs. In closing, “he congratulated Dr. Ammons for being recommended for the chancellor position. He thanked Dr. Belton and the entire team. Special thanks to Dr. Katara Williams for holding their hands through this process.”

Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Dr. Belton and General Honore for their leadership. He thanked Dr. Katara Williams and Ms. Tracey Taylor-Jarrell who burned the highway going back and forth He mentioned to the members that there is a recommendation to appoint Dr. James Ammons. Is there a motion?

There was a motion by Dr. Leon Tarver and second by Mr. Sam Gilliam.

Atty Edwin Shorty have a couple of things to discuss before the contract is finalized and voted on. “I have two issues and not as neither of the issues I bring up should reflect negatively on Dr. Ammons. The first issues, I am concerned about the process. In the future, we need to look at the way we are doing the selection and the questions that are used to grade folks. May not want to have such a rigid process that exclude people who may be qualified. As for the process and how were doing it, we as a board may want to look at in the future. The second issue is this Chancellor will hold multiple positions. My concern is I want a full time Chancellor not someone who is going to keep administrative duties in Baton Rouge and SUNO. SUNO has challenges and has issues, and the dual roles, I am concerned about.

Dr. Belton commented, “he appreciates Atty Shorty prospective. This is a unique time. Higher education has historically promoted from within. As for the dual roles, I think he can balance it.

He want to mention that his comments are all on point – speaking about where we are here and now – SUNO need an individual who bring continuity, one who can get the job done and that will be Dr. James Ammons.”

Atty Shorty had no more comments. Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Atty Shorty for his comments.

Dr. Leroy Davis made a comment that” he did not want to reflect on Dr. Ammons or Dr. Belton decision at this time, but he want to remind the board and senior leadership that we should focus on the future and try to get competent females. He did not want his comments to impact the current recommendation. “

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes January 08, 2021

Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Dr. Davis for his comment. He asked if there were any other comments or questions. Hearing none, Chairman Rutledge asked Dr. Belton to do a roll call vote on this item.

All members voted yes.

Dr. Belton roll call - everyone voted yes.

Motion Passed.

James Ammons is the new chancellor for Southern University New Orleans.

Dr. Ammons thanked everyone and told them how excited he is about serving SUNO and the community and to deal with the challenges that SUNO has. He said it will be a Collective effort and he is looking forward to serving in the capacity.

### **S. Resolutions**

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

- Mr. Roosevelt Delano Steptoe
- Ms. Millie Ruth McClelland Charles
- Rev. Ronnie Woods
- Ms. Rosa Polk
- Mrs. Alice Fields Thomas
- Dr. William E. Moore
- Mrs. Darlene Matthews
- Senator Joe Neal

Commendations

- Attorney Tony Clayton – New District Attorney in the 18<sup>th</sup> JDC
- State Representative Ted James – 2021 Chairman of the La Legislative Black Caucus

There were additions:

Resolutions – Ms. Bernadine Moore – Mother of Attorney Corrine Blache

Congressman Elect Luke Letlow – Newly Elected Representative for the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional

Commendations – Ms. Barbara Carpenter – 2021 Vice Chairwoman of the La Legislative Black Caucus

Upon motion from Ms. Christy Reeves to approve the read resolutions and commendations with the additions and Rev. Samuel Tolbert second the motion.

Motion Approved.

Chairman Atty Rutledge mentioned he did attend the swearing in ceremony for Attorney Clayton. He congratulated Atty Clayton and all the newly elected officials.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **A. Finance Update**

#### **1. Interim Financial Reports**

The Financial report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 as of November 30, 2020 was provided by Mr. McClinton for all campuses. He mentioned the detailed information is provided in the board packet, but he gave a summary of each campus. The Law Center and SUBR revenues either met or exceeded the budget for this period and we are projecting the same going forward. He discussed the SUBR shortfalls which has cares act dollars which will be used to balance their budget. He discussed the tuition from the fall and the spring semester projection. As for SUNO, they have a budget shortfall which they were able to adjust their expenditures to balance their budget. As for SUSLA, they experienced a revenue shortfall which they are using the cares act dollars to balance their budget for 2021. Each CFO has assured me that they have made the necessary adjustments to balance their budget and they are watching the numbers as we move through the spring semester. Mr. McClinton will provide updates each month. That concludes his report. There were no questions or comments.

### **B. Facilities Planning Project Updates (SUS)**

Dr. Belton mentioned Mr. Eli Guillory submitted a report which include updates for each campus (refer to board packet for documentation)

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Belton wished everyone a Happy new year! He said, “It is his pleasure and haven’t been afforded the opportunity to work with everyone in 2020 and I look forward to working with those members who were reappointed and the two new members who join us in advancing the goals of Southern University.” We are preparing to host our spring class this year, and the residential students are required to be tested prior to moving into the dormitories. We will have a sufficient supply to begin the routine testing throughout the spring. We continue to work with both the Student Health Center and Care South who is providing services to the university. Dr. Belton explained the protocols for the students and the required testing for those that are practicing or meeting weekly is being finalized.

Dr. Belton spoke on the CARES ACT and Capital finance program which is a program that provides low interest to HBCUs.”

Chairman Atty Rutledge mentioned Senator Bill Cassidy who he and Dr. Belton asked to assist with HBCUs. He thanked him for publicly for the Relief for HBCUs.

Chairman Atty Rutledge mentioned to Dr. Belton that “he wants him to be strategic on how we utilize funds we receive and once the rules are written in terms of what and how, what circumstances, it can be used. Dr. Belton discuss the funding and scholarships that will be provided to the students. He mentioned that the State of Louisiana is bracing for a significant shortfall. Chairman Atty Rutledge mentioned he believe that Congress will provide some supplemental appropriation to states and municipalities that will ease the burden. Chairman Rutledge have asked Dr. Belton to have a conversation with Dr. Rani Whitfield and Dr. Sandra Brown as it relates to leading an initiative statewide on vaccinee education to the community.

Dr. Whitfield mentioned he is looking forward to working with Dr. Brown and educating our community about vaccines. He discussed statistics from a study on the percentage of African Americans who will take the vaccine. He also discussed the protocols for entering campus at the checkpoint. He believes that Ms. Christy Reeves will be very helpful as well. The book “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” was recommended for reading.

Chairman Rutledge thanked Dr. Belton and Dr. Whitfield. There were no questions or comments.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11: CHANCELLORS’S REPORT**

(SUNO) Dr. Ammons referenced the report in packet. He discussed the City of NOLA modified phase 1. He said, “the modified phase won’t impact SUNO because they plan to deliver their courses online and virtually. He mentioned some administrative functions and academic functions like academic advisement which will make some adjustments by using leveraging technology-based platforms such as Zoom, WebEx, etc. He informed the board that SUNO is partnering with New Orleans East for testing. All students who return to the campus will be required to present a negative test. SUNO received a little over \$216k from the Peyton Manning Institute which will be used for an endowed scholarship in honor of track coach Dr. Artist Davenport. The Kellogg Foundation has awarded SUNO a grant of \$50k to begin the development of a child development center in the School of Education. SUNO is working to develop a child development center on the campus. The DXC partnership is paying off in a major way. There are students who are receiving IBM badges and Amazon Web Services certifications which are some of the highest demand credentials

in society today. SUNO has a relationship with the City of New Orleans (see packet which discuss the Wisner Grant) opportunity for internships with the city. We hope to develop a center for families that focuses on children who deal with grief and trauma in the community in the School of Social Work. That concludes the report for SUNO, Are there any questions?” There were none.

(SUSLA) Dr. Ellis referenced the report in packet. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

(SUAREC) Dr. McMeans “congratulated Dr. Ammons. Dr. McMeans stated “as it relates to our extension program, we’ve been very fortunate. Last year we received a significant increase in fact we are hiring eight additional positions and the positions will be strategic. They are going to address some of the areas and issues around the COVID virus. We are excited about the different positions and there will be some opportunities for us to partner with other institutions in the system as well as other colleges on the Baton Rouge campus as it relates to the College of Agriculture. The 1890 scholarship will receive a million dollars for the academic year, and we are truly excited. We have 59 students on that scholarship. Dr. McMeans is excited about the relationship Dr. Walker has with the newly appointed Director Dr. Kerry Steel. He believes the relationship will benefit everyone. That concludes his report.” There were no questions. Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Dr. McMeans for his report.

(SULC) Chancellor Pierre congratulated Dr. Ammons and all new officers. He also congratulated Atty Tony Clayton and all district attorneys in Calcasieu and St. Landry parishes. He spoke of the elected judges in North and South Louisiana that are graduates of Southern University Law Center. He briefly discussed the telepresence immersive classrooms at the Southern University Law Center. He spoke of the good work of Mr. Hall and others who made this possible. He invites everyone to come by the law center to see the new classroom. Chancellor Pierre congratulated Former US Attorney Stephanie Finley who is now a member of the Board of Regents. She is also a graduate of Southern University. He is also excited and want to thank the board and congratulate Judge Janice Clark. He is looking forward to working with her. He asked if there were any questions? There were none. Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Chancellor Pierre for his report.

(SUBR) Dr. Sahoo referenced the report in packet. He “extend Happy New Year to everyone and congratulations to Dr. Ammons. He mentioned “we live by our mission to provide a student-centered learning environment that is our primary goal and primary commitment and in keeping with that that was a request by the students that are graduating class to host an in-person commencement. The request was made to the President and with his approval we had a very successful and beautiful commencement outdoors with more than 300 students participating. Our guest speaker for the occasion was our graduate alumnus, Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed. It was a beautiful day for Southern University.” Dr. Sahoo discussed the SACSCOC and new minor in entrepreneurship for non-business majors briefly. He asked if there were any questions? There were none. Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Dr. Sahoo for his report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Ann Smith requested an update on the education department for the next board meeting in February.

Chairman Atty Rutledge would like to add to the list by requesting a medical marijuana update from Dr. McMeans for the next board meeting in February.

Chairman Atty Rutledge also requested Dr. Belton to add an Online update on each month agenda, therefore, he requested to have an update for the next board meeting in February.

Dr. Leroy Davis is requesting an update from the academic affairs department from Dr. Sahoo. He wants to know since the pandemic, what type of platforms are in place and the status of how everything is going with the faculty and students?

Chairman Atty Rutledge announced “Ms. Taylor-Jarrell will be emailing the 2021 meeting schedule to everyone shortly. The February meeting is scheduled to be virtual and we return to face-to-face meetings in March if circumstances are different. Chairman Rutledge will be emailing the committee assignments later in the next weeks. If no questions, he asked for a motion to adjourn.”

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Christy Reeves made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Sam Gilliam second the motion. Motion approved.