

# **SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Hyatt Regency Hotel  
601 Loyola Ave. | New Orleans, LA 70113 Friday, November 29,  
2024, 9:00 a.m.**

## **MINUTES**

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Myron K. Lawson.

The invocation was given by Rev. Calvin Wallace Woods, Jr. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by SUNO student Alfredo.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: ROLL CALL**

#### **Roll Call by President-Chancellor Dennis J. Shields**

**Present:** Miss Dana Bailey, Atty. Tony Clayton, Ms. Zazell Dudley, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Mrs. Maple Gaines, Mr. Sam Gilliam, Mr. Paul Matthews, Mrs. Christy Reeves, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Atty. Edwin Shorty, Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield, Ms. Arlanda Williams, and Mr. Myron Lawson - Ex Officio

**Absent:** None

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2025**

**The Vice Chairman will be elected in the January 2025 board meeting.**

**A. Chairman** – Governor Jeff Landry appointed Atty Clayton to be the chairman of the board for 2025. Chairman Myron Lawson introduced the new incoming chairman. Atty Clayton – Chairman-elect came to the podium and addressed the board and audience and thanked everyone for their support as well as the governor for appointing him.

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

Chairman Lawson announced that Action Item 13I (4) will be removed and Resolutions will be added as Action Item J. Upon the motion by Dr. Rani Whitfield and second by Rev. Samuel Tolbert, the agenda was recommended for adoption with the modifications.

**Motion Approved.**

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

None

### **AGENDA ITEM 8: GREETINGS FROM DR. RICK GALLOT, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM.**

Dr. Gallot thanked President Shields and the Board of Supervisors for the invite. President Shields and Chairman Lawson thanked Dr. Gallot for attending the meeting. President Shields gave a few comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: GREETINGS FROM DR. MARTN LEMELLE, JR, PRESIDENT OF GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY.**

Dr. Lemelle thanked President Shields and the Board of Supervisors for the invite. He acknowledged President Gallot and also the GSU Family. President Shields and Chairman Lawson thanked Dr. Lemelle for attending the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: GREETINGS FROM DR. CHARLES McCLELLAND, SWAC COMMISIONER**

Dr. McClelland acknowledged President Shields, President Lemelle and President Gallo. He Spoke on SWAC and all that is going on in the conference.

President Shields commended Dr. McClelland and acknowledged him for his work. Chairman Lawson thanked Dr. McClelland for attending the meeting.

**Chairman Lawson acknowledged and Introduced Cleo Fields and congratulated him on his new endeavor as senator. He will be going to DC in January. He asked him to come and make remarks. Senator Fields greeted the board and guests in the audience. He gave information on what's new in legislation and what he plans to do while he's in the senator office.**

**He introduced the chairman of the LA Black Caucus and the caucus members. They all greeted the board members and guests.**

**AGENDA ITEM 11: SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Our Lady of the Lake Health Presentation
- B. Procter and Gamble-Business Industry Cluster Presentation
- C. Kendall Corley-Small Business Administration Grant Presentation
- D. Grief and Trauma Center- Millie M. Charles School of Social Work Presentation
- E. Ochsner and SUNO Partnership
- F. Roy Griggs Presentation
- G. Attorney Jacqueline Scott Presentation
- H. The Mosaic Company Check Presentation
- I. Joe W. & Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation Presentation

**AGENDA ITEM 12: CHANCELLOR'S REPORTS****A. ABOVE AND BEYOND (All Campuses)**

Chairman Myron K. Lawson thanked Ms. Ann Smith for being the visionary for the Above and Beyond award. Today All campuses will award an employee and a student.

He asks that each Chancellor give a brief report and present their above and beyond awards.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: ACTION ITEM(s)**

There was a motion by Mr. Paul Matthews and second by Atty Tony Clayton to approve action items 13A –13E be approved globally.

Motion passed.

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2024, SUS Board of Supervisors Meeting
- B. Request for Approval of Posthumous Honorary Degree for Nichollas D. Perkins (SUBR)
- C. Request for Approval of Honorary Doctorates for Commencement Speakers (SUBR)
  - i. Attorney Marcus V. Brown-Undergraduate Ceremony
  - ii. Commissioner Rodney Ellis-Graduate Ceremony
- D. Request for Approval of Southern University Law Center Faculty Appointment, Retention, Promotion, and Tenure (SULC)
  - i. Appointment of Professor Phebe Poydras for the Louis A. Berry Endowment
  - ii. Appointment of Professor Judd Sneirson as the Reilly Family Endowed Professor
  - iii. Approval of Professor Donna Schwab as the Freddie Pitcher Jr. Endowed Professor
- E. Request for Approval of Policies #6-008 and #7-008. (SUS)

Description
#6-008 (Uniformed Personnel Actions Policy) (SUS) 1. This is an update to the established policy that increases the hiring authority for Chancellors and President, among other clarifications.
#7-008 (Agreements and Contracts Policy) (SUS) 2. This is an update to the established policy that distinguishes the approval of contracts and grants.

There was a motion by Atty Domoine Rutledge and the second by Dr. Leon Tarver to approve action item 13F be approved.

Motion passed.

- F. Request for Approval to name the Southern University Alumni Federation House the “Dennis S. Brown Alumni House.”

Mr. Dennis S. Brown’s family and friends were in attendance, and they were allowed to speak. His immediate family thanked the board and the alumni for honoring Dennis and thanked them for their support during this time.

There was a motion by Atty Tony Clayton and the second by Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert to approve action item 13G be approved.

Motion passed.

- G. Request for Approval to establish the Maple Jackson Richmond and Sidney L. Richmond, Jr. Endowed Scholarship and the Maple Jackson Richmond and Sidney L. Richmond, Jr. Endowed First Generation Scholarship

Ms. Maple Gaines and her family acknowledge the board and thanked Mr. Al Harrell for his assistance in getting the scholarship established.

There was a motion by Atty Tony Clayton and the second by Dr. Leon Tarver to approve action items 13H – 13I be approved globally.

Motion passed.

- H. Request Approval for Fall 2024 Commencement Resolutions

- i. Undergraduate level (SUBR)
- ii. Graduate level (SUBR)
- iii. Southern University Law Center (SULC)

## I. Request for Approval of Contracts, Amendments, Agreements, Grants, etc. Equal to or Greater than \$300,000.00.

Title	Description	Amount	Campus
1. Ellucian (Contract)	Ellucian is a cloud-based software provider that helps higher education institutions with professional solutions to create connected campuses. The platform provides solutions for departments such as finance, IT, student services, human resources, recruiting and admissions. (3 Years)	\$2,653,231	SUS
2. United States Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) -North Carolina A&T (SUAREC) (Grant)	The purpose of SUB-CONTRACT SUS-SUAGCENTER-2024-09-0040-NC A&TS UNIVERSITY is to implement the Center Of Excellence For Nutrition, Health, Wellness, And Quality Of Life Research, Extension, and Teaching Projects as approved by the United States Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA)	\$532, 216	SUAREC
3. United States Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) -1890 Universities Foundation (Grant)	The purpose of SUB-CONTRACT SUS-SUAGCENTER-2024-09-0042- 1890 FOUNDATION is to implement the Center Of Excellence For Nutrition, Health, Wellness, And Quality Of Life Research, Extension, and Teaching Projects as approved by the United States Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA)	\$330,000	SUAREC
4. U.S. Army Contracting Command (Grant)	The Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence (IC CAE) Program is a statutorily established program designed to promote the acquisition of competitive talent. The IC CAE Program's purpose is to develop a cadre of qualified intelligence professionals to carry out America's long-term national security initiatives by creating a competitive, knowledgeable, and diverse workforce through the provision of single and multi-year grants to colleges and universities. The program seeks to create, attract, and sustain a robust, knowledgeable, and diverse talent pool in multi-disciplinary areas of interest to the Intelligence Community. (Over a period of 9 years)	\$2,500,000	SUBR

## J. Resolutions

Dr. Allen Vital, Chief of Staff, read resolutions for the following:

## Condolences

- Dexter Cormier, Jr.
- Ashley Maryland
- Thelma Baker

Commendations

- Geneva Moore
- Brother James (Jimmy) Albert Clemons, Jr.

Add Dr. Webb – celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. – Add Issac Ike Thomas – Baseball booster club (Rutledge) – Add Hall of Fame athletes

There was a motion by Atty Domoine Rutledge to approve the read resolutions with additions and Mr. Raymond Fondel second the motion.

Motion approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 14: INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)**

- A. Interim Financial Report – Mr. McClinton advised the board members the financial report is in the packet. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.
- B. President’s Report – President Shields thanked Chairman Lawson and Vice Chairman Lawson for their service. He also thanked the members who were leaving the board. He appreciated everyone and thanked them for their service and support.

**AGENDA ITEM 15: OTHER BUSINES**

- A. ROTC Video Presentation – Dr. Whitfield presented the video and thanked the ROTC for their service.
- B. Amazon Echo Dot Presentation – Miss LaQuita Thomas presented the Amazon Echo.

Chairman Lawson thanked everyone for staying until the end of meeting. He thanked the board for their attendance. Everyone was in attendance; all 16 board members were in attendance. He is requesting photos after the meeting. Chairman Lawson thanked the outgoing members for all their hard work and support for the System’s Mission.

He thanked the board staff and everyone who assisted with the logistics of the meeting.

Chairman Lawson acknowledge some visitors in audience and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Happy Bayou Classic

**AGENDA ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Atty Clayton to adjourn the meeting.

