

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

**Hyatt Regency Hotel  
601 Loyola Ave. | New Orleans, LA 70113  
Friday, November 28, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Tony Clayton

The invocation was given by the minister. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Rani Whitfield.

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

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

**Present:** Atty. Tony Clayton, Atty Quincy Cawthorne, Ms. Zazell Dudley, Mrs. Maple Gaines, Mr. Donald Henry, Mr. Myron K. Lawson, Mr. Aaron Manzy, Mr. Paul Matthews, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Atty. Edwin Shorty, Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Rev. Dr. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield, Mr. Henry Whitehorn

**Absent:** Mr. Christopher

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: ELECTION OF BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN 2026**

Mr. Donald Ray Henry made a motion and second by Mr. Myron K. Lawson to elect Mr. Reggie Abraham as vice chairman for 2026. Motion was approved.

Mr. Reggie Abraham addressed the board and audience and thanked everyone for their support.

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

Chairman Clayton announced that Action Item XII(M) will be removed. Upon the motion by Rev. Samuel Tolbert and second by Atty Quincy Cawthorne, the agenda was recommended for adoption with the modifications.

**Motion Approved.**

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

Mr. Tony Williams and Mrs. Tina Williams  
Organization – Williams Center for Undergraduate student achievement  
Agenda Item – Action Item XII(M)

Alums that are concerned about the future of SU's direction and concerned about the president's departure. They are in support of the President. The vision of university, future leadership, fundraising and new donors are all important and must be considered.

#### **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 Clayton 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 Clayton thanked Dr. Lemelle for attending the meeting.

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

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 Clayton thanked Dr. McClelland for attending the meeting.

**Chairman Clayton and Vice Chairman Abraham acknowledged and introduced the chairman of the LA Black Caucus and the caucus members. They all greeted the board members and guests. They also greeted other politician in the room.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11: SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

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##### **A. ABOVE AND BEYOND**

The above and beyond recipient was introduced by Chancellor Bouie and presented by Dr. Cook to Ms. Erika Whitt.

##### **B. Presentation of the Cy Pres Awards to SULC.**

The award was introduced by Chancellor Washington.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: ACTION ITEM(s)**

There was a motion by Mrs. Ann Smith and second by Dr. Rani Whitfield to approve action items 12A.

Motion passed.

A. Request for Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2025, SUS Board of Supervisors Meeting

There was a motion by Mrs. Ann Smith and second by Ms. Maple Gaines to approve action items 12B.

Motion passed.

B. Request for Approval of Fall 2025 Commencement Resolutions (Graduate and Undergraduate) - (SUBR)

There was a motion by Mr. Myron K. Lawson and second by Mr. Reggie Abraham to approve action items 12C.

Motion passed.

C. Request for Approval of the Recommendation Letter of Approval for Tenure and Promotion - (SUBR)

There was a motion by Atty Edwin Shorty and second by Ms. Maple Gaines to approve action items 12D.

Motion passed.

D. Request for Approval of Graduate Certificate Program in Early College Teaching and Learning - (SUNO)

There was a motion by Atty Edwin Shorty and second by Ms. Maple Gaines to approve action items 12E.

Motion passed.

E. Request for Approval of RN to BSN Online Program - Mental Health Concentration - (SUNO)

There was a motion by Atty Domoine Rutledge and second by Dr. Rani Whitfield to approve action items 12F.

Motion passed.

F. Request for Approval of Settlement of Coach Graves Employment Contract - (SUBR)

There was a motion by Mr. Paul Matthews and second by Ms. Ann Smith to approve action items 12G.

Motion passed.

G. Request for Approval of Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's 2025-2032 Strategic Plan - (SUAREC)

There was a motion by Mr. Paul Matthews and second by Ms. Maple Gaines to approve action items 12H.

Motion passed.

H. Request for Approval of Barber Brothers Bid #10346 Contract - (SUAREC)

There was a motion by Atty Tony Clayton and second by Mrs. Ann Smith to approve action items 12I.

Motion passed.

I. Request for Approval of Settlement Authority for Litigation with CMC - (SUNO)

There was a motion by Dr. Rani Whitfield and second by Mr. Reggie Abraham to approve action items 12J.

Motion passed.

J. Request Approval of Ground and Facilities Lease between SU System Foundation and Board of Supervisors for the SU and A&M College System - (SUBR)

There was a motion by Rev. Samuel Tolbert and second by Ms. Zazell Dudley to approve action items 12K.

Motion passed.

K. Request Approval to Grant Three (3) Years of Credit to Professor Sneirson for his Service at Other Institutions - (SULC)

There was a motion by Dr. Rani Whitfield and second by Mrs. Ann Smith to approve action items 12L.

Motion passed.

L. Request for Approval of Personnel Action on Positions Equal to or Greater than \$100,000 - (SUBR)

~~M. Selection of Interim President for Southern University System commencing on January 1, 2026, until a permanent President is selected.~~

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

**A. Interim Financial Report**

Mr. McClinton gave comments and mentioned the report is in packet and asked for any questions from the board members.

**B. SUS Capital Improvement Projects**

Mr. Ken Dawson gave report and showed a presentation of the current buildings that are being built.

**C. President Report**

President Shields gave his report and thanked everyone for all their support during his time at Southern University

**D. Chancellor Report**

All chancellors gave a brief report.

**AGENDA ITEM 15: OTHER BUSINES**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Atty Clayton to adjourn the meeting.