

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
601 Loyola Ave. | New Orleans, LA 70113  
Friday, November 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Attorney Edwin Shorty.

The invocation was provided by Rev. Dr. Reginald Nichols Pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Dr. Rani Whitfield.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Roll Call**

**Roll Call by President Dennis J. Shields**

**Present:** Atty. Jody Amedee, Mr. John Barthelemy, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Miss Naudia Foster, Mr. Sam Gilliam, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Myron Lawson, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Rani Whitfield, Ms. Arlanda Williams, and Atty. Edwin Shorty - Ex Officio

**Absent:** Ms. Christy Reeves

**AGENDA ITEM 5: ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2023**

**A. Chairman** – Nominations for Chairman was opened. Chairman Edwin Shorty nominated Mr. Myron Lawson. There were no additional nominations. The nominations were closed by Atty Domoine Rutledge. And a motion was made by Ms. Arlanda Williams and second by Dr. Rani Whitfield for Mr. Myron Lawson as Chairman.

**Motion Approved.**

**B. Vice Chairman** - Nominations for Vice Chairman was opened. Ms Arlanda Williams nominated Dr. Rani Whitfield. There were no additional nominations. The nominations were closed by Rev. Samuel Tolbert. And a motion was made by Ms. Arlanda Williams and second by Mrs. Ann Smith for Dr. Rani Whitfield as Vice Chairman.

**Motion Approved.**

Chairman Atty Edwin Shorty congratulated both Mr. Lawson and Dr. Whitfield. They both gave brief comments and thanked everyone for their support, and they are looking forward to the new year.

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

Chairman Shorty announced that Action Item 11C will be deleted. Upon the motion by Atty Domoine Rutledge and second by Mr. Raymond Fondel. The agenda was recommended for adoption with the deletion of action item 11C.

**Motion Approved.**

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

**None**

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: GREETINGS FROM DR. RICK GALLOT, PRESIDENT OF GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Gallot thanked President Shields and the Board of Supervisors for the invite. He mentioned he was accompanied by members of his leadership team. He asked them to stand to be recognized. President Shields and Chairman Shorty thanked Dr. Gallot for attending the meeting. President Shields gave a few comments.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: ABOVE AND BEYOND**

Dr. James Ammons introduced Dr. Gregory Ford who presented the above and beyond award to Ms. Erika Witt. She is the curator at the Museum of Art at SUNO. Ms. Witt thanked SUNO and the Board of Supervisors for the award.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- A. SHE-CAN (McBride Sisters) Check Presentation to the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center and the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (SUAREC)

Dr. McMeans introduced Dr. Renita Marshall who introduced the SU Alum Agnes who is CEO for McBride Sisters. She introduced Robyn who is one of the sisters who attended the meeting. She gave brief background about the McBride Sisters and all the support to the black owned women businesses. McBride Sisters is the largest black wine company. She mentioned how they plan to continue to support SU Ag and presented a check in the amount of \$50k.

- B. Legacy House Media, LLC and Matador Spirits Check Presentation (SUAREC)

Dr. Katara Williams introduced Mr. James Williams, CEO. He gave background about the company. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> sugar cane Vodka. He plan to support SU Ag and presented a check in the amount of \$250k.

C. Special Presentation (SUNO)

Dr. James Ammons introduced Dr. Kim Rugon, Vice-Chancellor, Institutional Advancement. She introduced all individuals who presented each donation.

- a. William K Kellogg Foundation  
Presented a check in the amount of \$400k – College of Education
- b. The Institute of Mental Hygiene  
Presented a check in the amount of \$300k
- c. The SUNO Foundation and the SUNO Alumni Association  
Presented a check in the amount of \$93,340 – for students' scholarships
- d. Anonymous Giver  
Presented a check in the amount of \$100k

Chairman Shorty recognized Dr. Rugon for all she does at SUNO. He mentioned The BASH which was a stellar event. Job Well Done Dr. Rugon.

D. Special Presentation by United Health Group (SUBR)

Dr. Sandra Brown introduced Rep Dustin Miller and CEO Carl Laureate who presented a check in the amount of \$500k

E. Special Presentation by the School of Nursing and Ochsner (SUBR)

Dr. Sandra Brown introduced Representatives who presented a check in the amount of \$2 million.

Chairman Shorty recognized Dr, Courtney Phillips from Louisiana Department of Health. She gave brief greetings and thanked the SU Board of Supervisors and the SU System for their support.

F. Special Presentation for Reverend Lionel Johnson

Atty Domoine Rutledge recognized the Johnson Family and presented award to Reverend Lionel Johnson's family. Reverend Lionel Johnson was a Chairman His son and daughter were in attendance to receive the award on behalf of their mother. They both thanked the SU Board of Supervisors for all the support to their family during the death of their father.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: ACTION ITEMS**

**Motion was made by Atty Domoine Rutledge and second by Dr. Rani Whitfield that Action Items (11A-11B, 11D – 11J) be approved in global.**

**Motion was approved.**

- A. Approval of Minutes of the October 21, 2022, SUS Board of Supervisors Meeting
- B. Request Approval of the Intercollegiate Athletics Travel Policy (SUS)  
*This policy is being updated to comply with the State Travel Policy (Policy and Procedures Memorandum 49). The rates have changed from Tier Rates to GSA Rates as required by the Office of State Travel.*
- C. ~~Request for authorization to increase energy surcharge fee from four (\$4) dollars per credit hour with a cap of 12 credit hours to ten (\$10) dollars per credit hours with a cap of 12 credit hours effective Spring 2023. (SUBR)~~
- D. Request Approval of the ADA Policy (SUS)  
*The policy was revised to incorporate the requirements of La.R.S.46:2594. A summary of the statute is listed below:*
1. *Develop a policy to comply with ADA and La. R.S. 2594*
    - a. *Requires an interactive process for processing and providing a reasonable accommodation for employees and visitors*
    - b. *Requires a grievance process*
    - c. *Requires supervisor's training*
    - d. *Requires all campuses have an ADA coordinator*
    - e. *Requires all employee self-identify their disability*
  2. *Comply with all statute reporting requirements.*
- E. Request Approval of Revisions to the Southern University Law Center's Faculty Handbook regarding the promotions for academic support personnel (SULC)
- F. *Amends the handbook to provide for promotional structure for academic support personnel.*
- G. Request Approval of Personnel Action on Positions equal to or greater than \$60,000 (SUS)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Campus</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
1. Tyler Hayes	DoIT System Administrator <i>New Appointment</i>	\$65,000.00	Federal
2. Janene Tate	Director of Communications <i>Salary Adjustment</i>	\$92,000.00	State

- H. Request Approval of Personnel Action on Positions equal to or greater than \$60,000 (SUNO)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Campus</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
1. Laina Jolivett	Program Manager for the Center for Prevention and Advocacy <i>New Position</i>	\$60,000.00	DOJ Grant

2. Niara Woods	Director of Communication and Public Relations and Interim Sports Information Director (SID) <i>New Appointment</i>	\$ 65,000.00 \$ 5,000.00	State
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I. Request Approval of Personnel Action on Positions equal to or greater than \$60,000 (SUAREC)

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Si-Arah McCray	Assistant Specialist/ Nutrition <i>New Appointment</i>	\$65,000.00	State

J. Request Approval of Personnel Action on Positions equal to or greater than \$60,000 (SUBR)

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Stephenne Calhoun	Mental Health Therapist II <i>Salary Adjustment</i>	\$64,000.00	Federal
2. Ajeanne Dillon	Director of Academics for Athletics <i>Salary Adjustment</i>	\$69,165.00	State
3. Adrea Travis	Mental Health Therapist II <i>Salary Adjustment</i>	\$64,000.00	Federal
4. Denise Rankins	Assistant Director of Development <i>New Appointment</i>	\$95,000	State/Foundation

K. Request Approval of Personnel Action on Positions equal to or greater than \$60,000 (SULC)

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Calaundra Clark	Associate Vice-Chancellor of Financial Aid Services <i>New Position</i>	\$138,600.00	State
2. Chanel Jackson	Mental Health Counselor <i>New Position</i>	\$78,000.00	State
3. Karvett Tillery	Director of Travel Services <i>New Position</i>	\$90,000.00	State
4. Candace Webb	Director of Finance and Budget <i>New Appointment</i>	\$90,500.00	State

**Motion was made by Atty Domoine Rutledge and second by Dr. Rani Whitfield that Action Items (11L- and 11M) be approved in global.**

**Motion was approved.**

- L. Request Approval of Petition for Prior Service Credit by Associate Professor Katherine Macfarlane (SULC)

*Associate Professor Katherine Macfarlane respectfully has requested that the Southern University Board of Supervisors consider her petition to the Board to exercise its discretion in granting her 4-years of probationary credit for prior service at other higher education institutions. Ms. Macfarlane has served as a faculty member for 5-years at the University of Idaho College of Law, 2-years at the Louisiana State University Paul Hebert Law Center, and 1-year at the Chapman University Fowler School of Law.*

- M. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between SUBR School of Nursing and Ochsner – SUSON Capacity and Workforce (SUBR)

## **AGENDA ITEM 12: RESOLUTIONS**

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

- Dr. Lewis Blair, Jr.
- Mr. Edward Ossie Magee, Sr.
- Dr. Clyde Ellis Smith
- Ms. Julie Tregre Cherry
- Attorney Sarah Renea Harris
- Mrs. Gaynell Thomas Johnson

Upon Motion from Atty Domoine Rutledge to approve the read resolutions and Mrs. Ann Smith second the motion.

**Motion approved**

## **AGENDA ITEM 13: INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)**

**Chancellor John Pierre gave brief summary on items 13A and !3B.**

- A. Update on Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) by and between the Louisiana Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center, the Folger Coffee Company, Gulf Partners, LLC, and Southern University Law Center (SULC)
- B. Update on the Semester in Shreveport 2023 Spring Semester Activities at the Southern University Law Center Off Campus Instructional Site (SULC) (OCIS)

Mr. Kenneth Dawson provided report on each of the projects listed under Action Item 13C – Facilities Planning Updates.

C. Facilities Planning Updates

1. *Harding/Scenic Crosswalk*
2. *E-Court submission*
3. *Additional funding for Demo projects*
4. *Drainage issue Harding and Swan*
5. *Architectural Selection Committee*

D. Interim Financial Report

Mr. McClinton reported all campuses are within their budget. The detail of the interim financial report by campus is in the board packet. There were no questions.

E. President's Report

President Shields gave a brief report. He thanked Chairman Shorty for his leadership and congratulated the new leadership. He mentioned he attended the BASH at SUNO and gave accolades to Dr. Rugon and her team. He mentioned he is very excited about the weekend since this is his first Bayou Classic.

F. Chancellor's Reports

All chancellor's gave brief report. (Detail report is in the board packet)

Dr. Ammons presented brief report on behalf of SUNO.  
Dr. Appeaning presented brief report on behalf of SUSLA.  
Dr. McMeans presented brief report on behalf of SUAREC.  
Chancellor Pierre presented brief report on behalf of SULC.  
Dr. Sahoo presented brief report on behalf of SUBR

Each chancellor thanked Chairman Shorty for his leadership and congratulated the new chairman and vice chairman.

**AGENDA ITEM 14: OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Shorty acknowledged AD Roman Bank.

Chairman Shorty acknowledged elected officials, other dignitaries and alums who were in attendance for the meeting. He thanked everyone who come to meetings regularly.

Chairman Shorty recognized the NBA Representative – Brandon Gasoway. He made a short presentation in reference to the All-Star Game and Weekend (i.e. game, hotels, game tickets, etc.)q a lqq

**AGENDA ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Atty Domoine Rutledge to adjourn the meeting.