

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Committee of the Whole – Virtual Meeting
Friday, September 25, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Minutes

The virtual Committee as a Whole meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by board Chairman Atty. Domoine Rutledge.

The Invocation was given by Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Jr.

Roll Call by Dr. Ray Belton.

Present: Chairman Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Atty. Jody Amedee, Mr. John Barthelemy, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Jr., Dr. Curman Gaines, Mr. Bakari Garvey, Mr. Sam Gilliam, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Atty. Patrick Magee, Atty. Edwin Shorty, Ms. Ann Smith, Dr. Leon Tarver II, and Mrs. Arlanda Williams.

Absent: Dr. Rani Whitfield

Agenda Item 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – Chairman Rutledge asked for adoption of the agenda.

Upon the motion by Atty. Edwin Shorty to adopt the agenda, the motion was seconded by Mr. John Barthelemy. Adoption approved.

Agenda Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Agenda Item 5: ACTION ITEM(s):

Dr. Leon Tarver made a motion to approve Action Items 5A (1-2) globally and Rev. Samuel Tolbert second the motion.

Motion approved.

A. Request Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Regular Meeting of the SU Board of Supervisors – August 21, 2020
2. Special Meeting of the SU Board of Supervisors- September 11, 2020

Chairman Rutledge asked Chancellor Rodney Ellis to discuss Action Items 5B – 5E globally. Chancellor Ellis summarized each item and noted additional detail is provided in board packet (see board packet copy) Dr. Ellis asked if there were any questions.

Rev. Samuel Tolbert asked, “if courses will be offered online?” Dr. Ellis said, “yes all the courses are set up to be offered as online courses and if not, they would develop it to be online.

Mr. Sam Gilliam complimented Dr. Ellis and his staff.

There were no additional comments or questions.

Mr. Sam Gilliam made a motion to approve Action Items 5B – 5E globally and Rev. Samuel Tolbert second the motion.

Motion approved.

- B. Request Approval to Establish an Associate of Applied Science in Engineering Technology (SUSLA)
- C. Request Approval to Establish a Certificate of Technical Study: Petroleum Technology (SUSLA)
- D. Request Approval to Establish a Certificate of Technical Study: Airframe Technology (SUSLA)
- E. Request Approval to Establish Certificate of Technical Study: Power Plant Maintenance Technology (SUSLA)

Chairman Atty Rutledge asked Chancellor Orlando McMeans to discuss Action Item 5F. Chancellor McMeans mentioned, “he is requesting the approval of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences Logo to be used to promote the College, its programs and community. In addition, it will be used for marketing and recruiting. He mentioned “this is part of our re-branding process”

There were no questions.

Rev. Tolbert made a motion to approve Action Item 5F and Dr. Leroy Davis second the motion.

Motion approved.

- F. Request Approval of the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences New Logo (SUAREC)

Chairman Atty Rutledge asked Chancellor John Pierre to discuss Action Items 5G – 5H globally. Chancellor Pierre discussed each item in detail. He discussed the Strategic Leadership Institute which is “scheduled to begin on September 28, 2020 and conclude on November 9, 2020. Featured presenters include Ambassador James A. Joseph, Retired Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore, and Dr. John Sibley Butler. The Law Center and the College of Business seek approval to create and establish a SU Strategic Leadership Institute (SUSLI). The need for the institute is based upon the fact that leadership plays a vital, if not

most important role in the achievement of organizational excellence, especially during uncertain and turbulent times.”

Chancellor Pierre also discussed the Common Law track and he is requesting authorization to create a common law track for the Southern University Law Center which will require that the Law Center make curricular changes and adjustments that allows the Law Center to more appropriately serve its growing student constituency from outside of Louisiana.”

Dr Tarver “asked if the Leadership Institute was restricted to Law and Business.” Chancellor Pierre said, “no it isn’t restricted, anyone can register who are interested.” Chancellor Pierre gave details of the executive public policy PhD program/law center involvement and their partnership.

Chairman Atty Rutledge commented on the executive public policy program and how popular it is. He mentioned they may have to expand access to the program in the future.

Chairman Atty Rutledge asked were there any additional questions for Chancellor Pierre? There were no additional questions or comments.

Mr. Bakari Garvey made a motion to approve action items 5G-5H globally and Mrs. Ann Smith second the motion. Motion Approved.

G. Request Approval of the Southern University Strategic Leadership Institute (SULC / SUBR)

H. Request Authorization to create a Common Law Track for the Southern University Law Center (SULC)

Dr. Ammons is requesting authorization and authorization to enter in a Cooperative Resolution with the City of New Orleans with regards to a grant awarded to SUNO in the amount \$100,000 from the Edward Wisner Donation Fund. These funds are to support the School of Social Work. They will be used by faculty to enhance the education of the students through service as social workers-in-training to families and children of the New Orleans Community.

There were no questions or comments.

Atty Edwin Shorty made a motion to approve action item 5I and Dr. Leroy Davis second the motion. Motion Approved.

I. Request Approval and Authorization to enter in a Cooperative Resolution with the City of New Orleans (SUNO)

Chairman Atty Rutledge mentioned there was a guest today and he asked Dr. Belton to introduced Mr. Adam Knapp. Dr. Belton introduced Mr. Adam Knapp who is the president and CEO of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber. Dr. Belton mentioned he and Mr. Knapp discussed entering into an agreement to form a collaboration between Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) and Southern University and A&M College (SU). He discussed the MOU is between BRAC and SU and it is intended to increase retention of students and

graduates of SU in the Baton Rouge area through internships and entry-level job placement in conjunction with use of the talent recruiting platform that SU utilizes, Handshake. He discussed each parties' roles and responsibilities and asked Mr. Knapp to offer comments. Mr. Knapp thanked Chairman Rutledge and the board as well as Dr. Belton for allowing him to attend the meeting. He gave context for Metro Baton Rouge Talent and thanked Dr. Belton for partnering with BRAC. Chairman Rutledge asked if there were any questions. There were no questions or comments. Chairman Atty Rutledge thanked Mr. Knapp for being on the call today. Rev. Samuel Tolbert made a motion to approve action item 5J and Dr. Leon Tarver second the motion. Motion Approved.

- J. Request Approval of MOU between Southern University at Baton Rouge and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber for the Handshake Initiative to promote Retention and Job Placement for Students and Graduates (SUBR)

Dr. Leroy Davis made a motion to approve action items 5K and 5L globally and Mr. John Barthelemy second the motion. Motion Approved.

- K. Request Approval of the Southern University Board of Supervisors 2020 Self-Evaluation (per SACSCOC 4.2g)

- L. Request Approval of the Southern University Board of Supervisors 2020 Conflict of Interest Disclosure (per SACSCOC 4.2d)

Dr. Belton requested Dr. Appeaning give an efficient overview of the scorecard assessment data by campus.

Dr. Appeaning thank the Board of Supervisors for their attention and recap items 5K and 5L. He mentions that "Ms. Tracey Taylor-Jarrell has emailed the 2020 Self Evaluation and Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms to each of them and they are to complete the forms and return them to Ms. Taylor-Jarrell by next Tuesday, September 29, 2020."

Dr. Appeaning discussed the scorecard assessment data by campus and mentioned the detailed report for each campus was included in the board packet. (see packet for details) There were no questions or comments.

Dr. Leroy Davis made a motion to approve action item 5M and Ms. Ann Smith second the motion. Motion Approved.

- M. Request Approval of the Scorecard Assessment Data by Campus (Year 2 Annual Accountability Per SACSCOC Standard 7.1)

1. Southern University at Baton Rouge
2. Southern University at New Orleans
3. Southern University at Shreveport
4. Southern University Law Center
5. Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

Chairman Atty Rutledge mentioned there should be a salary amendment for item 5N-7. **The salary should be \$121,500.00.**

Rev. Samuel Tolbert made a motion to approve action Item 5N with salary amendment and Mrs. Ann Smith second the motion. Motion Approved.

N. Request Approval of Personnel Actions for Positions equal to or Greater than \$60,000

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Charletta Fortson	Instructor and Common Law Bar Exam Program Director (Additional Duties) SULC	\$90,000.00	Federal
2. Teresa Hardee	Interim Vice-Chancellor of Finance and Administration (Salary Adjustment) SUNO	\$164,000.00	State
3. Dorothy Straughter-Parker	ADA Coordinator/Health, Wellness and Disability Service Director (Additional Duties) SULC	\$72,000.00	State
4. Dawn Mellion-Patin	Extension Specialist (Title Change) SUAREC	\$135,200.00	Federal
5. Greg Sergienko	Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (New Appointment) SULC	\$150,000.00	Federal
6. Rahim A. Smith	Academic Support Counselor / Instructor / Managing Fellow for the Mixed Reality Virtual Innovation Gaming and Electronic Sports Institute (Additional Duties) SULC	\$87,000.00	Federal
7. De'Shoin York	Interim Vice-Chancellor for Extension and Outreach (Interim Appointment) SUAREC	\$135,200.00 \$121,500.00	Federal

Public Comments:

Name: Dr. Mostafa Elaasar

Email Address: melaasar@suno.edu

Department: Natural Sciences

Summary of Public Comment: I have no problem with Dr. Hardee getting raise. She works very hard and she should be compensated. By the same token, the faculty at SUNO are working hard and we should be compensated accordingly. We have not received in raises for the last 10 years.

Name: Cynthia Ramirez

Email Address: cramirez@suno.edu

Department: Faculty Senate

Summary of Public Comment: I am addressing **action item 5 N**. As the Faculty Senate President, I would like to seriously address the pay increase for the Faculty at Southern University at New Orleans. Since it seems that we are no longer in financial straights, as evident in the pay increase of the Interim Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, The Faculty have not had a pay increase since 2007. The Board had voted to give the faculty a pay increase previously but SUNO's financial problem prohibited this. That is not the issue now, so please implement the pay raises as quickly just as the increase in salary for on administrative position has been pushed through. Thank you.

Name: Shatiqua Wilson

Email Address: swilson@suno.edu

Department: Library

Summary of Public Comment: This is a public comment about SUNO. Why are we not informed of board meetings? This current meeting included important details affecting us and we were not informed. We had to google and search to find this meeting link via YouTube.

Chairman Rutledge acknowledged all public comments. As for the public comments inquiring about board meetings, he referenced them to the SUS website – Board of Supervisor tab and click on Calendar. All meeting dates information is listed on the calendar tab.

Chairman Atty Rutledge mentioned Chancellor Pierre is requesting credit for prior service by Marc Roark and Kenya Smith.

Rev. Tolbert mentioned the **years for Kenya Smith is six years** per information in packet. Chancellor Pierre confirmed six years when providing information on both individuals.

There were no questions or comments.

Mrs. Ann Smith made a motion to approve action item 5O with amendment and Mr. John Barthelemy second the motion. Motion Approved.

- O. Request Approval for Credit for Prior Employment Service (SULC)
 - 1. Marc Roark (11-years of service)
 - 2. Kenya Smith (4-6-years of service)
- P. Request Authorization to Initiate a Focused Search for the Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (SUS)

Public Comments:

Name: Shatiqua Wilson

Email Address: swilson@suno.edu

Department: Library

Summary of Public Comment: I request that All Deans and Directors at SUNO be allowed to be a lead part of the search process for Chancellor.

Name: Cynthia Ramirez

Email Address: cramirez@suno.edu

Department: Faculty Senate

Summary of Public Comment: My name is Cynthia Ramirez, the newly elected Faculty Senate President. I am addressing **action item P**. The request to expedite the search for a permanent Chancellor at SUNO. I agree with the urgency of the search because of SACSCOC concerns; however, I want to make sure Faculty and Staff have a role in this process. Thank you.

Chairman Rutledge acknowledge the public comment prior to discussion of action item 5P.

Mr. John Barthelemy made a motion to approve action item 5P and Ms. Arlanda Williams second the motion.

There was a question before voting from Atty Edwin Shorty. He asked “what does Focus Search Mean and what is the difference in a focus search and a national search? He asked if the time was shorter and does it mean a thorough and comprehensive search won’t be done?”

Dr. Belton stated, “a focused search is one wherein the Board of Supervisors grants authorization to the Administration to appoint a designated person or entity to seek out and encourage specific (or targeted) individuals with appropriate credentials to submit application(s) for consideration for employment. The request comes seeking he and his administration authorization to proceed in a more deliberative and focused manner. During the focused search process, the administration will incorporate opportunities for community and stakeholder engagement to identify candidates who are highly qualified and possess attributes which align with the leadership model at SUNO. I ensure this is an efficient and productive process” Dr. Belton went on to discuss the national search is a long process and there must be a stable leadership as early as Spring 2021.”

Atty Shorty is concerned about the fairness to SUNO. He would like to see what has done in the past and he want to make sure the best candidate is chosen to fulfill the position. To choose the best candidate, He do not want to rush the search.

Chairman Rutledge commented, “we have done both national and focus search in the past. National search is a large committee of people and it is a long process. Based on the SACCOC request, the Chancellor should be in position by the Spring, so we have to get moving on the process.”

Ms. Ann Smith asked, “if there is a difference in the cost for National search and focus search?”

Yes, there is a cost difference.

Dr. Leroy Davis mentioned “he is concerned there will be folks who are interested from all over. He has been on different focus search committees and they have been conducted differently based on interest/philosophy of person conducting the search. He is requesting Dr. Belton to submit a plan to the board members of how he will conduct the search. He is proposing he submit the plan in two weeks.” Chairman Rutledge agreed.

Ms. Arlanda Williams asked, “when was the last focus search done for chancellor position?”

Dr. Belton and Dr. Tarver commented.

Attorney Shorty said he would be comfortable if the president will give plan as to how he will do the search. He wants to know that the community is involved.

Dr. Belton agreed he could provide the plan.

Chairman Rutledge said he would like to now have a Motion to authorize the executive search – with three parameters 1 - solicit candidates nationally, 2 – Involve the community, staff, and administration in NOLA, and 3 - Within the next 7 days provide a written update as to Dr. Belton will conduct the process.

Mr. John Barthelemy made a new motion to include the three parameters and Mrs. Arlanda Williams second the motion. Motion approved.

Q. Request Approval of Use Agreement between Southern University and A&M College and Baton Rouge Student Housing, LLC (SUBR)

Chairman Atty Rutledge asked Dr. Belton to discuss Item 5Q. Dr. Belton introduced Atty Jeremy Gathe the new Asst General Counsel and asked that he give information on the Use Agreement.

Atty Gathe mentioned “this was an agreement between Southern University A&M College and Baton Rouge Student Housing, LLC and the agreement will allow the Palisades Apartments located on the corner of Harding and Scenic to use its affiliation with Southern University in its new company name. He included the complete agreement in the board packet for the boards review. (See board packet for agreement)

Chairman Atty Rutledge asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Chairman Atty Rutledge welcomed Atty Jeremy Gathe.

Mr. John Barthelemy made a motion to approve action item 5Q and Mr. Richard Hilliard second the motion. Motion Approved.

R. Resolution

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

Martha Ellen Washington Belton

Louis Clark Brock

Ramona D Bynum

Ke’Lin Deneen Dillard Family

Noel Franklin

William Henry “Poppa” Weston

Atty Rutledge added Michael Guess – a graduate of Southern University.

Samuel Tolbert added Ms. Mary Ella Fondel Semien – The aunt of Board Member Raymond Fondel – Co founder of Semien-Lewis Mortuary, LLC in Jennings, LA

Ann Smith added Mary Ann Gordon Harrell – from Amite, LA; graduate of SUBR and SUNO.

Upon motion from Mrs. Ann Smith to approve the read resolutions with the additions and Rev. Samuel Tolbert second the motion. Motion Approved.

Agenda Item 6: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. Fall 2020 Enrollment Update by Campus

Chairman Rutledge asked Dr. Belton to discuss the Fall 2020 Enrollment. Dr. Belton mentioned before the update by campus he wanted to inform everyone that he and Mr. McClinton presented the enrollment at the Board of Regents Meeting on last week and he ask that everyone check out comments. Dr. Belton turned the enrollment update over to Dr. Appeaning. Dr. Appeaning mentioned he will defer to each chancellor to update on their respective campus and each campus had separate presentations that will be shared.

1. Southern University at Baton Rouge

The Southern University at Baton Rouge enrollment was shared for all board members to review. Dr. Appeaning and Dr. Belton gave update. They mention the numbers grow toward the end of year. Chairman Rutledge questioned the university online students. He asked was the 213 online students correct. Dr. Appeaning said yes, that was the number of online students. Chairman Rutledge shared his frustration as it relates to the online enrollment. He mentioned how the enrollment has been low for the last two – three years and it was unacceptable. Chairman Rutledge requested Dr. Belton to provide a written plan to the board in the next thirty (30) days. The plan is to include how he and his team plan to improve the online program. Dr. Belton agreed and will provide such a report as an agenda item in October. He will provide a written report in advance to the meeting.

2. Southern University Law Center

The Southern University Law Center enrollment was shared for all board members to review. Chancellor Pierre gave update. He mentioned this Fall enrollment was the largest in history. Chairman Rutledge congratulates Chancellor Pierre on his Fall enrollment. Dr. Tarver asked Chancellor Pierre if he had a breakdown by law school program? Chancellor gave the breakdown for evening, part-time day, and full-time day students as well as the sessions that are remotely and in person.

3. Southern University at Shreveport

The Southern University at Shreveport enrollment was shared for all board members to review. Chancellor Ellis gave update. Sam Gilliam asked about the number of students compared to the revenue. He also questioned the dual enrollment as it relates to revenue. He notices there is a short fall. What is the plan to address the short fall? Dr. Ellis said that “Dual enrollment population doesn’t generate revenue as others, it is less. He agreed that SUSLA connect is down. He said that as for SUSLA financials, they have plans for the coming year for the drop in enrollment – for academic year

Gilliam commented, “we are on un plotted ground – we will have to give them a mulligan – providing service to students – not reciprocating the revenue to run the campus - just his observations.” No more comments or questions.

4. Southern University at New Orleans

The Southern University at New Orleans enrollment was shared for all board members to review. Dr. Ammons gave update. Dr. Ammons commented on the financials. He mentioned all that has happened since he was placed there in 2019. There were financial problems then came COVID-19 which the Admissions office was impacted by through – sickness and death. He mentioned the next chancellor will have data to guide for growth. There are still some major issues at the institution. Online program enrollment being one of them. There will be an 8 -week short semester which anticipate will increase enrollment – in October. Mrs. Ann Smith mentioned she notice that the high school dual enrollment is keeping SUNO up at this point? Discuss funding and online classes. Dr. Ammons said there was one online program, and he gave a detailed explanation on the budget for funding available and not available and when they release additional funding if needed based on paid students. Mrs. Smith thanked him for his explanation.

Dr. Tarver gave history on the successful program, online museum studying program. He mentioned other campuses has both graduate and undergraduate program. There are professional certificated programs which generate income for institution. Dr. Ammons said he had a Meeting with faculty on yesterday to discuss additional offerings at the institutions in area of certifications – programs like online – where professionals can take advantages of the programs. Mrs. Smith asked how many students in undergraduate for museum study, Dr. Ammons said he will have to get back with board on number. Mr. Gilliam congratulated Dr Ammons and SUNO on SACSCOC. Ammons said he had a village to assist and execute. Thanked the board for their support. It was mentioned that as for the Online programs, the board would like for SUNO to be included in the report from Dr. Belton. How will he improve the online program at SUNO? Chairman Rutledge agreed.

B. Interim Financial Reports (SUS)

The Financial report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021 as of August 31, 2020 was provided by Mr. McClinton for all campuses. He mentioned there the detail information is provided in the board packet but gave a summary of each campus.

SUS – report does not reflect what the registration revenue is. Campuses has been still registering kids. Sept 30 – there will be a more complete report

SUBR and SULC – both are within their revenue target

SUNO – there is a contingency set aside and they have a plan as to how they will address their shortfall. Next month report will provide a more accurate report with real income

Mr. McClinton asked if there were any questions?

There were no questions or comments

C. Medical Marijuana Update

Chancellor Orlando McMeans mentioned that Dr. Janna Snowden will give update. Dr. Snowden thanked the alumni and stake holder for their support. She mentioned there has been an increase and demand for product since the launch. She gave details of the products that were launched and the products that are in the developing phase.

Dr. Snowden informed everyone that due to advertising restrictions, she cannot provide any information on the University website, therefore, the Pharmacy's where products are sold will be located on SUAREC website

She asked if there were any questions.

There were No questions or comments

D. Facilities Planning Project Updates (SUS)

Public Comments:

Name: Dr. Mostafa Elaasar

Email Address: melaasar@suno.edu

Department: Natural Sciences

Summary of Public Comment: What is the status of the built out at Natural Science Building at SUNO? The Physics lab and the research labs do not have enough internet connections. We have requested more connections.

Mr. Eli Guillory acknowledge the board and he addressed the public comment by mentioning that building was not a part of the build out program – as for the internet connections, please contact IT communication – Mr. Derrick James.

Mr. Eli Guillory gave a detailed update on all projects for all the campuses. (all projects displayed on handout which is included in packet)

There were no questions or comments.

Chairman Rutledge thanked Mr. Guillory for the updated report.

Agenda Item 7: OTHER BUSINESS

Chancellor Ellis wanted to inform everyone that SUSLA will be hosting SACSCOC next month.

Chairman Rutledge informed the board members that “the October board meeting will be a in person meeting, he is requesting everyone to prepare for the in-person October meeting. Let him know if there are any questions or concerns.”

He also mentioned “the Evaluations has been pushed back for chancellors/president – the process is under way – should be receiving email next week in reference to the evaluation instrument for president/ chancellor – the evaluations will be discussed at the October meeting. May have to separate and discuss in the October and November meetings. “

Chairman Rutledge asked if there were any questions. There were none. He requested a motion to adjourn.

Agenda Item 8: ADJOURNMENT

Rev. Samuel Tolbert made a motion to adjourn, Mr. John Barthelemy second the motion. Motion passed.