

**Southern University and A&M College System
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

Committee of the Whole

2nd Level, Hyatt Regency New Orleans Hotel

Strand 12 Conference Room

New Orleans, LA

Friday, November 29, 2019

9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Atty. Domoine Rutledge.

Invocation

Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr. introduced Pastor Lionel Johnson, Jr. who will provide the Invocation Pastor Lionel Johnson, Jr. is the pastor of Greater Ebenezer Baptist Church in Plaquemine, La and the Co-Pastor of St. Joseph Baptist Church in St. Gabriel, LA. Pastor Johnson, Jr. is also the Mayor of the City of St. Gabriel and he is the proud father of three children.

PRESENT

Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., Rev. Donald R. Henry, Dr. Curman Gaines, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Mr. Donald Dunbar, Mr. Richard Hilliard, Dr. Leroy Davis, Atty. Edwin Shorty, Atty. Patrick Magee, Mrs. Ann Smith, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Rani Whitfield, Mr. Sam Gilliam, Ms. Arlanda Williams, and Mr. John Barthelemy

ABSENT

None

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING

System President Dr. Ray Belton, Chief of Staff Dr. Katara Williams, Interim Executive Vice President/Executive Vice Chancellor Dr. Bijoy Sahoo, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs Mr. Flandus McClinton, Vice President for Strategic Planning, Policy and Institutional Effectiveness Mr. Vladimir Appeaning, Vice President for External Affairs Dr. Robyn Merrick, Chancellors Dr. James Ammons (Interim - SUNO), Dr. Orlando F. McMeans (SUAREC), Dr. Rodney Ellis (SUSLA), and Atty. John Pierre (SULC).

BOARD COUNSEL

Attys. Winston DeCuir, Jr., and Deidre Robert

AGENDA ITEM 3: ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2020

**Nominations for chair and vice chair were unanimously closed because both candidates were unopposed.*

A. Chairman

Upon the motion by Rev. Donald Henry, Atty Domoine Rutledge was nominated as Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Dr. Leon R. Tarver II made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Sam Gilliam to close the nominations.

Motion passed.

Members vote: 14/15

Dr. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr., - yes
Rev. Donald R. Henry – yes
Dr. Curman Gaines – yes
Dr. Leon R. Tarver II – yes
Mr. Donald Dunbar – yes
Mr. Richard Hilliard – yes
Dr. Leroy Davis – yes
Atty. Edwin Shorty – yes
Atty. Patrick Magee – yes
Mrs. Ann Smith – yes
Mr. Raymond Fondel – no
Dr. Rani Whitfield – yes
Mr. Sam Gilliam – yes
Ms. Arlanda Williams – yes
Mr. John Barthelemy - yes

Atty. Rutledge expressed his gratitude for being selected to serve another year. He thanked the board members for their support. He also thanked his wife Sharmayne and sons Darren and Dillon who were in attendance and recognized them.

B. Vice Chairman

Upon the motion by Rev. Donald Henry, Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr. was nominated as Vice chairman of the board.

There was a motion that was seconded to close the nominations.

Motion passed unanimously. Members vote: 15/15

Rev. Tolbert expressed appreciation to board members for their support. He says he is looking forward to another year.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon the motion and seconded the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 6: ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

The Above and Beyond award was presented to Mr. Charles Bolden who is the Custodian Supervisor at Southern University at New Orleans.

Mr. Derrick James, The Facility Director at Southern University at New Orleans introduced Mr. Bolden and Atty Rutledge made the presentation and commended Mr. Bolden for his hard work. He was congratulated by the board members.

AGENDA ITEM 7: SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

- A. Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner of Higher Education, at the Louisiana Board of Regents**
Greeted members of the Board and acknowledged the importance of higher education in the state and thanked Board members for the invite to present the Louisiana Board of Regents' Master Plan which focus on educational attainment and equity which is credit positive for the state's diverse colleges and universities. Dr. Reed's presentation included slides which addressed the Mission of The Louisiana Board of Regents, Louisiana's Challenge, Funding Trends, three-part focus when increasing attainment, the Return on Investment and the Louisiana's Equity Gap. At the conclusion of her presentation, she addressed questions from the Board Members and thanked them for their attention.

- B. Grambling State University President Rick Gallot**
Was introduced by Atty. Rutledge. Dr. Gallot gave greetings to the audience and thanked everyone for being in New Orleans to support the Bayou Classic event. He also thanked Dr. Belton and all the members of The Board of Supervisors for having him in the room during the board meeting. He was very thankful for friends and his last remark was "He will see everyone in the DOME!"

Atty Rutledge acknowledged Senator Cleo Fields and welcomed him to the podium to make a presentation. Senator Cleo Fields thanked the board members for the opportunity to speak and introduced his special guest and friend Mr. John Carmouche. Mr. John Carmouche presented and donated \$100,000 for the band trip to Pasadena, CA for the Rose Bowl parade to Mr. Kedric Taylor, Director of Bands. He also committed to buying a truck to be used for the football and band equipment. The truck will be wrapped with band and football logo. He presented a picture of the truck to Athletic Director Banks. Atty Rutledge and Dr. Belton thanked Senator Fields and Mr. Carmouche.

C. Marq My Words Foundation Scholarship Presentation

Scholarship that was established in memory of a SU law Center student Miss Marquita Christy. Her mother (Monique Kristy) and sister (Whitney Kristy) thanked the members of the board for allowing them to be at the meeting. They presented a plaque to Miss Trazelle who is the 2019 scholarship recipient and presented a Marq watch to the 2018 scholarship recipient Mr. Jimmy Herring. Atty Rutledge thanked the family for coming and told them “they will continue to be in the SU family prayers.”

Atty Rutledge introduced and recognized elected officials in the room and asked each of them to stand. He also recognized Laquita Thomas, president of the Southern University Alumni Federation, Ms. Verna Brown and Sharonda Dorsey-Quinn with CIA in DC and the Southern University Athletic Director, Roman Banks. AD Banks introduced special guest, Mr. Avery Johnson who was a former SU graduate and basketball player. Mr. Avery Johnson gave a warm thank you to Mr. Roman Banks for inviting him to the Southern University Board of Supervisors meeting. He also thanked Southern University and the Athletic Department for all they did for him while he was at Southern University. Mr. Avery mentioned all that has transpired in his life from his Southern University days until today. He plans to continue to support Southern University. He will be in town for the entire weekend.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ACTION ITEMS

Atty Rutledge informed the members that there was a revision made within the SUNO Campus report. The minutes has been corrected and will be updated on the website

Upon the favorable motion with corrections by Atty Patrick Magee and properly second to approve action items A – J (3) in Globo.

Motion passed.

A. Minutes of the October 18, 2019 Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

B. Request Approval of Certification of SUBR Candidates for Graduation (Fall 2019)

C. Request Approval of Certification of SULC Candidates for Graduation (Fall 2019)

D. Request Approval to Adjust Current Refund Policy for Student Withdrawals (SUBR and SULC)

E. Request Approval for Proposed Tuition Reduction per SCH for Online Programs (SUBR)

F. Request Approval to Exceed the Maximum Transferable Hours for the Registered Nurse (RN) Degree to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree (SUBR)

G. Request Approval to Utilize Prior Year Funds to Support Presidential Scholarships – Fall 2019 – Spring 2020 (SUBR)

H. Request Approval to Award the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to the Honorable Sonny Purdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (SUBR)

I. Request Approval to Increase Clinical Laboratory Fees in the School of Nursing (SUBR)

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

Name	Position/Campus	Salary
1. Terry T. Kidd	Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development (New Appointment) SUSLA	\$116,000.00
2. Janice Sneed	Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development (Title Change) SUSLA	N/A
3. Donnie Wise	Director of Facilities and Risk Management) (New Appointment) SUSLA	\$62,500.00

K. Resolutions

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

- Mrs. Vernon Samuels
- Mrs. Bertha Robinson Stewart
- Mrs. Frankie Mae Pilson
- Mrs. “Y” Jean Whitley

It was moved and properly seconded to adopt the resolutions and commendations.

Motion passed

AGENDA ITEM 9: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Priority Projects Updates, SUS

None

B. Enrollment Assessment Update

Dr. Belton introduced Mr. Gasery who is with Gasery & Associates, LLC. Mr. Gasery provided a snapshot of his observation and findings as of the last couple months. He will provide and present the final report at the end of January. He presented the Top three opportunities for improvement – Behavior/Culture, Communication, and Processes

C. Medical Marijuana Update

Dr. McMean updated the board on the Medical Marijuana program – General Counsel Robert and Winston assisted Dr. McMean with explaining the products and the expansion.

D. System President's Report

Dr. Belton thanked the board for their leadership. He stated, “he had good news and wanted to formally inform everyone that Southern University System has finalized the MOU w/ SASOL. They have given indication of their willingness to establish a \$1 million endowment to support the global service policy within the Nelson Mandela College of Public Government.” Dr. Belton invited Mr. Keith Dooley to come to podium to briefly greet the board with a few words. Mr. Keith Dooley is the Honorary Counsel to the republic of South Africa. He is a 1987 graduate who assisted with the project. Mr. Dooley thanked the board and Dr. Belton for the opportunity to speak briefly on the endowment and he said he would continue to seek funds for the Mandela College. Dr. Belton thanked Mr. Dooley for his leadership and continued support of Southern University.

Dr. Belton and Atty Deidre Robert provided a brief update on a couple of projects that the system is pursuing to provide potential accommodations for the programs and housing for the students on the Baton Rouge campus. Atty Roberts stated “The university has been engaged with the Southern University System foundation in the effort to grow and expand some of the programs. Specifically, the College of Nursing and Allied Health Programs. we've engaged them to work with us in acquiring additional space so that we can grow the program and add additional programming and academic offerings to the College of Nursing and Allied Health.” Atty Robert mentioned the increase in enrollment. She informed the board “they are moving forward on the campus housing plan and have begun working with a consultant on expanding campus housing to include 1000 beds, as well as a new cafeteria for the students. So, as we move forward, we will certainly bring more items to the board for your approval and review with regard to the acquisition of additional space for the university, as well as housing for our students.”

Dr. Belton thanked Atty Robert for the brief update.

In closing, Dr. Belton introduced and recognized the chancellor of the Baton Rouge community college, Mr. Willie Smith. He's Dr. Belton personal guest for the Bayou Classic contest.

CAMPUS REPORTS

SUNO (Dr. James H. Ammons)

Thanked Dr. Belton and Atty Rutledge and the members of the board for the opportunity to serve as interim chancellor of Southern University in New Orleans and thanked them for their support.

Since he's been there, SUNO had a bash for their 60th anniversary of being in existence. It was held at the Hyatt Regency and Gov John Bel Edwards was in attendance.

Dr. Ammons gave an update that they are working on the SACS report. They must show evidence that they are working toward the issues identified in the report. They have a deadline of mid-March. A special committee will visit April 14 through April 16 of 2020.

He stated, “Our team is on the ground, working extremely hard. And I want to say to both of the board members, Edwin Shorty and John Barthelemy, thank you so much for your support and for all of the encouragement that you are giving to the team and to myself.” Dr. Ammons also thanked Dr. Melva Williams for joining the team and thanked Chancellor Ellis for allowing her to work with the team in the area of enrollment management. Dr. Ammons mentioned the staff working with them in the area of accreditation and Academic Affairs, in finance, and in fundraising. Dr. Ammons stated, “We are focusing on first and foremost, increasing revenue and reducing spending. So, we have identified areas of opportunity, enrollment growth, especially focusing on Community College transfers those who have finished in December. We have a course an ongoing relationship with SUSLA, Delgado Community College and Fletcher, and Nunez community colleges. We're also focusing on those students who would like to pursue graduate degrees, especially in areas like social work. We have a major fundraising drive that we kicked out this morning on the radio with Sheryl Underwood. We have a goal of \$1 million between now and the beginning of the year to provide scholarships to students who will come to the institution in general. And we have to do this quickly because as I said, our report is due to SACS in mid-March, we have begun to take a look at the application process under the leadership of Dr. Melva Williams, we now have an automated application process where it's much easier now to apply for admission to the university.”

Dr. Ammons also mentioned, “we’re also looking at accounts receivables, trying to collect those as well as trying to get reimbursements from FEMA. And of course, I think probably the most important thing is that we have to find a way to reduce spending and improve the financial health indicators of the university”

At the conclusion of Dr. Ammons report, he made the announcement that Ms. Gloria Moultrie who is chief administrative officer will retire on December 31, 2019 – He thanked her for her services.

SUSLA – Dr. Rodney Ellis

Recognized the SUSLA Soundwave marching band and dance line that greeted everyone this morning. He mentioned “about three years ago they embarked on the endeavor of trying to start a band and the resources were put in place by Dr. Belton prior to his leaving and I carried it on.” The band will participate in the parade this year. Dr. Ellis recognize Dr. Whitfield and Mr. Fondel for their support on the initiative.

Dr. Ellis mentioned in the past months they have received close to about \$3.5 Million in grants. He thanked Dr. Tarver for his support. He also recognized and thanked Darrin Dixon for his service and support as well as Dr. Belton and Mr. Sam Gilliam and Richard Hilliard.

SUAREC - Dr. Orlando F. McMean

Introduced Mrs. Lisa Williamson, who came in from West Virginia. She will be his new executive assistant starting in January. He also introduced his former colleague, Miss Brunetta Dilliard. Dr. McMeans mentioned “ We just received those notification that we received three grants from the USDA National Institute for food and agriculture, totaling \$900,000.” He thanked Dr. Andre Johnson, who assisted with this project. Dr. McMean” thanked Dr. Belton Chairman Rutledge, and board member Smith, and there are a number of you in this audience who are supporting this effort, but also assessing where the next

steps are as relates to Southern University in the Hamp space. We are going to be in this space, but I think the main thing that I learned from the meetings recently is that we're going to dictate what space that we're in and how we're going to be in that space.”

Dr. McMean mentioned there are will be international projects coming up soon. He thanked Dr. Rueben Walker for his leadership. He thanked everyone for their support in the last 60 days and asked them to look at his report. In his report he speaks of his vision for the Agriculture Center in the College of Agricultural Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. McMeans addressed questions from the board members and thanked them for their support.

SULC - Chancellor John Pierre

Congratulated the chair and Vice chair for being reelected to the board. He thanked Dr. Sahoo for coordinating the viewing of the movie “Just Mercy”. It was a huge success. He also thanked Dr. McMean for assisting with The EMP symposium on Dec 12 – 13, 2019.

Upcoming events

January 11, 2020 – Media Commencement at River Center

January 17 – January 19, 2010 – The SU Law Center will be hosting American Collegiate National MOOT court competition at law center

Atty Rutledge recognized representative elect Jason Hughes, Ed Price, Alicia from the governor’s office, Josh Hollins and Ted James.

SUBR - Dr. Bijoy Sahoo

Now serving in an interim capacity as the Executive Vice President/Executive Vice Chancellor. Thanked the board members and Dr. Belton for the opportunity to serve in the capacity. He mentioned STEM Day on the Baton Rouge campus was a success as well as the viewing of the premier movie “Just Mercy”

Dr. Sahoo offered special thanks to the SU votes for its effort to educating our students on the 2019 election process and encouraging voter participation. The SUBR campus is busy preparing for fall graduation which will be on December 13, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

- Atty Rutledge informed the board members that there will be a board presentation during the pre-game at 3:25 PM. All board members are asked to be at the Ground Level Gate A for 2:30 PM.
- Mr. Fondel thanked Mr. Donald Dunbar and Dr. Robyn Merrick for their efforts during the elections and the push with SU Votes. The number of students who voted in the election increased.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADJOURMENT

Upon the motion by Atty Rutledge and properly seconded the meeting adjourned.

Motion passed.