

**Southern University and A&M College System
March/April Virtual Board of Supervisors Meeting
Committee of the Whole**

Friday, April 24, 2020

9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

The 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

Roll Call by Dr. Ray Belton

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

Absent: Mr. John Barthelemy

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon the motion by Dr. Rani Whitfield and second by Mrs. Ann Smith the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 5: ACTION ITEM(S)

Part 1

A. Minutes of the February 21, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Upon the motion by Mr. Sam Gilliam and second by Dr. Leroy Davis the minutes were recommended for approval. All members present. Motion passed by all 15 members.

B. Request to Establish the David Raines Endowed First-Generation

Undergraduate Scholarship Fund in Nursing and Allied Health (SUSLA) – Dr. Rodney Ellis stated “the request on behalf of SUSLA is for approval to establish the David Raines Community Health Center Endowed First-Generation Undergraduate Scholarship in

Nursing and Allied Health Careers. This endowment is made possible with a \$30k private donation from the David Raines Community Health Center and \$30k from Title III Fund for endowment support, totaling \$60k in non-state contributions. The private donation will be leveraged with \$40k in matching state dollars from the Louisiana Board of Regents to fully endow the fund at \$100k. The Board of Regents established the First-Generation Undergraduate Scholarship match program for the purpose of increasing college access and success for low-income and first-generation students. Dr. Ellis asked if there were any questions.” There were none.

Upon the motion by Mr. Sam Gilliam and second by Dr. Leroy Davis. All members present. Motion passed by all 15 members.

Atty Rutledge recommended reviewing items C and E globally and Dr. Rani Whitfield second the recommendation. Dr. Leroy Davis made a motion to approve Items C and E globally and Rev. Samuel Tolbert second the motion.

All members present for the exception of Mr. John Barthelemy. Mr. John Barthelemy was absent. Motion passed and approved by all 14 members.

Dr. Rani Whitfield made a motion to approve Items D and F globally and Rev. Samuel Tolbert second the motion.

All Members present. Motion passed and approved by all 15 members.

C. Request to Appoint Dr. Fitzgerald Spencer as Professor Emeritus in the College of Sciences and Engineering (SUBR) – Dr. Sahoo mentioned, “he recommends the appointment of Dr. Fitzgerald Spencer as Professor Emeritus at Southern University. Dr. Spencer is a distinguished scholar, professor, scientist, and researcher. His body of work makes him an ideal candidate to receive this honor. Dr. Sahoo said, “the recommendation to appoint Dr. Spencer as Professor Emeritus was unanimously approved by the Academic Council on June 13, 2019. Dr. Spencer comes highly recommended for this appointment and he is an excellent example of how a university professor can successfully blend his research with a commitment to teaching and learning.” Dr. Sahoo is requesting approval of the SUS Board of Supervisors.

D. Request Approval to Rename the Bachelor of General Studies Program to Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Program (SUNO) - Dr. Ammons said “the recommendation to rename the General Studies program at SUNO to Interdisciplinary Studies program. He said the rationale is that the requested new name more appropriately describes the program’s focus, i.e. providing a flexible course of study that establishes an interdisciplinary approach to learning. The program name change necessitates renaming the degree awarded from Bachelor of General Studies to Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, with a change in the Classification of Institutional Program (CIP) code from 24,0101 to 30,0000.” Dr. Ammons is seeking the approval of the SUS Board of Supervisors.

- E. Request Approval of Letter of Intent to Develop an Online Degree Program in Hospitality and Food Industry Leadership (SUBR)** – Dr. Sahoo explained, “the University Curriculum Committee has unanimously approved the Letter of Intent from the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences to develop a Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Hospitality and Food Industry Leadership. The degree program will be a 100% online. He mentioned the proposed program is well aligned with Goal 1 of the Imagine 20K Strategic Plan, which is a commitment to student access and affordability. Dr. Sahoo states he support the proposed program and ask for the SUS Board of Supervisors approval. Asked if there were questions. There were questions from Dr. Leroy Davis, Dr. Leon Tarver II and Mr. Sam Gilliam directed to Dr. McMeans, Dr. Renita Marshall and Dr. Ellis.

In summary, the degree program will be a 100% online “2+2” degree program that target students who have completed a transfer degree from an institution in the Louisiana Technical and Community College System, including SUSLA. There is also an opportunity for students from SUNO to complete this program because it is 100% online. Then the undergraduate program in Business Administration moves online at SUBR, additional students will also be able to take advantage of the program. Upon completion of this program, students will earn the B.S. degree as well as up to three highly valued industry credentials, and the curriculum plan includes an internship along with a global travel opportunity. Currently, there are no 100% online bachelor’s degree programs in hospitality and tourism in Louisiana. This will provide the greatest potential under the Board of Regents’ Funding Formula.

This program will go through the SUBR College of Agriculture. SUSLA and SUNO will collaborate with SUBR. Per Dr Ellis, “SUSLA also has the kitchen incubator.”

In closing All campuses will be involved – One will receive an associate degree in food service industry.

- F. Request Approval of Resolutions for the Conferring of Degrees for the 2020 Spring Semester**

1. Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR) – Per Dr. Sahoo there are 473 prospective students.
2. Southern University New Orleans (SUNO) – Per Dr. Ammons there are 411 students
3. Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA) – Per Dr. Ellis, there are 271 students
4. Southern University Law Center (SULC) – Per Chancellor Pierre, there are 120 students.

Dr. Belton informed the SUS Board of Supervisors that all campus will be collaborating with Thurgood Marshall College Fund to participate in the HBCU Virtual commencement which will be held on May 16. He also mentioned SUBR will have a combined commencement on August 7th for the Spring and Summer graduates. All other campuses are planning virtual acknowledgments in the coming the months.

- J. **Request Approval of Revised Mission Statement (SUNO)** - Dr. Ammons provided a request for approval of the improved mission statement which addresses “teaching and learning and, where applicable, research and public service”. The mission statement is being updated following a detail appraisal of the requirements for compliance with SACSCOC Standard 2.1 Institutional mission (Core Requirement).

Dr. Leon Tarver, II made a motion to approve Item J and Attorney Pat Magee second the motion.

All Members present. Motion passed and approved by 15 members.

Atty Rutledge asked Dr. Sahoo and Dr. Belton to address Items K and M with additional details

Mr. Sam Gilliam made a motion to approve Items K and M globally and Mrs. Ann Smith second the motion.

All Members present. Motion passed and approved by 15 members.

- K. **Request Approval of Fees for Online Graduate Certificate and Supply Chain Management (SUBR)**

Dr. Sahoo mentioned he received approval from Mr. Benjamin Pugh, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and Dr. Belton, President-Chancellor and he was seeking approval of tuition and fees for online Graduate Certificate in Supply Chain Management from the SUS Board of Supervisors. The College of Business at Southern University and A&M College has approval from the Board of Regents to offer the Online Graduate Certificate in Supply Chain Management. The university’s intent is to offer the certificate 100% online beginning the fall 2020. The Office of E-Learning and the College of Business have proposed the tuition and fees for the program in accordance with federal financial aid guidelines and a market analysis of similar programs. They proposed a total program cost of \$5,775.00 which is a competitive price point for this type of non-degree seeking program which includes 1) \$350 per semester credit hour for the 15-semester credit hour program; 2) \$5.00 per credit hour for the mandatory Education Technology Fee; and 3) \$30.00 per credit hour for the Distance Learning Fee for online courses. Currently there are no 100% online graduate certificate program in supply chain management in the State of Louisiana. This is an area where the University can excel and be actively engaged in workforce development in this industry. The proposed program is well aligned with Goal 1 of the Imagine 20K Strategic Plan, which is committed to student access and affordability.

- L. **Request Approval of Action Plan for the distribution of emergency student funds provided by the CARES Act (All Campuses)**

Mr. McClinton provided an update on the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Funding Relief Fund for all campuses. He provided a detailed PowerPoint which explained the distribution for all campuses, explanation of the emergency financial aid grants to

students, institutional portion of higher education emergency relief fund, and university agreement with education department.

After Mr. McClinton presentation, Dr. Leroy Davis had questions as to the deadline to spend funds. Mr. McClinton said the deadline is one year. Dr Davis also asked if there were adequate funds for what had been spent thus far by the university and Mr. McClinton responded that it is sufficient at this time. Dr. Davis last question was can we transfer funds among different campuses? Mr. McClinton mentioned the funds could be transferred but there are qualifications and he didn't know the procedures at this time. There were no other questions.

Dr. Leroy Davis made a motion to approve Item L and Mrs. Ann Smith second the motion. All Members present. Motion passed and approved by all 15 members.

M. Request Approval to adjust fee schedule for online session for Summer 2019 (SUBR)

Dr. Sahoo and Dr. Belton announced that all classes offered for the summer 2020 term on the Baton Rouge campus will be delivered in an online format. The decision requires the University to adjust its fee schedule to ensure our prospective students are not charged fees not applicable during an online session. The University will charge the same general fund fees, academic enhancement fees and technology fees as of Summer 2019. All other Summer 2019 fees will be deleted from the schedule. The University will include any potential losses in revenue from the changes in summer school format as a reimbursable item in future reports. The total full-time recommended is \$2,459.00.

Attorney Patrick Magee made a motion to approve Items N through Q globally and Mr. Raymond Fondel second the motion.

All Members present. Motion passed and approved by all 15 members.

N. Request Approval for iPad fees for Incoming First Year Law Students (SULC)

O. Request Approval of COVID-19 Special Grading Policies

1. Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR)
2. Southern University New Orleans (SUNO)
3. Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA)
4. Southern University Law Center (SULC)

Part 2

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

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Karen Crosby	Dean of The Dolores Margaret Richard Spikes Honors College (New Appointment) SUBR	\$120,000.00	State

2.	Taisheika Davis	Interim Director, Student Financial Aid (Interim Appointment) SUBR	\$72,000.00	State
3.	Zachary Grossi	Asst. Football Coach / Offensive Coordinator (New Appointment) SUBR	\$75,000.00	State
4.	Dawn Kight	Dean of Libraries (New Appointment) SUBR	\$115,000.00	State
5.	Muhammad M. Rahman	Dean of Graduate School (New Appointment) SUBR	\$145,000.00	State
6.	Blanche Smith	Internship / Job Placement Director Nelson Mandela College of Governmental & Social Sciences (New Appointment) SUBR	\$61,893.00	State
7.	Jananna Snowden	Director of the Southern Institute for Medicinal Plants and Medical Marijuana Program Coordinator/Chief Scientist (Additional Duties) SUAREC	\$120,000.00	State/Federal/Auxiliary
8.	Henry Thurman	Assistant Director (Salary Adjustment) SUBR	\$65,000.00	State

Received public comment from Albert Samuels (President of Faculty Senate) - He wants to express support for several of the personnel actions. 1) Dr. Karen Crosby, 2) Dawn Kight, 3) Dr. Muhammad Rahman and 4) Blanche Smith

Q. Request Approval of MOU between California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) – Dr. James Ammons request approval of agreement between Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. SUNO enters into this agreement with the system wide Chancellor's Office for 114 California Community Colleges and 72 Community College districts. The purpose of the agreement is to ensure acceptance of prior coursework and to facilitate the transfer of California Community College students who have completed either An Associate Degree Awarded by a California Community College with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher, that meets all requirements and A minimum of 30 transferrable semester units with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher. In exchange for meeting one of the conditions, California Community College transfer students will be afforded opportunities.

After Dr. Ammons gave detail of the MOU, Atty Rutledge asked if there were any questions or comments for Dr. Ammons. Mr. Sam Gilliam asked if Dr. Ammons have any plans to do virtual marketing? Dr. Ammons said, “the virtual marketing is underway and has been prior to and will be after the virus is over.”

Atty Rutledge thanked Dr. Ammons for all his work and moved to the next agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 6: INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

A. Pathway Legal Education Options for the City of Shreveport (SULC) – A detail report was given on the proposal by Chancellor John Pierre.

Dr. Pierre mentioned the proposal is to establish a pathway for increasing legal education capacity in the Shreveport/Bossier region by the Southern University Law Center in repose to the report to the Board of Regents by NCHEMS. NCHEMS conducted a study and prepared a report that: (a) assessed the demand for legal education in the Shreveport/Bossier region and (b) explored alternative scenarios to increase legal education capacity in the Shreveport/Bossier Region. NCHEMS made several conclusions that SULC agree with.

Dr. Pierre mentioned the conclusions that SULC agreed with in detail and spoke of the different phases of the Pathway to a Branch Campus. In conclusion, Dr. Pierre stated “the information provided was information for now and request the SUS Board of Supervisors will need to vote next month. He will need Board approval to move forward.” Atty Rutledge said, “Duly noted.” Atty Rutledge asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Sam Gilliam said that “Chancellor did an accurate job in covering the subject and he was speaking on behalf of the local community. He mentioned the local community is truly supporting Chancellor Pierre’s proposal.

Dr. Leon Tarver and Mr. Fondel also complimented Chancellor on a well-planned document.

Dr. Belton commended Chancellor Pierre and spoke on the momentum in the community. He encouraged him to begin to secure commitments for feasible proposal. Ask that he take advantage of those who has expressed support of the proposal thus far.

Atty Rutledge thanked everyone for their comments.

B. Finance Update

1. Interim Financial Reports

Mr. McClinton gave a brief overview of the General Operating Budget Financial Statement for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 As of March 31, 2020. He mentioned he will be watching revenues going forward.

Dr. Leroy Davis commented on LSU article and ask Mr. McClinton about

C. COVID – 19

1. SUS COVID-19 Update –
2. Louisiana Health Equity Taskforce

Dr. Katara Williams gave details on both the SUS and LA Health Equity taskforces. Dr. Curman Gaines gave kudos to Dr. Williams.

Atty Rutledge thanked the board staff – Tracey and Bob and IT staff – Clourth and Marcus for all their hard work in making this virtual meeting possible. He also thanked Dr. Williams and her team for all the work on the SU campus with the COVID-19 Updates that were received each day. The board were informed in detail. He asked that she give updates once a week and not daily. Atty Rutledge also thanked Senator Fields for his leadership and for bringing the need for the taskforce to the governor and choosing Dr. Sandra Brown to be one of the co-chairs. “We are very proud of Dr. Brown and her leadership. “

D. Legislative Update

Dr. Robyn Merrick gave an update on all “SU System Bills” bills to be voted on during the 2020 Regular Session. For reference, she provided a “SU System Bill Tracking” for the 2020 Regular Session. She gave an update on each bill. Dr. Merrick mentioned there may be a special session to address the budget issues. The special session won’t be decided until session resumes.

During Dr. Merrick discussion, Dr. Leroy Davis had a comment, he said, “I would like to congratulate Ms. Janna Snowden on her new appointment and I am requesting that she give an update on Medical Marijuana next meeting and let us know where we are with the marijuana contract and the process.”

Dr. Merrick shared the pictures of the new projects on campus which included the Mini Dome that now has SU etched on top, the beautiful landscaping around the campus and the mini dome

Mrs. Ann Smith and Dr. Rani Whitfield thanked Mr. Eli Guillory for all his work and the updates on the Mini Dome. His help on all the changes is appreciated. Dr. Whitfield mentioned, “ Mr. Guillory has been good in sharing with the facilities committee and keeping them informed on all campus project. He appreciated it and Good Job Mr. Guillory. “

After Dr. Merrick ‘s legislative update, Atty Rutledge asked if there were any comments or questions. Dr. Leroy Davis asked to speak, and he asked Dr. Bijoy Sahoo several question about Dr. Muhammad to which he discussed in detail. Dr. Leroy closed with the comment, “he is hoping Dr. Muhammad come and make a difference in the program.”

Atty Rutledge thanked Dr. Davis for his comments and moved to the next item on the agenda.

E. Resolutions

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

- Mrs. Elnora Chapman Anderson
- Professor Jacqueline Paige-Green
- Miss Mieisha Betty Melton

- Dr. Nusrat Hasan Naqvi
- Mr. Nichollas Darren Perkins
- Ms. Mary Margaret Pierre
- Dr. Philip Quartararo, Jr.
- Ms. Lillie Pearl Frank Richard
- Mr. Norman Joseph Jude St. Amant
- Mr. Gregory Warren, Sr.

COVID 19 Cases

SUSLA Campus

- Rev. Dr. Ronnie A Hampton
- Ms. Delores Surles
- Mr. Leonard Whitehurst
- Mrs. Thelma Clark

SUNO Campus

- Mr. Shapiro D. Meadows
- Ms. Kendra D. Johnson

Mr. Raymond Fondel request to add Eda Peete and Pamela Matthews to the list.
Mr. Sam Gilliam added Family of Rev Harry Blake – Shreveport Community to the list
It was also mentioned to include the number of COVID in our number – all that are affected by the virus at this time. Continue to enforce the CDC requirements from Governor.

Rev. Samuel Tolbert made a motion to adopt the resolution and second by Dr. Leroy Davis and Mr. Sam Gilliam.

All Members present. Motion passed and approved by all 15 members.

AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Robyn Merrick requested everyone to activate their video so she can take a picture of the screen with all members.

Mr. John Barthelemy and Mr. Raymond Fondel commented on Safety. Mr. Fondel mentioned the safety on campus and how we need to come up with a plan for the entrances and make sure it is safe coming back and recommend having a consultant and recommended General Honore' who is an esteemed alum.

Dr. Belton gave additional details of the SUS taskforce and the LA Health Taskforce.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

Rev. Samuel Tolbert made a motion to adjourn, Dr. Leon Tarver, II second the motion.
Motion passed.