

**Southern University and A&M College System
July Special Virtual Board of Supervisors Meeting
Committee of the Whole
Friday, July 6, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

The virtual 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. Raymond Fondel, Jr., Dr. Curman Gaines, Mr. Bakari Garvey, Mr. Sam Gilliam, Atty. Patrick Magee, Atty Ed Shorty, Mrs. Ann Smith, Dr. Leon Tarver II, Mrs. Arlanda Williams, and Mr. John Barthelemy

Absent: Mr. Richard Hilliard and Dr. Rani Whitfield

AGENDA ITEM 5: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon the motion by Atty. Edwin Shorty and second by Dr. Leon Tarver, II the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Action Item 7A(10) – Comment from Kerry Murphy – representing Dr. Cheryl Taylor – “In light of litigation filed on Dr. Taylor’s behalf we respectfully request that the agenda item related to Dr. Taylor be tabled at this time and further request that at such time as the board does discuss this matter, that it be addressed in Executive Session and she and legal representative be allowed to participate.”

Atty Rutledge mentioned “we duly note the public comment. Thank you for reading it Dr. Belton. I believe we’ve already taken action that’s largely consistent with the request.”

AGENDA ITEM 7: ACTION ITEM(S)

Atty Rutledge asked that President Belton and Chancellor Pierre discuss the personnel Action Items.

Dr. Belton discussed in detail the request for favorable consideration for action items two, three and seven. He stated, “those actions speak to our efforts to revise the new division of enrollment management and student success. And accordingly, we accept your endorsement of a new Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management and Students Success and Executive Director of Admissions and Recruitment and a new Director of Enrollment Student Services. In addition, we have action item six for your consideration which is an appointment that provides for us the opportunity to facilitate online delivery of instruction by appointing someone as an Instructional Designer. And then lastly, actions five and ten. We have two positions that comes from the College of Allied Health and Nursing. One new appointment of an assistant professor and secondly, the transfer of a former chair to the role of Associate Professor of Nursing in accordance we ask for your favorable consideration of those six personnel actions, and I'm available for any questions that you may have.”

Atty Rutledge asked if there were any questions for Dr. Belton before allowing Chancellor Pierre to speak on the remaining action items.

Atty Edwin Shorty had a question about the Associate Professor of nursing transfer. He mentioned “the information in the packet about the transfer was pretty vague and he wanted a better explanation for the transfer. He wasn't sure If there was a need for an executive session but the information in the packet didn't give a lot of reasoning.” Dr. Leroy Davis had the same question as Atty Shorty. President Belton and Atty Rutledge asked Atty Cori Blache to address Atty Shorty. She mentioned that “It might be best for us to go into an executive session. But this was a request based upon Dean Brown, who is the Dean of the nursing school, who has requested that Dr. Taylor return as the Associate Professor in nursing and that she would get a new chair.” Atty Shorty requested additional information and suggested to go into executive session. Atty Rutledge explained to the members “that Atty Shorty is requesting to go into executive session but unfortunately, we did not give proper notice on this agenda to permit us to go into Executive Session.” Atty Rutledge mentioned he will come back to Attorney Shorty request and asked Chancellor Pierre to speak on the Law Center personnel items.

Chancellor Pierre mentioned “. I have four personnel actions I am requesting for this board to approve. This is certain with respect to the recent approvals of the plans for the Southern University Law Center. To create that Pathway to legal education Opportunities in Shreveport. I've had discussions with the Caddo parish convention and one of the first steps we agreed to take was to create a SULC OCIS working group that consists of SULC employees and stakeholders from Shreveport community to include Southern University System Board members from the Shreveport area. As to the working group members from the SULC faculty and staff, I am requesting salary adjustments for those individuals to take on additional duties. We will probably add two more individuals later. But I wanted to start with these four to start working with members of the Caddo parish Commission and the city of Shreveport and then I would assume that we will want the board members from Shreveport to be part of this whole process as we begin to Look forward to this Pathway to Legal Education in Shreveport. So, I wanted to get that going immediately. “Atty Rutledge asked if there were any questions or comments for Chancellor Pierre. He acknowledged Mr. Sam Gilliam.

Mr. Sam Gilliam mentioned “being a community stakeholder in Shreveport, it's been great excitement about the probability and possibility of this initiative in Shreveport which is in northwest Louisiana.” He commended Chancellor Pierre for all his hard work with the feasibility

study and the explanation for the four areas he is recommending. He feels honored and privilege and ask the cooperation and concurrence of his fellow board members and offer a motion to approve this portion of the personnel actions.

Mr. Sam Gilliam made a motion to approve all items 1 – 9 for the exception of item 10 which is in question. The motion was second. Motion passed.

As for Item 10, Atty Rutledge informed the members that Atty Blache emailed him to inform him that counsel for Dr. Taylor has filed a law suit this morning with the District Court against the university and the board. So, before they can have a public discussion about this item, they may need to push the pause button to give legal counsel and the legal committee time to look at the petition that was filed this morning and some of the legal circumstances surrounding it. There was discussion around Dr. Taylor being paid for a job that somebody else is doing. Atty Rutledge suggest once the committee gets comfortable with all information, he recommends the board have another special meeting to decide on that item alone. Everyone agreed that was fair. Atty Shorty and Dr. Davis agree with Atty Rutledge.

Atty Shorty made a motion and Dr. Leroy Davis second the motion to refer this item 10 to the Legal Affairs Committee, and the committee will report back to the full board with the recommendation. There were no objections. Motion passed.

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

Name	Position/Campus	Salary	Funding Source
1. Deleso Alford	OCIS Director (Additional Duties) SULC	\$135,000.00	State
2. Manicia Finch	Director of Enrollment Student Services (New Appointment) SUBR	\$67,000.00	State
3. Heather Freeman	Executive Director of Admissions and Recruitment (New Appointment) SUBR	\$75,000.00	State
4. Angela Gaines	OCIS Facilities Coordination (Additional Duties) SULC	\$96,000.00	State
5. Ruby Sheree Miller	Assistant Professor SU School of Nursing (New Appointment) SUBR	\$70,000.00	State
6. Jennifer Page	Instructional Designer (New Appointment) SUBR	\$75,000.00	State
7. Jacqueline Gibson Preastly	VC of Enrollment Management and Student Success (New Appointment) SUBR	\$130,000.00	State
8. Andrienne Shields	OCIS Library Resource Coordination (Additional Duties) SULC	\$90,000.00	State

9.	Gregory Speyrer	OCIS Technology Coordination (Additional Duties) SULC	\$87,000.00	State
10.	Dr. Cheryl Taylor	Associate Professor of Nursing (Transfer) SUBR	\$80,000.00	State

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

Atty Rutledge provided the board with a few housekeeping matters. “We did not plan to have another meeting in July, but we may have to meet to discuss the personnel matter we just referred to the Legal Affairs Committee. I am not sure, there may be just a special meeting to address the item. It was my plan; it was my hope that we would have a face to face meeting in August. But driven by several things. I am not sure whether the governor is going to extend the executive order to continue having virtual meetings or not. And I don't know whether it is going to be safe for us to meet in August face to face, although it was my hope that we would so please bear with us, we're just going to try to follow this thing while I monitor this as close as I possibly can and make a decision in real time. In light of this, we have made some decisions to enhance our technology capabilities, which I believe will result in significant cost savings which I will be sharing with you via email later today. I again want to thank the board staff who have been working around the clock. I know the President's staff, the various Chancellor's who've been working to try to get their various units ready to receive students in August. We ask for your patience as we try to wade through issues. Are there any other business or any other items that anybody would like to offer before we adjourn here? “

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion and second to adjourn. Motion passed.

Atty Rutledge advised everyone to stay safe!