

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Tuesday, September 2, 2011  
Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Southern University - Baton Rouge

**Minutes**

The Special Meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was convened by the Chairman, Mr. Darren G. Mire. The invocation was given by Mr. Montrell McCaleb.

**PRESENT**

Mr. Darren G. Mire – Chair  
Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr. – Vice Chair  
Mr. Patrick W. Bell  
Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Sr.  
Atty. Tony W. Clayton  
Atty. Walter C. Dumas  
Dr. Eamon M. Kelly  
Atty. Warren A. Forstall  
Mr. Willie E. Hendricks  
Atty. Patrick O. Jefferson  
Mr. Myron K. Lawson  
Mrs. Ann A. Smith  
Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.  
Mr. Demetrius Sumner, Student Member

**UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING**

System President Ronald Mason, Jr.  
Evola Bates, Chief of Staff  
System Vice Presidents Kevin Appleton, and Tony Moore  
Chancellors Ray Belton (SUSLA), Freddie Pitcher (SULC),  
James Llorens (SUBR), Victor Ukpolo (SUNO), and  
Leodrey Williams (SUAREC)

**BOARD COUNSEL**

Attys. Winston DeCuir, Jr., and Tracie Woods

**AGENDA ITEM 3: MEETING NOTICE AND WAIVER**

On motion of Atty. Bell, seconded by Mr. Bell, the Board voted to waive the 10-day notice required by the Bylaws for Special Meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

On motion of Atty. Forstall, seconded by Mr. Bell, the agenda was adopted, as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Numerous members of the SUBR faculty and Staff and a member of the SUNO faculty spoke in opposition to Agenda Item 6A: Declaration of Financial Emergency/Exigency at SUBR. Several cites the adverse results such action could have on the University's continuing growth and development.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: ACTION ITEMS**

##### **A. Declaration of Financial Emergency/Exigency at SUBR**

SUBR Faculty Senate representatives reported that less than 90% of the SUBR faculty had signed a voluntary furlough agreement, which was necessary in order to avoid a declaration of financial exigency by the Board. The Faculty Senate representatives requested additional time to acquire the necessary signatures.

Chancellor Llorens presented the Administration's rationale for requesting a declaration of financial exigency by the Board. Citing a lack of optimism for obtaining 90% faculty signatures on voluntary furlough agreements, the Chancellor predicted that the University would experience serious challenges for balancing its budget.

In response to an inquiry from a member of the audience in regards to the implementation of staff furloughs at the System level, President Mason noted that:

- 1.) A recommendation was before the Board from SUBR for the resolution of its financial issue.
- 2.) The System's Staff was reduced during the previous fiscal year by 50% which resulted in a budget savings of one million dollars.
- 3.) Implementation of additional staff furlough at the System would generate only \$75,000

4.) No recommendations will be made to the Board from the President for Staff reductions at the System level.

5.) Should 90% of the SUBR faculty members sign the voluntary furlough agreements, the President would match their 10% cut with a 10% cut in his salary.

Suggestions were offered by Board Members and faculty representatives to require furlough of faculty for one year only. Dr. Llorens' response noted that one-year furloughs will only continue SUBR's current financial situation.

Continuing, Dr. Llorens reemphasized that his recommendation for the declaration of financial exigency was to enable the Administration to present to the Board a balanced budget; and, to give the Administration the flexibility to restructure the University.

A motion was offered by Atty. Magee and seconded by Atty. Bell, for the Board to approve a Resolution which declared that:

- A financial emergency exists for Southern University – Baton for the 2011-12 fiscal year;
- The Board approves the preliminary retrenchment plan presented by the President;
- The Board authorizes the President and the Chancellor to present an academic and administrative reorganization plan no later than the November 2011 Board Meeting;
- The Board approves the revised summer salary formula for faculty;
- The Board authorizes the President and Chancellor to commence with furloughs of all Southern University – Baton employees, as described in their plan; and
- The Board will take additional actions during the fiscal year to amend, reinstate, or remove this declaration between November 2011 and June 30, 2012.

A substitute motion was made by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Rev. Tolbert to allow SUBR Faculty representatives seventy-two hours to obtain the necessary signatures of 90% of the faculty in order to avoid a declaration of financial exigency by the Board of Supervisors; and, to schedule a special meeting of the Board for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 to act on the SUBR financial issue.

The substitute motion carried. Roll Call Vote: 12 yeas; Mire, P. Bell, Braxton, Clayton, Dumas, Forstall, Gaines, Jefferson, Lawson, Smith, Sumner and Tolbert; 4 nays: M. Bell, Hendricks, Kelly, and Magee; and 0 abstentions.

On motion of Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Braxton, the Board voted to waive the ten-day notice requirement for the Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 6.

Motion carried unanimously.

Faculty Senate representatives indicated that they would work during the interim to obtain the additional signatures. Board Counsel Tracie Woods has agreed to assist in verifying the signatures.

**AGENDA ITEM 6B: APPROVAL OF THE 2011-12 OPERATING BUDGET, SUBR**

Deferred.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. Bell, the meeting was adjourned.

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