

Southern University and A&M College System
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
9 a.m.
Friday, November 23, 2018

Minutes

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Mrs. Ann A. Smith. The invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Herbert H. Rowe, Pastor of Upperroom Bible Church of New Orleans, LA.

PRESENT

Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Mr. John Barthelemy, Atty. Tony Clayton, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr., Mr. Richard Hilliard, Ms. Xaviera Jeffers, Atty. Patrick Magee, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Mr. Mike Small, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, and Dr. Rani Whitfield

ABSENT

None

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING

System President Ray Belton, Chief of Staff Katara Williams, Executive Vice President/Executive Vice Chancellor James Ammons, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs Flandus McClinton, Vice President for Strategic Planning, Policy and Institutional Effectiveness Vladimir Appeaning, Vice President for External Affairs Robyn Merrick, Chancellors Dr. Lisa Mims Devezin (SUNO), Dr. Bobby Phills (SUAREC), Dr. Rodney Ellis (SUSLA), and Atty. John Pierre (SULC).

BOARD COUNSEL

Attys. Winston DeCuir, Jr., and Deidre Robert

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon the motion by Atty. Patrick Magee and seconded by Dr. Curman Gaines the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 5: ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

The Above and Beyond award was presented to Board of Supervisors staff members Michael Wells and Maya Banks. Board member Fondel presented the plaque to Mr. Wells and Board Vice Chair Donald Ray Henry made the presentation to Maya Banks. Board Chair Ann Smith commended the office staff for their support of the Board's work. They were congratulated also by President-Chancellor Belton.

AGENDA ITEM 6: SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

- A. **Dr. Andra Johnson** introduced and recognized **Dr. Dawn Mellion-Patin** for being awarded the 2018 George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. Dr. Mellion-Patin thanked members of the Board for recognizing her achievement and said that she receiving the award was an honor. She also said that she enjoys going to work at Southern University and that she is happy to serve.
- B. **Dr. Rani Whitfield** and **Atty. Edmond Jordan, LA State Representative District 29**
Dr. Whitfield spoke about the work of Professor Angela Bell, professor, SU Law Center and her non-unanimous jury legislation. He attended Professor Bell was unable to attend so Atty. Jordan was recognized for his work on the legislation. Atty. Jordan thanked Dr. Whitfield and SULC Chancellor Pierre. He spoke about the strategy for developing the legislation stating that Southern University was responsible for educating and instilling a sense of pride in the attorneys who worked on the project.
- C. **Presentation of Scholarship in Memory of Marquita Christy**
Chancellor John Pierre stated that SU Law Center student Marquita Christy passed away suddenly. She was the student representative to the American Bar Association and very active at the law center. The University awarded her degree posthumously in May. Her family has established a scholarship and foundation in her honor. Her mother and sister were in attendance to present the first scholarship to SU Law Center student Jimmy C. Herring.
- D. **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 their service in making sure that the needs of the students are met. She said that she is reviewing the University's strategic plan.
- E. **Mr. D.L. Wallace of the Success Training Institute of Dallas, TX** Mr. D.L. Wallace, CEO of the Success Training Institute of Dallas, TX attended the meeting to announce that the scholarships would be provided to SU students who enroll in courses at the Success Training Institute. The Institute offers cutting edge technology that allows users to earn soft skill certifications in dozens of courses; including leadership, time management, effective decision making and conflict resolution. He cited business research regarding the fact that many people lack soft skills.
- F. **Presentations to Board Chair Ann Smith and Vice Chair Donald Ray Henry**
President Chancellor Belton presented plaques to Board Chair Ann Smith and Vice Chair Donald Henry for their service. Board member Leroy Davis presented a crystal gavel to outgoing Board Chair Ann Smith for her leadership and service. Mrs. Smith thanked Board members for their support and willingness to serve in whatever capacity that she requested. Board member Tony Clayton presented a crystal award to outgoing Chairman Donald Ray Henry who thanked members of the Board with a song, *Touch Somebody's Life*.
- G. **Advance BioMedics presentation** SU Agricultural, Research and Extension Chancellor Bobby Phills introduced Dr. Chanda Macias of Advanced Biomedics who presented a \$.2 million check to the University for the medical cannabis project. Dr. Macias gave an update on progress towards growing stating that environmental testing has begun and that the company has made 2 local hires for the site. Dr. Macias introduced business partner Oludare Odumosu, Chief Operating Officer for Ilera Healthcare who has a doctorate in biochemistry and a Master's in Public Health-epidemiology. He has spent 10 years in corporate pharmaceutical business development and strategic alliance management. He is a vertically integrated grower, processor and dispenser of medicinal marijuana in Pennsylvania. He expressed his excitement to work with the University's medical cannabis initiative and said he looks forward to beginning work.

Chair Ann Smith recognized Board member Tony Clayton. Atty. Clayton took a point of personal privilege and upon his motion and seconded by Dr. Leroy Davis, Chair Ann Smith was recommended to be named Chairman Emeritus.

The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2019

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

A. Chairman

Upon the motion by Dr. Leon R. Tarver II and seconded by Atty. Clayton, Atty. Domoine Rutledge was nominated as Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Atty. Clayton also asked that the nominations be closed.

Motion passed unanimously.

Atty. Rutledge expressed his gratitude for being selected to serve and said he knows that he has big shoes to fill. He thanked board members for their support. He said he is approaching the position with the heart of a servant and that he is looking forward to working with each Board member. He also thanked his family including his wife Sharmayne and sons Darren and Dillon who were in attendance and recognized them.

B. Vice Chairman

Upon the motion by Dr. Rani Whitfield and seconded by Mr. Raymond Fondel, the Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr. was nominated as vice chairman of the board.

Atty. Clayton made a motion that was seconded by Rev. Donald Henry to close the nominations.

Motion passed unanimously.

Reverend Tolbert expressed appreciation to board members for their support. He said his plan is to support the chairman. He says he is looking forward to working together. He also thanked his family.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ACTION ITEMS

Upon the motion by Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Mr. John Barthelemy to approve **action items A, B, C, D, F and H** in globo.

A. Approval of Minutes of the October 26, 2018 regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the minutes of the October 26, 2018 regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, be and they are hereby approved.

B. Approval of Minutes of the November 12, 2018 special meeting of the Board of Supervisors

Atty. Rutledge clarified the motion that he made with regard to Action items A, B and C during the November 12, special meeting of the Board. He wanted to make sure that the resolution was

included in the motion for adoption by the Board and to make sure that the resolution is included in the minutes. He also noted a correction to the date of the meeting as indicated in the minutes. The date should be November 12.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the minutes of the November 12, 2018 special meeting of the Board of Supervisors, be and they are hereby approved.

C. Request Approval of Certification of SUBR Candidates for Graduation (Fall 2018)

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Fall 2018 Commencement Resolution for degree candidates at Southern University-Baton Rouge be and it is hereby approved.

D. Request Approval of Certification of SULC Candidates for Graduation (Fall 2018)

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Fall 2018 Commencement Resolution for degree candidates at the Southern University Law Center be and it is hereby approved.

E. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Southern University System (SUS) and the Bernhard Group for Energy Conservation

Dr. Belton invited Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business Affairs Benjamin Pugh to the podium. Mr. Pugh introduced Developer Ken Bernhard and Michael Durham General Counsel of Bernhard Comprehensive Energy Solutions. Because of the RFP that the University put out, Bernhard was awarded the project and performed a comprehensive energy solution. A copy of the plan was distributed to each member. An energy audit was performed and there are two components of the energy conservation plan—LED lighting or lighting conversion for the campus and includes interior and exterior lighting and automation and air controls for comfort improvement. The central plant will be able to control temperatures \$12.3 million project and will guarantee energy savings. \$700,000 will be advanced to the University. Bernhard will finance the project.

Upon the motion by Dr. Leroy Davis and seconded by Atty. Magee that the MOU between the Southern University System and the Bernhard Group for Energy Conservation was recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

1 abstention-Atty. Tony Clayton

Atty. Rutledge wanted to make sure that the MOU is non-binding. Chair Smith stated that it is non-binding and the contract would be presented to the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting. Atty. Rutledge stated that the official contract would outline the terms.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Southern University System and the Bernhard Group for energy conservation be and it is hereby approved.

F. Request Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement SUNO and LCMC Health Clinical Services, LLC D/B/A NOLA Physicians Group

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for SUNO and LCMC Health Clinical Services, LLC D/B/A NOLA Physicians Group be and it is hereby approved.

G. Request Approval of the SU System Strategic Plan

President-Chancellor Belton distributed copies of the University's revised strategic plan. He stated that the plan was developed as a result of a 2-day retreat that was held in New Orleans recently. He invited Vice President Vladimir Appeaning to make the presentation. Dr. Appeaning presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board and stated that the plan bridges economic development and higher education. He said that the goal is to raise Louisiana's attainment levels. He explained that the plan was developed in conjunction with all of the other campuses in the SU System. The group developed a mission and vision and 7 shared goals. He explained the core values, goals, and mission.

Upon the motion by Dr. Leroy Davis and seconded by Dr. Curman Gaines that the Strategic Plan for the SU System was recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Strategic Plan for the Southern University System be and it is hereby approved.

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

Rev. Gant expressed concern that the Board has not done its due diligence in some of the personnel recommendations presented for consideration. He stressed that there are persons being recommended in key positions.

Board member Leroy Davis stated that heard from the "street committee" that one of the candidates Tavares Walker made disparaging remarks on social media about his proposed personnel action during the Board's October meeting. Dr. Tarver questioned whether the University's social media policy addresses the remarks made.

Dr. Belton offered clarification on proposed candidate in item H1 Dawn Harris. He said that as recommended by Rev. Gant during the Board's October meeting, a search was conducted. Five applications were received and only 2 of the candidates met the qualifications according to the position description.

In addition, Dr. Belton stated that over the last year Tavares Walker has provided leadership on several Title IX complaints. He stated that his legal experience has been invaluable to the SU System. Atty. Clayton also said that he supports the recommendation and knew Walker as a good employee.

Board Chair Ann Smith suggested a roll call vote for personnel action items.

1. Dawn Harris, Director of Human Resources (SUBR), New Appointment, \$90,000

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Atty. Magee, new appointment of Dawn Harris' as director of human resources, SUBR, at a salary of \$90,000 was recommended for approval.

Yay – Smith, Henry, Barthelemy, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Hilliard, Jeffers, Magee, Rutledge, Small, Tarver, Tolbert, Whitfield

Nay – Davis, Gant

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the new appointment of Dawn Harris as director of human resources, SUBR, at a salary of \$90,000 be and it is hereby approved.

2. Stephen Findley, Director of Facilities & Risk Management (SUSLA) new appointment, \$63,000

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Dr. Leroy Davis, the new appointment of Stephen Findley as Director of Facilities & Risk Management, SUSLA, at a salary of \$63,000 was recommended for approval.

Yay – Smith, Henry, Barthelemy, Clayton, Davis, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Hilliard, Jeffers, Magee, Rutledge, Small, Tarver, Tolbert, Whitfield

Nay – None

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the new appointment of Stephen Findley as Director of Facilities and Risk Management, SUSLA, at a salary of \$63,000 be and it is hereby approved.

3. Tiffany Freeman, Director of Student Life (SUBR), new appointment, \$62,000

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Xavieria Jeffers the appointment of Tiffany Freeman as director of Student Life, SUBR, at a salary of \$62,000 be tabled until a subsequent meeting of the Board.

Yay – Smith, Henry, Barthelemy, Clayton, Davis, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Hilliard, Jeffers, Magee, Rutledge, Small, Tarver, Tolbert, Whitfield

Nay – None

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the new appointment of Tiffany Freeman as Director of Student Life, SUBR, at a salary of \$62,000 be and it is hereby tabled.

4. Leslie McClellon, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Economic Development

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Ms. Xavieria Jeffers, the title change for Leslie McClellon as Assistant to the Chancellor for Economic Development, SUSLA, at a salary of \$84,048 was recommended for approval.

Yay – Smith, Henry, Barthelemy, Clayton, Davis, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Hilliard, Jeffers, Magee, Rutledge, Small, Tarver, Tolbert, Whitfield

Nay – None

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the title change of Leslie McClellon, as Assistant to the Chancellor for Economic Development, SUSLA, at a salary of \$84,048 be and it is hereby approved.

5. Kerri Landry Thomas, Title IX Coordinator/Director of Career Services (SULC), \$90,000

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee, the new appointment of Kerri Landry Thomas as Title IX Coordinator/Director of Career Services, SULC, at a salary of \$90,000 was recommended for approval.

Yay – Smith, Henry, Barthelemy, Clayton, Davis, Fondel, Gaines, Gant, Hilliard, Jeffers, Magee, Rutledge, Small, Tarver, Tolbert, Whitfield

Nay – None

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the new appointment of Kerri Landry Thomas, as Title IX Coordinator/Director of Career Services, SULC, at a salary of \$90,000 be and it is hereby approved.

6. Tavares Walker, System Director of Compliance and Ethics and Associate General Counsel (SUS), \$105,000

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Dr. Rani Whitfield, the new appointment of Tavares Walker as Title IX Coordinator/Director of Career Services, SULC, at a salary of \$105,000 was recommended for approval.

Yay – Smith, Henry, Barthelemy, Clayton, Fondel, Gaines, Hilliard, Jeffers, Magee, Rutledge, Small, Tarver, Tolbert, Whitfield

Nay – Davis, Gant

Abstain: Fondel, Henry

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the new appointment of Tavares Walker, System Director of compliance and Ethics and Associate General Counsel (SUS), at a salary of \$105,000 be and it is hereby approved.

I. Leave Requests

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Ms. Xavieria Jeffers, the leave requests for Sharon Williams Chriss, Stanley Halpin, and Russell Jones were recommended for approval in globo.

Motion passed.

1. Sharon Williams Chriss, medical leave

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the medical leave for Sharon Chriss be and it is hereby approved.

2. Stanley Halpin, medical leave

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the medical leave for Stanley Halpin be and it is hereby approved.

3. Russell Jones, sabbatical leave

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the sabbatical leave for Russell Jones be and it is hereby approved.

J. Resolutions

Condolences were extended to:

The Curley McClyde Dossman Family

The Jason J.J. Senegal Family

The Syble Ann Bazile Joseph Family

The Janette Hoston Harris Family

The Octavia Fulton Johnson Brandon Family

The Abe Warner, Jr. Family

AGENDA ITEM 9: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Priority Projects Updates, SUS

SU System Director of Facilities Eli Guillory presented updates to projects at all campuses. A written report was included in the meeting packet.

B. Interim Financial Report as of October 31, 2018

System Vice President Flandus McClinton presented the interim financial report which was included in the meeting packet.

C. System President's Report

Dr. Belton thanked members of the Board for their support of the various initiatives that were presented to them over the last year. He acknowledged several persons including Rev. Theron Jackson, pastor of the Morning Star Baptist Church of Shreveport. Rev. Jackson hosted his annual day of hope service recently and presented a monetary donation of \$25,000 that will be divided by Southern University and Grambling University. D. Belton also announced that the University would be participating in the first White House initiative with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He recognized Quin Haden, Senior Executive with the CIA for outreach and engagement and also CIA Executive Verna Brown who is also a Southern University alumna. SU National Alumni President LaQuitta Thomas and Executive Director of Alumni Affairs Derrick Warren also recognized alumnus Lavell Ford, who is a dentist in Houston, TX who presented a \$150,000 donation to the University in honor of Bernard and Ezola Duncan.

Dr. Belton also recognized former Board Member Darren Mire who was in the audience and Louisiana State Representatives Ken Brass and Denise Marcelle and Louisiana State Senator Ed Price.

D. Campus Reports

Campus Reports were included in the meeting packet for all campuses.

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

Upon the motion by Atty. Tony Clayton and seconded by Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr. the meeting adjourned.

Motion passed.