

**Southern University Board of Supervisors**

9:00 a.m.

Friday, January 10, 2014

Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Southern University and A&M College  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Minutes

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was convened by Chairwoman, Atty. Bridget A. Dinvaut. The invocation was given by Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr.

**PRESENT**

Atty. Bridget A. Dinvaut - Chairwoman  
Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr. - Vice Chairman  
Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr.  
Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Sr.  
Ms. Simone R. Bray  
Atty. Tony M. Clayton  
Atty. Walter C. Dumas  
Mr. Raymond M. Fondel, Jr.  
Dr. Eamon M. Kelly  
Mr. Darren G. Mire  
Mr. Myron K. Lawson  
Mr. Mike A. Small  
Mrs. Ann A. Smith  
Dr. Leon R. Tarver, II  
Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.

**ABSENT**

Mr. Willie E. Hendricks

**UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING**

System President Ronald Mason, Jr.  
Evola Bates, Chief of Staff  
System Vice Presidents Kevin Appleton, Tony Moore and Monique Guillory-Winfield  
Chancellors James Llorens (SUBR), Victor Ukpolo (SUNO), Freddie Pitcher (SULC),  
and Vice Chancellor Adell Brown (representing Chancellor Leodrey Williams) (SUAREC)

**BOARD COUNSEL**

Atty. Winston DeCuir, Jr. and Tracie Woods

**AGENDA ITEM 3: INSTALLATION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2014 BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2014**

Atty. Winston DeCuir, Jr. administered the oath of office to Atty. Bridget A. Dinvaut, Chairwoman of the Board, and Rev. Joe R. Grant, Jr., Vice Chairman, who were re-elected as Board officers for 2014.

Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr. entered the meeting.

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

On motion of Rev. Gant, seconded by Mr. Small, the agenda was adopted as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 6: ACTION ITEMS**

A. Minutes of the December 13, 2013 regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors

On motion of Mr. Braxton, seconded by Rev. Gant, the following resolution was approved.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the minutes of the November 29, 2013 regular meeting of the Board, be and it is hereby approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 6B. Settlement Agreement - Cedric Upshaw vs. SUBOS, et al
- 6E. Settlement Agreement - Greg LaFleur vs. SUBOS, et al

On motion of Atty. Clayton, seconded by Rev. Gant to combined Agenda Items 6B and 6E was approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Mr. Braxton, seconded by Mrs. Smith, the Board convened into executive session regarding the settlement agreements for Atty. Cedric Upshaw and Mr. Greg LaFleur.

-EXECUTIVE SESSION-

Rev. Tolbert and Mr. Lawson entered Executive Session.

-OPEN SESSION-

Motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote 15 yeas: Dinvault, Gant, Bell, Braxton, Bray, Clayton, Dumas, Fondel, Kelly, Lawson, Mire, Small, Smith, Tarver and Tolbert; 0 nays; 0 abstentions

Chairwoman Dinvault announced that no actions were taken by the Board during its executive session.

On motion of Atty. Clayton and seconded by Mr. Lawson, the following resolution was approved.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, approved the settlement agreement between Atty. Cedric Upshaw vs. Southern University Board of Supervisors to employ Atty. Upshaw as the Southern University System ADA Officer with the approved annual salary negotiated in the agreement, be and it is hereby approved.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Southern University Board of Supervisors will pay a reasonable amount of Atty. Cedric Upshaw's attorney fees, be and it is hereby approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion of Atty. Clayton and seconded by Mr. Braxton, the following resolution was approved.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, approved the settlement Agreement between Mr. Greg LaFleur vs. Southern University Board of Supervisors to pay Mr. LaFleur \$150,000 to fulfill the remaining balance of his breach contract with Southern University – Baton Rouge.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Certification of Mid-Year Graduates, SULC

On motion of Rev. Gant, and seconded by Mr. Lawson, the following resolution was approved.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the Certification of Mid-Year Graduates at Southern University - Law Center be and they are hereby approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Small Capital Outlay Projects, SUBR & SUAREC

On motion of Rev. Gant, and seconded by Mr. Braxton, the following resolution was approved.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the Administration's request to approve two Small Capital Outlay Projects for Southern University - Baton Rouge and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center budgeted less than \$500,000.00, be and they are hereby approved.

1. Southern University Ag Center - Construct a perimeter fence around the Ag Center Experiment Station in Baker, LA.
2. Southern University - Baton Rouge - Design and Renovation of T.T. Allain Hall for Hurricane Gustav repairs.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Ratification of \$2.00 Service Fee implemented 2012 Football Season, SUBR

Several Board members expressed concerns regarding the ratification of the \$2.00 Service and how the fee was appropriated in the SUBR Athletic Department.

In response, Chancellor Llorens and Dr. Mason explained the justification in implementing the \$2.00 service fee.

Mr. Lawson requested that Dr. Mason provide justification on why certain employees of the Southern University System received raises and other employees did not.

On motion of Mr. Mire, that the \$2.00 service fee collected during the 2012 and 2013 Football seasons are designated to SUBR Athletics Facilities.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion continued.

A substitute motion was offered by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Mr. Fondel, to defer the ratification of the \$2.00 Service Fee implemented 2012 Football Season at Southern University - Baton Rouge to its Athletics Committee for further review.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Amended Employment Contract for Head Football Coach, SUBR

Mr. Mire informed the Board that he has spoken with legal counsel to include a buyout clause when negotiating all future contracts.

On motion of Rev. Tolbert and seconded by Atty. Clayton, the following resolution was approved.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the amended employment contract between the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Mr. Dawson Odums, SUBR Head Football Coach, effective January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2017, at an annual salary of \$175,000 plus other emoluments specified in the contract document, be and it is hereby approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Atty. Clayton took a point of personal privilege and introduced his daughter, Jeanee Clayton, a student at Southern University - Baton Rouge.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

A. Interim Financial Report, as of November 30, 2013, SU System entities

A status report was given by Mr. Kevin Appleton, System Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs. Details can be found on the Board's website and tape.

B. Memorandum of Understanding detailing the breakdown of money derived from the Aramark Contract that will go (percentage) to each campus

Dr. Mason informed the Board they are still in the process of negotiating the contract with Aramark and the breakdown of the percentage of money for each campus has not been finalized.

Mr. Braxton posed the question regarding Aramark employing minority vendors from Louisiana before inquiring out of state.

Atty. Dinvaut stated employing minority vendors from Louisiana before inquiring out of state will be taken into consideration while negotiations are still transpiring.

C. Personnel Action relative to Transformation

D. System President's Report

Dr. Mason encouraged the Board members to view his submitted report that reflects the progress SU System has made during the Transformation.

Continuing, Dr. Mason noted that ten goals are listed in his report and if the Board members have any input, they should provide them to him before the Retreat in March.

Dr. Mason also stated that he will provide a binder for each Board member detailing a tentative schedule reflecting the process of the Transformation Plan.

Dr. Tarver requested that Dr. Mason provide to the Board a document exhibiting the reporting procedure between the System and Campuses.

Discussion ensued regarding the financial savings of the Transformation Plan.

E. Campus Reports

Monthly updates were given by campus Chancellors. Detail can be found on the Board's website and tape.

Chancellor Llorens provided an update regarding SUBR 2014 Spring registration, stating 6,182 students have enrolled and 4,172 have paid.

Continuing, Chancellor Llorens acknowledged Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Matthews, alumnus of Southern University and A&M College, for their \$50,000 contribution to the Chancellor's Scholarship fund for disadvantaged African-American male students.

Chancellor Ukpolo invited members of the Board to SUNO's Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Small Business Development Center Incubator on Monday, January 13.

Continuing, Chancellor Ukpolo stated that SUNO has a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of New Orleans for area high school students.

Chancellor Belton informed the Board that 2,200 students have enrolled at SUSLA, exclusive from dual enrollment, SUSLA Connect and cross registration.

Continuing, Chancellor Belton expressed his appreciation to the Board and President Mason for their support for SUSLA's forthcoming classroom building.

Vice Chancellor Brown informed the Board that Chancellor Williams is recuperating very well.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS**

Atty. Clayton, introduced Board member Darren Mire's daughter, Chandler Mire, a student at Southern University - Baton Rouge.

On motion of Rev. Gant, seconded by Atty. Clayton, the following resolutions were amended to the agenda and approved.

Motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote: Roll call vote 15 yeas: Dinvaut, Gant, Bell, Braxton, Bray, Clayton, Dumas, Fondel, Kelly, Lawson, Mire, Small, Smith, Tarver and Tolbert; 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the resolutions of condolences to the families named below be and they are hereby approved.

- Mr. Willie T. Sensley, Sr.
- Mrs. Goldie Sensley
- Mr. Maurice Thomas
- Mrs. Eula Lawson

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**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the resolution of commendations be and it is hereby extended to Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Matthews on awarding four year scholarships to disadvantaged African-American male students.

Dr. Tarver along with members of the Board and Administrators gave birthday wishes to Mrs. Alice Douzier, SU System Webmaster.

Rev. Gant suggested that the Board meeting on Friday, February 7, in Shreveport be held on the main campus of Southern University - Shreveport.

Rev. Gant thanked the following individuals for attending his Prayer Visual Celebration at Calvary Baptist Church in Shreveport:

- Atty. Walter C. Dumas
- Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.
- President Ronald Mason
- Chancellor and Mrs. James Llorens
- Vice Chancellor Brandon Dumas

President Mason informed the Board that the renovations to the University Place should be completed in March 2014.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT**

On motion Mr. Mire, the meeting was adjourned.