

**Southern University and A&M College System
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

9 a.m.

Friday, December 16, 2016

Minutes

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Leon R. Tarver II. The invocation was given by the Rev. Joe R. Gant.

PRESENT

Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Mr. Calvin Braxton, Sr., Atty. Tony Clayton, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Ms. Jordan Franklin, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Mr. Myron Lawson, Sr., Atty. Patrick Magee, Mr. Darren Mire, Mrs. Ann Smith, Rev. Samuel Tolbert

ABSENT

Mr. Richard Hilliard, Mr. Michael Small and Dr. Rani Whitfield

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING

System President Ray Belton, Chief of Staff Robyn Merrick, Executive Vice President and Provost M. Christopher Brown, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs Flandus McClinton, Chancellor-Elect Lisa Mims Devezin (SUNO), Chancellor Bobby Phills (SUAREC), Chancellor Rodney Ellis (SUSLA), and Chancellor John Pierre (SULC).

BOARD COUNSEL

Attys. Winston DeCuir, Jr., and Tracie Woods

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Mr. Lawson the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

AGENDA ITEM 5: ACTION ITEMS

Upon the motion by Atty. Magee and seconded by Mr. Fondel Items 5A – 5F were recommended for approval in globo.

There was discussion about Item 5 C – Approval of Personnel Action on Positions greater than \$60,000 and **Item 5 F** Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center and SU System Foundation, SUAREC

Atty. Magee stated that the personnel actions presented have been discussed with him as chair of the Personnel Affairs Committee along with President Belton and Chairman Tarver and they represent a cost savings for the SUSLA campus. He also stated that for the last few months he has voted against any personnel actions that represented increases, but maintained that the SUSLA personnel actions are part of the reorganization plan for the campus presented by Chancellor Ellis at a previous Board meeting.

Board Member Lawson asked that any personnel actions presented should not be a covert attempt to give salary increases.

Atty. Magee made a substitute motion seconded by Mr. Fondel to approve items 5A through 5E.

Motion Passed.

Atty. Clayton had questions and concerns about the MOU with the SUAREC and the SU System Foundation. He questioned whether or not the Board was abdicating its responsibilities concerning the medical marijuana initiative and giving control to the Foundation. Chancellor Phills stated that the SUAREC has identified a company that can assist with the development of the University's medical marijuana initiative. The company has the expertise to assist in the development of the business model that will be used to operate.

Dr. Belton stated that the MOU is an agreement between the University and the Foundation to provide financing only for hiring consultants to assist with advancing the University's medical marijuana initiative.

Atty. Domoine Rutledge stated the Foundation is simply providing the funds to hire a consultant and further stated that the Foundation is operating in an indistinguishable manner with regard to the initiative. He also stated that President Belton requested the Foundation's support. He explained that the Foundation will provide the \$54,000 fee required to engage the company that has been identified by Chancellor Phills. The University will then repay the Foundation from fees that will be assessed to any company wishing to respond to the RFP (Request for Proposal) that will be developed.

Chairman Tarver explained that the MOU is an outgrowth of the initiatives of the Board's medical marijuana research committee which was chaired by Dr. Rani Whitfield and the committee's vice chairman, Atty. Domoine Rutledge. Dr. Tarver further explained that the Foundation is only assisting the University by providing the funds to engage professional assistance in the design of an RFP and an operating structure.

A. Minutes of the November 25, 2016, regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the minutes of the October 25, 2016, regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, be and they are hereby approved.

B. Request Approval for Certification of Fall 2016 Graduates, SULC

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Fall 2016 commencement Resolution for degree candidates, Southern University Law Center, be and it is hereby approved.

C. Approval of Personnel Action on Positions greater than \$60,000

1. Dr. Sharon Y. Herron-Williams

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the appointment of Dr. Sharron Y. Herron-Williams as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, SUSLA at a salary of \$102,000 be and it hereby is approved.

2. Mrs. Brandy Jacobsen

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the appointment of Mrs. Brandy Jacobsen as Chief Financial Officer, SUSLA at a salary of \$85,000 be and it hereby is approved.

3. Mr. Major Brock

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the appointment of Mr. Major Brock as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success, SUSLA at a salary of \$61,800 be and it hereby is approved.

D. Approval of Sabbatical Leave for Joanne Walker, Assistant Professor, Division of Behavioral Sciences, SUSLA (January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017)

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the sabbatical leave for Joanne Walker, Assistant Professor, Division of Behavioral Sciences, SUSLA for the period January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017 be and it hereby is approved.

E. Approval of Employment Contract for Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin, SUNO

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the employment contract for Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin, Chancellor, Southern University at New Orleans be and it hereby is approved

F. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center and SU System Foundation, SUAREC

Upon the motion by Atty. Magee and seconded by Mr. Fondel the MOU between the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SUAREC) and the SU System Foundation was recommended for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Yays: Tarver, Braxton, Fondel, Franklin, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Lawson, Magee, Mire, Smith, Tolbert

Nays: Clayton

Motion passed.

RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SUAREC) and the SU System Foundation, be and it is hereby approved.

G. Consideration of Performance Assessment and Contract of President-Chancellor, SUS-SUBR

Chairman Tarver announced that the performance assessment was a matter that required the Board to convene in executive session. He stated that no motions would be made nor any action taken during the executive session.

Upon the motion by Atty. Magee and seconded by Mr. Braxton the Board convened in executive session.

Roll Call:

Yays: Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Fondel, Franklin, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Lawson, Magee, Mire, Smith, Tolbert

Nays: NONE

RECONVENTION:

Yays: Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Fondel, Franklin, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Lawson, Magee, Mire, Smith, Tolbert

Nays: NONE

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Rev. Donald Henry a two-year extension to the contract for President-Chancellor Ray L. Belton was recommended for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Yays: Tarver, Braxton, Clayton, Fondel, Franklin, Gaines, Gant, Henry, Lawson, Mire, Smith, Tolbert

Nays: Magee

H. Resolutions

President-Chancellor Belton offered the following resolutions:

Commendations

Attorney Alejandro "Al" Perkins, a 2004 graduate of the SU Law Center for his recent election as Chairman of the Board of the University of Louisiana System.

Condolences

The Wardell Ballentine Family

The Edgar "Dooky" Chase Family

The Harvey Darbonne Family

The Bobby Jo Major Family

The Willie Honeywood Smith Family

Upon the motion by Rev. Donald R. Henry and seconded by Atty. Patrick Magee the resolutions presented were recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

Vice Chairman Braxton presiding

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Atty. Magee a resolution recognizing Dr. Leon R. Tarver, II as Chairman Emeritus was recommended for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

Atty. Magee made a clarification on his vote regarding the contract extension for President-Chancellor Belton making the vote unanimous in support of the extension.

I. Informational Items

A. System President's Report

President-Chancellor Belton thanked members of the Board for their support during the last year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday. He also invited Alumni President Preston Castille to make remarks along with System Vice President Flandus McClinton.

Alumni President Preston Castille and First Vice President Laquitta Thomas spoke about the Adopt-a-Juke initiative to raise funds for the Department of Bands and distributed brochures to each Board member.

Mr. Carlton Jones, Third Vice President of the SU Alumni Federation, spoke about National Academic Signing Day along with Board Member Fondel who thanked Mr. Jones and Atty. Castille for their support of the initiative.

System Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, Mr. Flandus McClinton stated that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget announced budget cuts and the Higher Education cut is \$12 million which equates to a total of \$699,715 for the SU System. Each campuses' portion of the cut is as follows: SUAREC – \$55,125; SUBR – \$335,955, SULC– \$65,024; SUNO– \$105,741; SUSLA – \$91,500 and Board and System – \$ 47,370

B. Campus Reports

Each Campus Chancellor submitted written reports. Chancellor Pierre recognized Dr. Rachel Emmanuel and Mrs. Beryl Thompson, SU Law Center employees who would be retiring effective December 31.

C. Next Meeting Date, Friday, January 6, 2017.

J. Other Business

NONE

K. Adjournment

Upon the motion by Mr. Braxton and seconded by Rev. Gant the meeting adjourned.