

Academic Affairs Committee

9:00 a.m.

Monday, May 14, 2012

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

Minutes

The meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was convened by the Vice Chair, Mrs. Ann A. Smith. The innovation was given by Mr. Montrell McCaleb.

Present

Mrs. Ann A. Smith, Vice-Chair
Atty. Patrick D. Magee
Mr. Darren G. Mire, Ex Officio

Absent

Dr. Eamon M. Kelly, Chair
Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Sr.
Atty. Tony M. Clayton
Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr.
Mr. Willie E. Hendricks
Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.

Board Members Appointed to effect a Quorum

Mr. Patrick W. Bell
Atty. Warren Forstall
Mr. Demetrius Sumner

University Personnel Attending

System President Ronald Mason, Jr.
Evola Bates, Chief of Staff
Chancellors Victor Ukpolo (SUNO) and Chancellor James Llorens (SUBR)
Dean Janet Rami, Interim Provost, SUBR

Board Counsel

Attys. Winston DeCuir, Jr. and Tracie Woods

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion of Atty. Forstall, seconded by Mrs. Sumner, the agenda was adopted, as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments were tendered by Dr. Thomas Miller, SUBR Faculty Senate Vice President and Dr. Sudhir Trivedi, SUBR Faculty Senate President. Both opposed the Administration's actions in recommending faculty terminations due to the declaration of financial exigency. They cited as their reasons the Administration's failure to provide requested information on the criteria used to reach decisions on faculty selected for termination; and, the absence of a Committee of the faculty member's peers to assist in arriving at their recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 5: APPEALS

Vice Chair Ann Smith announced the parameters that would govern the presentation of each appeal.

Atty. Tracie Woods provided an overview of each appeal. Each appellant was then allowed 15 minutes to present his case. The Administration's response and a 15-minute question-and-answer session followed.

Full details of each of the proceedings are on tape in the Board's office. The decision rendered by the Committee on each appeal appears below:

Item 5A-1: Retrenchment Appeal of Dr. John Delgado, SUBR

Dr. Delgado requested that to have his appeal heard in an open session. Dr. Delgado was assisted in presenting his appeal by his wife, Deborah Delgado.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the Committee took the following action:

On motion of Atty. Forstall, seconded by Atty. Magee, the Committee recommends to the Board to accept the President's recommendation and to deny Dr. John Delgado's appeal.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5B-2: Retrenchment Appeal of Dr. Lionel Lyles, SUBR

The Committee reviewed a letter from Dr. Lionel Lyles which explained his absence from the meeting and further supported his appeal. Dr. Lyles' letter will be made a part of the Board's record, per the Committee's request.

On motion of Atty. Forstall, seconded by Atty. Magee, the Committee recommends to the Board to accept the President's recommendation and deny Dr. Lionel Lyles' appeal.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5A-3: Retrenchment Appeal of Dr. Mylon Winn, SUBR

Dr. Mylon Winn requested to have his appeal heard in an executive session. Dr. Winn was assisted in presenting his appeal by his attorney, Mr. Donald Dobbins.

On motion of Atty. Forstall, seconded by Atty. Magee, the Committee convened into an executive session to hear Dr. Mylon Winn's appeal.

Motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote: 6 yeas: Smith, Magee, Mire, P. Bell, Forstall, and Sumner
0 nays; 0 abstentions

-EXECUTIVE SESSION-

-OPEN SESSION-

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Mr. Bell, the Committee reconvened into open session.

Motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote: 6 yeas: Smith, Magee, Mire, P. Bell, Forstall and Sumner

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Atty. Forstall, the Committee recommends to the Board to accept the President's recommendation and to deny Dr. Mylon Winn's appeal.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5B-1: SUNO – Promotion Appeal of Dr. James Pittman, SUNO

Dr. James Pittman requested to have his appeal heard in open session. His appeal was presented, with the assistance of his attorney, Ron Wilson.

Dr. Pittman requested that the remainder of the discussion surrounding his appeal be held in an executive session.

Motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote: 5 yeas: Smith, Magee, P. Bell, Forstall, and Mire; 0 nays;
0 abstention; 1 out: Sumners

-EXECUTIVE SESSION-

-OPEN SESSION-

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Mr. Bell, the Committee returned to open session.

Motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote: 5 yeas: Smith, Magee, Mire, P. Bell, and Forstall;
0 nays; 0 abstentions; 1 out: Sumner

Dr. Pittman received permission to formally withdraw his appeal at this time.

Item 5B-2. Promotion Appeal of Dr. John Penny, SUNO

Dr. John Penny requested the Committee to hear his appeal in open session.

At the conclusion of the presentations and subsequent dialogue, the Committee took the following action:

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Mr. Bell, the Committee recommends to the Board to deny Dr. John Penny's appeal.

Motion carried. Roll call vote: 4 yeas – Smith, Magee, Bell, and Mire; 1 nay: Forstall, 1 abstention:
Sumner

Item 5C: GRIEVANCE BY DR. ASHRAF ESMail, SUNO

Dr. Ashraf Esmail requested that the Committee to hear his appeal in open session. Dr. Esmail was assisted by his Attorney, Tracie Washington, in presenting his appeal.

Following the presentations and subsequent dialogue, a five-minute recess was called by the Chair.

-RECESS -

-RECONVENTION-

A roll call established the presence of a quorum. 6 present: Smith, Magee, Mire, Bell, Forstall, and Sumner

On motion of Atty. Magee, seconded by Mr. Bell, the Committee deferred action of the appeal of Dr. Ashraf Esmail to allow the System President time to further examine the matter.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bell reminded Committee of the May 15 deadline for filing their personal disclosure statements. Failure to comply will result in a \$50.00 per day penalty until their statements are received by the Ethics Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Atty. Magee, the meeting was adjourned.

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