

**Southern University and A&M College System**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**Board of Supervisors Meeting Room**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**9 a.m.**

**Friday, May 12, 2017**

**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 the Rev. Joe R. Gant.

**PRESENT**

Mrs. Ann Smith, Atty. Tony Clayton, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Ms. Jordan Franklin, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Atty. Patrick Magee, Atty. Domoine Rutledge, Rev. Samuel Tolbert, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Dr. Rani Whitfield.

**ABSENT**

Mr. Richard Hilliard and Mr. Michael Small

**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, 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 Tracie Woods

**Newly appointed Board member, Mr. John Barthelemy, representing the first congressional district, was administered the oath of office by Atty. Winston Decuir, Jr.**

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Friday, May 12, 2017

9:00 A.M.

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Southern University and A&M College  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813

### **MINUTES**

Board Chair Mrs. Ann A. Smith announced the convening of the Academic Affairs Committee. Academic Affairs Committee Chair Dr. Curman Gaines called the committee meeting to order.

Roll Call: Dr. Curman Gaines, Atty. Tony M. Clayton, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr., Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Dr. Leroy Davis, Ms. Jordan Franklin, Mrs. Ann A. Smith

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Dr. Tarver the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Nigel Gwee, president of the faculty senate, spoke in support of the recommendation to grant Dean Emeritus status to Dr. Robert Miller, former Dean of the College of Sciences.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Presentations were made to the groups below acknowledging the accomplishments of each.**

- **SU Laboratory School Concert Band**

Dr. Christopher Brown introduced Mr. Safiyy Abdel-Raouf, SU Lab School Band Director along with the students that participated at the LMEA State Southeast Regional High School Instrumental Large Ensemble Performance Assessment that was held April 25-26, at Nicholls State University. The students received an excellent rating on stage performance and a superior rating in sight-reading. Each band member received a certificate from the Board of Supervisors and greeted members of the Board.

- **Southern University Law Center Mock Trial Winners**

Chancellor John Pierre introduced members of the winning team and made presentations to each of the team members. Board Chair Smith also congratulated the team members and thanked them for representing the SU Law Center proudly.

- **Southern University at New Orleans Track Team**

Chancellor Lisa Mims-Devezin distributed a flyer to all Board members which summarized the team's accomplishments at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships in Johnson City, Tennessee.

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

### **A. Recommendation/Nomination of Dr. Robert Miller as Dean Emeritus, SUBR**

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Dr. Tarver the nomination of Dr. Robert Miller as Dean Emeritus was recommended for approval.

Dr. Davis also spoke in support of the recommendation for Dr. Robert Miller citing the great work Dr. Miller performed during his more than 40 years of service to the University.

Dr. Miller was invited to the podium to address members of the Board. He expressed gratitude for the honor.

### **B. Request to approve SUBR Laboratory School Reporting Structure, SUBR**

Because the supporting document was not received in a timely manner, Board Chair Smith asked that action on the item be postponed until the next meeting.

Upon the motion by Dr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Franklin the SU Laboratory School reporting structure was postponed for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Ms. Franklin the amended agenda was recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

## **AGENDA ITEMS 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

NONE

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Dr. Davis the Academic Affairs Committee adjourned.

Motion passed.

## **FACILITIES AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

*(Following the Academic Affairs Committee)*

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Southern University and A&M College  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813

### **MINUTES**

The Facilities and Property Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Rev. Donald R. Henry.

Roll Call: Rev. Donald R. Henry, Dr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Raymond Fondel, Jr., Mr. Richard Hilliard, Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Dr. Rani Whitfield, Mrs. Ann A. Smith

Absent: Mr. Richard Hilliard

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon the motion by Dr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Fondel the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **A. Priority Projects Updates, by Campuses**

System Vice President Flandus McClinton stated that a summary of the priority projects was included in the meeting packet, but reviewed the status of several projects including the Bradford Hall renovation project, J. B. Cade Library project, Child Care Development Center at SUBR, and gave a status report on the eroded bridge at SUBR. Mr. McClinton stated that President Belton has made the bridge project his top priority. Dr. Belton stated that he is confident that the University would be successful in obtaining the funds needed to repair the bridge during this session of the legislature.

Atty. Clayton asked if the University has an alternative plan in place if the University does not receive the necessary funds from the legislature to make the repair.

President Belton assured Board members that he has commitments and that he was certain that the project would be placed in the capital outlay bill and that it would receive priority.

Mr. Barthelemy suggested that the University should work with the city of Baton Rouge and present a resolution to them stressing that lives could be lost because of the drainage problem that is eroding the infrastructure of the bridge.

Upon the motion by Mr. Fondel and seconded by Dr. Tarver that the University would send a resolution to the City of Baton Rouge identifying the erosion problem that is compromising the bridge and safety of anyone traveling on the bridge.

**B. Status of SUNO Lighting Project**

Mr. McClinton stated that Mr. Eli Guillory along with SUNO Facilities Director Shaun Lewis took an inventory of the missing and temporary lights on the SUNO campus. There were a total of 60 lights that were not operable at the SUNO library and reported that a purchase order has been issued to obtain the replacement lights. Mr. McClinton also informed Board members that the cost of the temporary lighting is \$1500. He further explained that there are 173 temporary lights and that the total includes the library. SUNO Finance and Business Affairs Vice Chancellor Mr. Jullin Renthrope and Mr. Shaun Lewis have prioritized the lighting project and estimate a cost of \$75,000 to \$100,000 to replace the temporary lights.

Mr. Fondel commended Mr. McClinton and his team for the lighting project

**AGENDA ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS**

Committee Chair Henry apologized to Chancellor Mims and Mr. Lewis of SUNO, for not being able to make the site visit, but stated that he would visit at a later date.

Rev. Henry also suggested that trash receptacles be placed strategically across the SUBR campus to encourage students to properly dispose of trash. He described the type of cans that could be used like those that are located at the entrance of subdivisions and certain businesses and placed at an angle for persons that are driving.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the motion by Mr. Fondel and seconded by Dr. Davis the Facilities and Property Committee adjourned.

Motion passed.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
*(Following the Facilities and Property Committee)*  
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Southern University and A&M College  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813

**MINUTES**

The Finance Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Atty. Domoine Rutledge.

Roll Call: Atty. Rutledge, Atty. Tony Clayton, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr., Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, Mrs. Ann A. Smith

Absent: Mr. Richard Hilliard

**AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Mrs. Smith the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

**AGENDA ITEM 5: ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Request Approval to Add Clinical Education Fees for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, SUBR**

Mr. McClinton stated that currently students pay clinical fees out of pocket. The proposal is to assess \$171 to undergraduates in the course, SPAU-468 Introduction to Clinical Practicum, and assess \$339 to graduate students entering the program during their first semester to cover the cost of clinical requirements. Mr. McClinton stated that students would be able to use their financial aid to cover payment of the proposed fees.

Upon the motion by Dr. Tarver and seconded by Atty. Clayton the clinical education fees for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology were recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

**B. Request Approval of Student Self-Imposed Fees, SUSLA**

Mr. McClinton explained that during elections, the student body at SUSLA voted to approve the fees which will expand transportation services, student support services in intramural sports, athletics and the Student Government Association.

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Dr. Tarver the student self-assessed fees, SUSLA was recommended for approval.

Motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Interim Financial Report as of April 2017, SUS**

System Vice President McClinton informed members of the Board that all System Campuses expenditures have been adjusted to close the year with a balanced budget. He stated that statutory dedications are being examined closely.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

Atty. Clayton described his experience at SUBR commencement and expressed his dismay at the behavior of the students. He stated that the ceremony was not dignified and lacked decorum and respectfully asked President Belton to fix the problem. Board Chair Smith stated that she would confer with Dr. Belton and his staff and let members of the Board know the results.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Rev. Gant the Finance Committee adjourned.

Motion passed.

## **PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

*(Following the Finance Committee)*

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Southern University and A&M College  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813

### **MINUTES**

The Personnel Affairs Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Atty. Patrick Magee.

**Roll Call:** Atty. Magee, Rev. Donald R. Henry, Atty. Tony Clayton, Dr. Curman Gaines, Rev. Joe R. Gant, Jr., Dr. Leon R. Tarver II, and Mrs. Ann A. Smith

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Atty. Clayton the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Thomas Miller questioned the proposed salaries collectively. He also stated that he would like to see the balance of salaries at the University and referenced the assessment of salaries document that President Belton presented to the Board in May 2016.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5: ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Request Approval of Comptroller's Office Restructuring, SUBR**

Atty. Magee asked Dr. Belton for a summary. Dr. Belton stated that to fill the position of Comptroller Mark Trepagnier who passed away in December two searches have been conducted and no suitable candidate emerged. The item presented is the University's method to redistribute the duties of the Comptroller and eliminate the singular title of Comptroller. The structure would be an Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Comptroller and have two associate comptrollers to handle the work in the Comptroller's office to improve service delivery.

Atty. Clayton asked whether the University enjoyed a healthy relationship with the business community in paying bills.

System Vice President Flandus McClinton stated persons that follow the procedures will have their bills paid on time.

Atty. Magee asked President Belton about the timeliness of presenting the support documents. Mrs. Smith stated that much of the information is not sent out in a timely manner. She also stated that if a timeline needs to be established she would do so.



Mr. Clayton had serious concerns about not having a comptroller in the organizational chart as it relates to submitting information to SACS and other agencies.

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Smith restructuring for the Office of the Comptroller was recommended to be postponed until the administration has a chance to review the organizational chart and responsibilities.

Mr. Benjamin Pugh, SUBR Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, explained that the motivation to make the changes is so that the Comptroller's Office would be able to close the fiscal year and submit all reports to the state by the mandatory timeline. The persons presented have a skill set that is needed to complete the work. It is his intent to develop a cadre of individuals that can move the University forward. As it relates to the payment of bills, Mr. Pugh explained that the individuals that follow the policies and procedures will have their bills paid on time. He further explained that the restructuring is a strategy that is being considered so that personnel that are already employed at the University can assemble a capable team. He has also had 2 full searches for candidates in finance positions and were unable to be filled because of the low salary being offered.

Atty. Clayton asked about outsourcing the payment of bills. Mr. Pugh stated that no other universities in the state are outsourcing their financial operation. He stated that to have adequate control and to produce reports that are required by the state it is imperative to have the financial operations in-house.

Call for the question by Rev. Gant

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Yeas:** Smith, Henry, Tarver, Clayton, Gaines

**Nays:** Gant, Magee

Motion passed.

**B. Approval for Band Director and Assistant Directors Special Event Adjustment, SUBR**

Dr. Belton stated that the item presented is a one-time salary adjustment to the band director and his staff for their participation in the Bayou Classic. Dr. Belton stated that there is a stipulation in the Bayou Classic that the revenue generated by the band must be given to the band. Atty. Rutledge stated that the Foundation is guided by policy on supporting salaries and state law provides that any amount above \$1,000.00 must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Dr. Tarver the special event adjustment for the band director and assistant directors at SUBR be approved.

Motion passed.

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

Atty. Magee asked President Belton to clarify the personnel action items that should be considered based on the deferment of action on the Comptroller’s restructuring. President Belton stated that items 5C 1, 2, and 3 should be considered.

Upon the motion by Dr. Tarver and seconded by Rev. Gant items 5C 1, 2, and 3 were recommended for approval.

In response to a question from Atty. Magee about the interim director of Title III, Dr. Belton explained that Mr. Lawson would be serving in the interim position for a few months. A permanent Title III director would be brought to the Board for consideration.

Motion passed.

	Position/Campus	Salary
<b>NEW APPOINTMENTS</b>		
1. Albertha Lawson	Associate Professor Salary Correction, SUBR	<b>\$79,000</b>
2. Sheila Duplechain	System Director of Institutional Research & Data Governance New Appointment/Title Change, SUS	<b>\$98,500</b>
3. Huey Lawson	Interim Director of Title III, New Appointment, SUBR	<b>\$83,000</b>
4. Monica Mealie	Associate Vice Chancellor for Financial Operations/Comptroller New Appointment, SUBR (Executive Session may be required)	<b>\$100,000</b>
5. Cary Clark-Hollins	Associate Comptroller for Financial Accounting New Appointment, SUBR	<b>\$70,000</b>
6. Famika Sargent	Associate Comptroller/Sponsored Program Activity, Policy Development and Compliance Operations, SUBR	<b>\$69,000</b>

**D. Approval of Leaves of Absence**

Atty. Magee asked if there had been any research to look at whether the University had a problem with employees seeking leaves of absence. Vice President of Human Resources Lester Pourciau stated that there is not a problem and employees adhere to the guidelines that are in place.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

Atty. Magee stated that he would like a listing of all personnel decisions that have been made at the University each month and the information should be included in the meeting packet. All personnel actions that fall below \$60,000 and all faculty members falling below \$75,000 should be included.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Atty. Clayton the Personnel Affairs Committee adjourned.

Motion passed.

## **SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

*(Following the Personnel Affairs Committee)*

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building  
Southern University and A&M College  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813

### **MINUTES**

The meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was called to order by Board Chair Mrs. Ann A. Smith. All members were present except Mr. Richard Hilliard and Mr. Mike Small.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon the motion by Atty. Patrick Magee and seconded by Mr. Raymond Fondel the agenda was recommended for adoption.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

LeAnn Baker of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology thanked members of the board for approving the clinical education fee for students which will ease the burden on students paying out of pocket for the required fees.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

The *Above and Beyond Award* was presented to Curtis Chisley, Research Associate, SU Agricultural Research and Extension Center. Mrs. Smith presented a plaque and Dr. Belton presented a certificate to Mr. Chisley along with Chancellor Bobby Phills. Dr. C. Reuben Walker of the SUAREC spoke about Mr. Chisley's work with the Animal Science program, especially with regard to goat production. Mr. Chisley thanked Dr. Walker, members of the Board and Board Chair Smith for the recognition.

Tokens of appreciation were also presented to outgoing

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

##### **A. Approval of Minutes of the April 21, 2017 meeting**

Upon the motion by Rev. Gant and seconded by Dr. Tarver the minutes were recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the minutes of the May 12, 2017, meeting, be and they are hereby approved.

## **B. Approval of Committee Reports and Recommendations**

Upon the motion by Dr. Tarver and seconded by Rev. Gant the committee reports were recommended for adoption.

Motion passed.

### **Rev. Gant offered a substitute motion to the report for the Personnel Affairs Committee.**

Upon the motion by Rev Gant and seconded by Atty. Magee items 5 A and also items 5 C 4, 5, and 6 were recommended for approval.

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that the actions taken by the Academic Affairs Committee, Facilities and Property Committee, Finance Committee, and Personnel Affairs Committee be and they are hereby approved.

#### **1. Academic Affairs**

##### **C. Recommendation/Nomination of Dr. Robert Miller as Dean Emeritus, SUBR**

**a. RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for Southern University, that recommendation of Dean Emeritus status for Dr. Robert Miller, be and it is hereby approved.

#### **2. Facilities and Property Committee**

**No action items were presented. The information items presented will be filed for auditing purposes.**

#### **3. Finance Committee**

##### **a. Request Approval to Add Clinical Education Fee, Speech Pathology and Audiology, SUBR**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the clinical education fee for Speech Pathology and Audiology, SUBR, be and it is hereby approved.

##### **b. Request Approval of Student Self-Imposed Fees, SUSLA**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Self-Imposed Fees, SUSLA, be and they are hereby approved.

#### **4. Personnel Affairs Committee**

##### **a. Request Approval for Band Director and Assistant Directors Special Event Adjustment, SUBR**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System that the Special Event Adjustment for the band director and assistant band directors, SUBR, be and it is hereby approved.

Rev. Tolbert. was not in favor of the special event adjustment for band director and assistant band directors.

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

**1. Albertha Lawson**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the new appointment of Albertha Lawson as Associate Professor, SUBR, at a salary of \$ 79,000 be and it hereby is approved.

**2. Shelia Duplechain**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the new appointment of Sheila Duplechain as System Director of Institutional Research & Data Governance, SUS, at a salary of \$98,500 be and it hereby is approved.

**3. Huey Lawson**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the new appointment of Huey Lawson as Interim Director of Title III, SUBR, at a salary of \$83,000 be and it hereby is approved.

**4. Monica Mealie**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that new appointment of Monica Mealie as Associate Vice Chancellor for Financial Operations/Comptroller, SUBR, at a salary of \$100,000 be and it hereby is approved.

**5. Cary Clark-Hollins**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that new appointment of Carey Clark Hollins as Associate Comptroller for Financial Accounting, SUBR, at a salary of \$70,000 be and it hereby is approved.

**6. Famika Sargent**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that new appointment of Famika Sargent as Associate Comptroller/Sponsored Program Activity, Policy Development and Compliance Operations, SUBR, at a salary of \$69,000 be and it hereby is approved.

**b. Request Approval of Leaves of Absence**

**1. Francis Danquah**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the medical leave for Francis Danquah, SUBR, be and it hereby is approved.

## **2. Morgan Hilliard**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, that the leave of absence for military deployment for Morgan Hilliard, SUBR, be and it hereby is approved.

### **C. Resolutions**

President Belton offered resolutions as follows:

#### **Commendations**

Attorney Bernard B.J. Francis  
Robyn Merrick

#### **Condolences**

The Annie Price Family  
The Maggie Chase Family  
The Wade Shows Family  
The Leo Mims Family

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

### **a. Unification of SUS Technology and Back Office Operations-SUS Response to Act 619**

Dr. Gabriel Fagbeyiro presented information to members of the Board regarding plans to unify technology across all SUS campuses and reviewed various cost saving measures that will be implemented.

### **b. Legislative Update**

Atty. Kevin Cunningham reviewed current legislation that Southern Strategy has been tracking on behalf of the University. Mr. Cunningham highlighted several items that could possibly affect higher education this session.

### **c. System President's Report**

President-Chancellor Belton invited Athletic Director Roman Banks to give an update to members of the Board on the progress made with NCAA/ Coach Banks stated that he is looking forward to next season when all teams will be eligible for post season play. He also informed Board members that the academic center for athletes is occupied. In response to a question from Atty. Rutledge about the declining ticket sales, Coach Banks stated that the Department of Athletics has several measures to encourage ticket sales. He also stated that when the ticket prices increased sales declined. Parking on game day and tailgating policies have also been reviewed and updated, both have been a hindrance to fans on game day.

Dr. Belton also informed Board members that he participated in the Board's Innovation and Development Committee meeting and the development of the master plan is underway with leadership from Mr. Alfred Harrell of the SU Foundation and Atty. Preston Castille. He also stated that he is in ongoing discussion with the Board of Regents (BOR) regarding the revision of admissions standards and the BOR has been quite receptive to the idea. He advised Board members that the investigation is underway regarding the petition that was circulated about the

Division of Student Affairs. He expects to have a written report within the next 3 weeks. Dr. Belton also announced that Dr. Chris Brown will begin his new appointment at Kentucky State on Monday and wished him well.

Atty. Clayton also extended well wishes to Dr. Brown.

Rev. Gant asked members of the Innovation Committee to make sure that the \$1 million planning grant will not cost the University more than it is willing to pay. He also cautioned University administrators about investigating information on social media platforms.

Atty. Rutledge asked that a copy of the written report of the investigation be sent to all members of the Board.

**d. Campus Reports**

Each Campus Chancellor submitted written reports that were included in the meeting packet.

**SUNO** – Chancellor Mims-Devezin announced that SUNO commencement will begin at 4 p.m. and the speaker is New Orleans news anchor Sally Roberts. There are 526 candidates for graduation and the graduation rate at SUNO is at 20%, the highest rate the school has had in 15 years.

**SUSLA** – Chancellor Ellis announced the date for commencement as Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. in the Shreveport Convention Center. He also stated that the Gentleman's Cooking Classic would be held June 10 from 6-9 p.m. and invitations will be sent to all Board members.

**SUAREC**- Dr. Bobby Phills stated that the request for proposals for the medical marijuana initiative has been published.

**SULC** – Chancellor Pierre announced commencement is May 13 and Judge Shonda Stone would be the commencement speaker for the SULC. He also thanked Board members for participating in the legislative reception that was hosted by the SULC.

**SUBR** – Dr. M. Christopher Brown announced that the University is partnering with the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) to increase the number of underrepresented male teachers. SHEEO was recently awarded a three-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to fund *Project Pipeline Repair: Restoring Minority Male Participation and Persistence in Educator Preparation Programs (Project Pipeline Repair)*.

Atty. Clayton sent well wishes to all mothers for Mother's Day.

Dr. Tarver also announced the rededication of the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences where South African Ambassador Mninwa Johannes Mahlangu was the special guest.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs. Smith asked for closing expressions from outgoing student board member Jordan Franklin. Ms. Franklin expressed appreciation for serving with members of the Board.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the motion by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Dr. Tarver the meeting adjourned.