

*Kim Hunter Reed, Chair
 Vladimir Alexander Appeaning
 James Ammons
 Joseph Bouie
 Gerald Boudreaux
 Preston Castille
 Ava Cates
 Ronnie Dyer
 Rochelle Ford
 Richard Gallot, Jr.
 Jimmy Harris
 James Henderson*



*Jason Hughes
 Patrick Jefferson
 Makesha Judson
 Michael McClanahan
 Orlando McMeans
 John Pierre
 Vincent Pierre
 Dennis Shields
 Larissa Littleton-Steib
 Toya Barnes-Teamer
 Reynold Verret
 Stephanie Willis*

HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL
Xavier University Center, Room 205C
Xavier University of Louisiana
 Thursday, February 16, 2023
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents
Dr. Vladimir Appeaning	SUSLA
Dr. James Ammons	SUNO
Mr. Ronnie Dyer	Student Member/SUNO
Sen. Gerald Boudreaux	Senate Education Committee
Ms. Mablene Krueger, Proxy	Dillard University
Dr. Traci Smothers, Proxy	Delgado Community College
Ms. Makesha Judson	Department of Economic Development
Ms. Lakeisha Ricks, Proxy	NAACP
Dr. Calvin Walker, Proxy	Southern Ag Center
Mr. John Pierre	Southern Law Center
Rep. Candace Newell, Proxy	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Mr. Dennis Shields	SUBR, SU System
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana
Mr. Tavares Walker, Proxy	Louisiana Workforce Commission
Dr. Reynold Verret	Xavier University of LA
Ms. Stephanie Willis	ACLU of Louisiana
Members Absent	Affiliation
Mr. Rick Gallot	Grambling State University
Sen. Joseph Bouie	Senate President Representative
Sen. Jimmy Harris	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Rep. Patrick Jefferson	House Education Committee
Rep. Jason Hughes	Speaker of the House of Representatives

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2023. The roll was taken, and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022, meeting.

On motion of Chancellor John Pierre, seconded by Senator Boudreaux, the Council approved the minutes of the October 25, 2022, meeting.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Reed opened the floor to President Verret. President Verret welcomed the Council to Xavier University and expressed his gratitude for hosting the February meeting. President Verret stated that he appreciates the collegiality among all Council members and the drive to work together. He reminded the Council that education and social health have been key in higher education and K-12. President Verret informed the Council that Xavier has been able to sustain enrollment despite COVID-19.

XAVIER MEDICAL SCHOOL PLANNING

President Verret discussed the future development of a medical school at Xavier, with Ochsner Health as a clinical partner. President Verret shared Xavier's work in leading the country in educating students to become physicians and scientists. He informed the Council of statistics regarding the low representation of African Americans in the field of medicine and shared plans to address the lack of representation in that area. Dr. Reed stated that we look forward to tracking the progress of this effort.

LED UPDATE AND INFORMATION

Dr. Reed introduced LED representatives Brenda Guess, Assistant Secretary, and Chris Stelly, Executive Group Director of Entertainment and Digital Media.

SSBCI IN LOUISIANA

Ms. Guess provided information about the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). She shared that the goal of the SSBCI is to create access to capital, small business development, and equity programs for underserved and socially/economically disadvantaged communities.

Dr. Reed inquired as to whether any banks in the state have current participation in the program. Ms. Guess answered that LED has worked with over 30 banks statewide over the years; however, LED is working to identify and obtain certified SSBCI lenders to participate in the program.

Makesha Judson shared that LED is working with the Regional Administrator for Small Business Administration and local banks to facilitate meetings and encourage statewide partnerships with small businesses, with an extended invitation to state legislators and HBCUs to be in attendance.

LED ENTERTAINMENT FUND

Mr. Stelly shared that this is the first time since 2002 that LED has invested in educational institutions and workforce development programs. He provided information about the LED Entertainment Fund, which is available to accredited higher education institutions and aims to expand traditional film and entertainment programs and better train students in modern technology. He noted that the Fund is currently being utilized at several Louisiana institutions.

Ms. Judson mentioned LED's intent to seek more HBCU participation in the program and shared that they have already met with Dillard University and the Southern University Law Center.

Ms. Stephanie Willis inquired as to how an HBCU can demonstrate a track record of successful organization and operation in effect for two years, as per the requirements of the program. Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer shared that Delgado Community College was able to make changes to its carpentry and electrician programs to demonstrate successful operations, but mentioned that many institutions do not have the money to make substantive changes to their programs. Dr. Reed also stated that the institutions also lack access to information of the existence of funding programs.

Mr. Stelly reiterated LED's commitment to partner with as many institutions as possible. Dr. Reed requested that HBCUs reach out and utilize the LED staff as a resource. Dr. Lisa Vosper shared that the Workforce and Economic Subcommittee has made economic development a standing item on their agenda to ensure that institutions continue to take advantage of programs and initiatives and that the HBCUs are the first to hear information about any programs or initiatives that become available.

Dr. Reed thanked LED representatives for their presentation.

Dr. Reed then reflected on the legislation that created the HBCU Advisory Council, noting that the intent of the law was to ensure that HBCUs were not an afterthought with respect to LED funding opportunities and recruitment of businesses. She acknowledged Senator Gerald Boudreaux and Representative Candace Newell for their commitment to and advocacy for HBCUs.

SUNO NURSING PROGRAM

Commissioner Reed introduced Dr. Kelly Smith, Chair of the Department of Nursing at the Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO). Dr. Smith shared that in the Summer of 2022, SUNO launched a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. She expressed her gratitude to President James Ammons and the nursing faculty and staff at Southern University A&M for assisting with the launch and oversight of the program. She noted that SUNO is currently in its second cycle of admitting students into the program and that this is a traditional in-person program.

Dr. Smith stated that academic inclusion and diversity are values of importance to SUNO and its nursing program. SUNO offers an affordable degree pathway into the field of nursing. She indicated that students are afforded the opportunity to participate in simulation labs and clinical courses to afford "real-world experiences" through assisted learning to ensure student success. She also told the Council that SUNO is actively recruiting qualified faculty.

SUNO is partnering with several organizations, such as Ochsner Health and the VA Medical Center of Southeast Louisiana, to address workforce shortages. Dr. Reed inquired as to the demographic makeup of the nursing program. Dr. Smith shared that most of the participants in the program are female but noted that SUNO is seeking to increase diversity in the upcoming admissions cycle.

Commissioner Reed also asked if the program offers both day and evening courses. Dr. Smith stated that the program is currently a traditional day program, but evening programs may be offered in the future.

President Verrett inquired about the difficulty in obtaining nursing educators. Dr. Smith emphasized that there is currently a workforce shortage of nurses. She shared SUNO is taking measures to ensure that prospective instructors align with the mission of the institution. Chancellor Ammons commented that SUNO has researched and compared nursing instructor salaries across the nation and intends to set the nursing instructor salaries above the average threshold. However, he affirmed that while SUNO has had challenges recruiting faculty, it is committed to hiring more instructors.

President Verret inquired about the requirement that a prospective instructor have a Doctor of Nursing degree. Dr. Smith explained that SUNO prefers that a prospective instructor have a minimum of a Master of Nursing; however, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing has created an exception to allow hiring a BSN-prepared faculty member provided the instructor commits to returning to school to pursue a master's degree.

Dr. Reed shared her conversation with the Hospital Association Board about ways to facilitate partnerships to ensure that the state can retain and support nurse educations to be in the classroom and in hospital rooms. She also indicated that the Hospital Association continues to ask the legislature to provide funding to support nurse educators. Dr. Kelly Smith shared that through SUNO's partnership with Ochsner Health, Ochsner is researching different models for allowing clinical nurse educators to work part-time with an institution and onsite at a hospital.

Dr. Reed mentioned that Dr. Susannah Craig of the Board of Regents is working on public/private partnership grants created using state funds to help address the nursing shortage.

Dr. Reed thanked Dr. Smith for her presentation and acknowledged Chancellor Ammons and President Shields for their achievements at SUNO and contributions to addressing the nursing crisis.

DILLARD MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Dr. Reed introduced Dr. Sharon Hutchinson, Dean of Nursing at Dillard University, and Ms. Mablene Krueger, Interim Provost.

Ms. Krueger explained that the mission of Dillard is to prepare its graduates to think critically and communicate precisely, to make the world a better place.

Dr. Hutchinson emphasized that the mission of the Master of Nursing program (MSN) is to prepare caring, courageous future nurse leaders who are ethical, critical thinkers who communicate effectively, therapeutically respecting the diversity of peoples in all healthcare settings to improve the human condition.

Dr. Hutchinson shared that in May 2022, Dillard notified the Louisiana Board of Nursing that it sought to obtain approval for the Master's program. In December 2022, Dillard obtained approval of the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing status. On March 1, 2023, a candidacy presentation was scheduled for submission.

Dr. Hutchinson informed the Council that the MSN curriculum is a non-prelicensure competency-based program due to the focus on producing more nurse educators. She shared that due to the shortage, Dillard and SUNO share faculty with one another as well as with other institutions.

Senator Boudreaux acknowledged Dillard's nursing program, sharing that both of his daughters attended Dillard University and obtained their undergraduate degrees in nursing.

Dr. Reed asked about the size of the undergraduate nursing program. Dr. Hutchinson indicated that there are 102 students enrolled in the undergraduate nursing program: 74 in the clinical section and the others are in the non-clinical section. Dr. Reed also inquired as to the likelihood of students currently enrolled in the undergraduate program going on to the MSN program. Dr. Hutchinson said she expects 15% of current undergraduates at Dillard will enroll in the program.

Dr. Reed shared information about the legislative report derived from Senate Resolution 129, which urges and requests the examination of nursing supply and demand as well as an exploration of issues around nurse retention and the workforce shortage. She informed the Council that a survey was administered to nurses, the responses to which indicated the following issues contributing to the nursing shortage: hostile environments, fatigue, and challenges in the workforce. Dr. Susannah Craig shared that the Louisiana Department of Health is working on a webinar about these issues and that the information will be shared once it has been developed.

MUSEUM PROJECT UPDATE

Commissioner Reed introduced Anne Mahoney, Curator at the Capitol Park Museum, who provided an update on progress in development of the HBCU Museum Project.

Ms. Mahoney informed the Council that the Museum is currently compiling and drafting panel designs to contain historical information of each of the institutions. Each HBCU will have its own panel design, which will be posted throughout the Museum. She also shared that the installations will be rolled out on April 18th at the HBCU Day at the Capitol Reception, which will showcase a small preview of the installations. She added that Phase II of the project will focus on exhibit contribution, sponsorships, and budget.

CAMPUS/LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Dr. Reed provided information on the Governor's Executive Budget and its expected impact on higher education. She invited Senator Boudreaux and Representative Newell to provide additional comments on legislative priorities.

Senator Boudreaux thanked Dr. Reed and her staff for their work on the Council. He acknowledged the progress the Council has made since its inception and its continued collaborative partnership.

He informed the Council of the Governor's last address to the joint legislature concerning the Executive Budget.

Senator Boudreaux highlighted Dr. Reed's leadership and presented her with a resolution in recognition of her being named by *Forbes* magazine as one of the Top Black Leaders in Higher Education. Dr. Reed thanked Senator Boudreaux and the Council.

Dr. Reed then invited Representative Newell to provide comments on the upcoming legislative session. Representative Newell shared that she was an intern for Senator Wesley Bishop, who authored the legislation that created the Council. She expressed her gratitude for the Council's continued dedication to service and advocacy for the HBCUs. She also stated that she hopes that the institutions will take advantage of available federal funds to best serve their student populations. She also expressed her desire to become part of the Council.

CAMPUS UPDATES

President Shields announced that the Southern University System would meet with the Legislative Black Caucus on February 24, 2023. President Shields shared that Mitch Landrieu, White House Senior Advisor, toured Southern University Baton Rouge several weeks prior to the Council meeting. He noted that now the Southern University System is expected to have proper assistance when aggressively applying for federal funds. President Shields expressed his gratitude for the continued support of the legislators.

Chancellor Ammons thanked Dr. Reed and Regents staff for their assistance in helping SUNO receive approval for their nursing program. He shared key priorities for SUNO, which include creating a three-year academic plan, establishment of a cyber security program, and infrastructure growth.

Chancellor Appeaning stated that in Fall 2022 SUSLA's enrollment increased by 50%, which was the largest growth that the institution has experienced in the past six years as well as the third-highest in the institution's history. He acknowledged that institutional faculty are the backbone of the campus and shared that due to the legislature's support SUSLA was able to bring all of its faculty to the SREB average. Chancellor Appeaning shared that SUSLA has a 100% online RN-to-BSN program, which is transferable between SUBR and SUSLA. This pipeline will assist students to stay in the Southern University System to receive their desired degree.

Chancellor John Pierre acknowledged the 75th anniversary of the Southern University Law Center and credited its existence to Charles Hatfield, a graduate of Xavier University of LA.

Dr. Calvin Walker shared that the College of Agriculture experienced a 42% increase in enrollment. He also shared that the Southern Ag Center recently hosted U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, the fourth in his position to visit the Ag Center. Dr. Walker expressed gratitude to the Legislative Black Caucus for its continued support of the Ag Center and the entire Southern University System. He shared that the Ag Center has started to facilitate and cultivate a relationship with the Rural Caucus within the legislature. Dr. Walker also shared his excitement at being a part of the Museum Project.

Dr. Reed acknowledged and recognized Dr. Ford's recent investiture as Dillard University's President. President Ford shared that Dillard University continues to make progress with respect to enrollment and the facilitation of the nursing program. She also shared her areas of focus—promoting a healthy, innovative, safe community. President Ford indicated that Dillard is one of seven centers around the nation focusing on equity in mental health in addition to physical health. She also indicated that the institution seeks to address student housing issues and food equity, among other focus areas.

President Verret addressed the cyber-related issue that affected Xavier in December 2022. He shared that Xavier plans to update its infrastructure and focus on the development of a new residential facility. President Verret pointed out that deferred maintenance continues to be an issue on campus. He also shared information about Xavier's announcement of its capital campaign to rally support behind campus needs. President Verret indicated that Xavier continues to grow in areas of research and continues to contribute to the economy.

Student Representative Ronnie Dyer shared that students at SUNO have asked about campus infrastructure and deferred maintenance, which he recognized are issues across all HBCU campuses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Walker acknowledged Xavier's program development and the caliber of graduates the institution produces. President Verret explained that Xavier always strives to propel its students to success.

Dr. Reed reminded the Council to reach out to LED about available programs. She also announced that HBCU Day at the Capitol is scheduled for April 18, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Reed requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m. On motion of Ms. Makesha Judson, seconded by Representative Newell, the meeting was adjourned.