

Kim Hunter Reed, Chair
James Ammons
Ray Belton
Joseph Bouie
Gerald Boudreaux
Preston Castille
Ava Dejoie
Rodney Ellis
Richard Gallot, Jr.
James Henderson
Jason Hughes



Patrick Jefferson
Walter Kimbrough
Mandi Mitchell
Orlando McMeans
Kelsey Perine
John Pierre
Larissa Littleton-Steib
Toya Barnes-Teamer
Emmanuel Ukot
Reynold Verret
Arlanda Williams
Stephanie Willis

HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
 Wednesday, February 16, 2022
 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. via Zoom

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents
Dr. James Ammons	SUNO
Sen. Gerald Boudreaux	Senate Education Committee
Mr. Preston Castille	BESE
Mr. Rick Gallot	Grambling State University
Dr. Jim Henderson	UL System
Rep. Jason Hughes	Speaker of the House Representative
Dr. Walter Kimbrough	Dillard University
Dr. Orlando McMeans	SouthernAg Center
Ms. Susie Schowen	LED
Mr. John Pierre	Southern Law Center
Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib	Delgado Community College
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana
Emmanuel Ukot	Student Member/Xavier University
Ms. Stephanie Willis	ACLU of Louisiana
Dr. Ray Belton	Southern University Baton Rouge
Robyn Merrick	Southern University Baton Rouge
Members Absent	Affiliation
Sen. Joseph Bouie	Senate President Representative
Ms. Ava Dejoie	LWC
Dr. Alex Apeaning	SUSLA
Rep. Patrick Jefferson	House Education Committee
Dr. Reynold Verret	Xavier University
Ms. Kelsey Perine	NAACP
Ms. Arlanda Williams	Southern University System

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 16 2022, via Zoom. The roll was taken, and a quorum was established.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH VIDEO

The video Black History in Two Minutes – the Higher Education episode was shared with the group.

INTRODUCTION OF DR. TRISTAN DENLEY

Commissioner Reed introduced Dr. Tristan Denley as the new Deputy Commisisoner of Academic Affairs and Innovation stating that he is nationally and internationally known for his excellent work in the higher education space. When asked if he would like to say a few words, Dr. Denley said he is looking forward to his time at Regents and looks forward to working with Louisiana’s strong HBCU partners.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Nov. 2, 2021 meeting. On motion of President Rick Gallot, seconded by Dr. Barnes-Teamer, the Task Force approved the minutes.

HBCU/PRIVATE INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Chad Dyer, Gulf Partners representative, shared that Louisiana Folgers is the largest coffee production facility in North America. He provided an overview of a partnership Gulf Partners has entered into with Folgers Coffee Company, the Minority Business Development Center (MBCD) at Southern University Law Center and Southern University. This partnership is creating opportunities on multiple fronts for students, the school and Folgers. Through establishment of an ecosystem around Folger's coffee industry a workforce training program in agri-manufacturing is being developed and research involving waste stream is under way.

Charlie Fortson, program director of the MBDC at Southern University, spoke of the access to capital investments, access to markets and strategic consulting her organization provides. They have been an integral partner in facilitating the Southern/Folgers relationship.

Mr. Dyer stated Folgers welcomes the opportunity to partner with other HBCUs with projects and plans similar to the one established at Southern. He said he hoped to visit with the other campuses to explore and identify opportunities for strategic partnership.

HBCU SUMMER STEM OPPORTUNITY

Dr. Craig McClain addressed the group, sharing information about a six-week residential program for students during the summer. There are five full program scholarships available to HBCU students. The students will experience pristine lands as well as lands heavily influenced by humans and receive four credit hours for an introduction to the field of science course. He

emphasized LUMCON's intentional outreach efforts for achieving diversity since national rates of those studying in the geosciences field are: 4-6% minorities in undergraduate studies; 1.95% in graduate work; and less than 1% for those working toward doctoral degrees.

Mr. Preston Castille asked if LUMCON has any camp opportunities for high school students. Dr. McClain responded that there are two one-week camps that are not residential. He stated he would share a flyer about both the residential and non-residential camps with the group following the meeting.

Dr. McMeans asked if the camps focus on coastal erosion. Dr. McClain stated that they do focus on coastal erosion in addition to climate change and the socio-economic human component of both.

Chancellor Pierre asked if it would be possible to link law students interested in environmental law with LUMCON. Dr. McClain welcomed the opportunity and promised to follow-up with Chancellor Pierre.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Sen. Gerald Boudreaux urged that members partake in a "full court press" with their Legislative delegation members this Session. He suggested inviting Legislators to tour their campuses and stressed the need to stay engaged through the entire Session until it concludes in June.

Commissioner Reed asked about the status of redistricting. Sen. Boudreaux said he was pleased that there were various mapping options introduced. He said Phase 1 of the redistricting process is scheduled to end tomorrow (Feb. 17). He added that Phase II will likely involve litigation.

CAMPUS SAFETY ROUNDTABLE

Dr. Belton spoke of the recent bomb threat made to Southern's campus. He said that responding to it led to more meaningful relationships and discussions between the institution and federal agencies and law enforcement. Southern is now meeting monthly with the FBI, which is conducting a review of student safety on the campus. He added that at 5:30 p.m. all campus entrance points close except one. Those attempting to enter campus must present identification. Southern also launched a student safety app, which a significant number of students have downloaded.

Chancellor Pierre spoke of a recent visit to the Department of Homeland Security in Atlanta, as well as an invitation to participate in an FBI symposium on campus security. He added that the law center is upgrading technologies to increase security measures.

Dr. McMeans shared that the first Black woman to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited campus the previous week. He stated that Southern Ag Center has posted documents on its website specific to safety measures for large groups, open areas and when dealing with

animals. Inspections of the research stations found them to be vulnerable in terms of security so they are addressing those vulnerabilities.

President Gallot agreed that there has been tremendous support from state and federal government, Louisiana State Police, the National Guard and LSU Police Department. He suggested a future HBCU meeting focused on campus security measures so the group can share best practices and more specifics privately.

Dr. Kimbrough said that although Dillard was not a threat target, the Department of Homeland Security recently shared a “how to stay prepared” presentation on campus.

Commissioner Reed asked guest student attendee Jaylah Richie, executive intern for President Kimbrough, and advisory council student member Emmauel Ukot how students are handling the extra stress and pressures of the semester. Ms. Richie stated that students find updates comforting during extra stressful and emergency situations – even if they don’t provide all the information at one time. She said it is better to send multiple messages rather than wait to send one. Mr. Ukot agreed stating that the Administration could gain students’ confidence and trust with more information sharing. As an out-of-state student from Houston, TX he mentioned how impressive it is that Louisiana and her students always bounce back even though the class of 2022 has only had 1 ½ “normal” years of college.

FUTURE MEETINGS, FUTURE FOCUS AREAS AND NEXT STEPS

Commissioner Reed shared that HBCU Day at the Capitol will be Tuesday, May 24. The next task force meeting will be held that morning. There are plans under way to host a social event at the Pentagon Barracks that evening. Be on the lookout for a Save the Date graphic and more event details.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Erin Cowser, BoR, informed the Task Force that there were no public comments.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURMENT

There being no Other Business, Dr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn. President Gallot motioned with a second by Chancellor Pierre, and the meeting adjourned.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES & GUESTS

Name	Affiliation
Chad Dyer	Gulf Partners
Charlie Fortson	Minority Business Development Center at SULC
Craig McClain	LUMCON
Ryan McKinnon	Folgers Coffee Company
Jaylah Richie	Dillard University President Kimbrough's intern
Allison Smith	Board of Regents
Melissa Cloutet	Board of Regents
Erin Cowser	Board of Regents

Chris Yandle	Board of Regents
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