

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tuesday, September 2, 2011
Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room
2nd Floor, J.S. Clark Administration Building
Southern University - Baton Rouge

Minutes

The Special Meeting of the Southern University Board of Supervisors was convened by the Chairman, Mr. Darren G. Mire. The invocation was given by Mr. Montrell McCaleb.

PRESENT

Mr. Darren G. Mire – Chair
Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr. – Vice Chair
Mr. Patrick W. Bell
Mr. Calvin W. Braxton, Sr.
Atty. Tony W. Clayton
Atty. Walter C. Dumas
Dr. Eamon M. Kelly
Atty. Warren A. Forstall
Mr. Willie E. Hendricks
Atty. Patrick O. Jefferson
Mr. Myron K. Lawson
Mrs. Ann A. Smith
Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert, Jr.
Mr. Demetrius Sumner, Student Member

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL ATTENDING

System President Ronald Mason, Jr.
Evola Bates, Chief of Staff
System Vice Presidents Kevin Appleton, and Tony Moore
Chancellors Ray Belton (SUSLA), Freddie Pitcher (SULC),
James Llorens (SUBR), Victor Ukpolo (SUNO), and
Leodrey Williams (SUAREC)

BOARD COUNSEL

Attys. Winston DeCuir, Jr., and Tracie Woods

AGENDA ITEM 3: MEETING NOTICE AND WAIVER

On motion of Atty. Bell, seconded by Mr. Bell, the Board voted to waive the 10-day notice required by the Bylaws for Special Meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion of Atty. Forstall, seconded by Mr. Bell, the agenda was adopted, as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Numerous members of the SUBR faculty and Staff and a member of the SUNO faculty spoke in opposition to Agenda Item 6A: Declaration of Financial Emergency/Exigency at SUBR. Several cites the adverse results such action could have on the University's continuing growth and development.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ACTION ITEMS

A. Declaration of Financial Emergency/Exigency at SUBR

SUBR Faculty Senate representatives reported that less than 90% of the SUBR faculty had signed a voluntary furlough agreement, which was necessary in order to avoid a declaration of financial exigency by the Board. The Faculty Senate representatives requested additional time to acquire the necessary signatures.

Chancellor Llorens presented the Administration's rationale for requesting a declaration of financial exigency by the Board. Citing a lack of optimism for obtaining 90% faculty signatures on voluntary furlough agreements, the Chancellor predicted that the University would experience serious challenges for balancing its budget.

In response to an inquiry from a member of the audience in regards to the implementation of staff furloughs at the System level, President Mason noted that:

- 1.) A recommendation was before the Board from SUBR for the resolution of its financial issue.
- 2.) The System's Staff was reduced during the previous fiscal year by 50% which resulted in a budget savings of one million dollars.
- 3.) Implementation of additional staff furlough at the System would generate only \$75,000

4.) No recommendations will be made to the Board from the President for Staff reductions at the System level.

5.) Should 90% of the SUBR faculty members sign the voluntary furlough agreements, the President would match their 10% cut with a 10% cut in his salary.

Suggestions were offered by Board Members and faculty representatives to require furlough of faculty for one year only. Dr. Llorens' response noted that one-year furloughs will only continue SUBR's current financial situation.

Continuing, Dr. Llorens reemphasized that his recommendation for the declaration of financial exigency was to enable the Administration to present to the Board a balanced budget; and, to give the Administration the flexibility to restructure the University.

A motion was offered by Atty. Magee and seconded by Atty. Bell, for the Board to approve a Resolution which declared that:

- A financial emergency exists for Southern University – Baton for the 2011-12 fiscal year;
- The Board approves the preliminary retrenchment plan presented by the President;
- The Board authorizes the President and the Chancellor to present an academic and administrative reorganization plan no later than the November 2011 Board Meeting;
- The Board approves the revised summer salary formula for faculty;
- The Board authorizes the President and Chancellor to commence with furloughs of all Southern University – Baton employees, as described in their plan; and
- The Board will take additional actions during the fiscal year to amend, reinstate, or remove this declaration between November 2011 and June 30, 2012.

A substitute motion was made by Atty. Clayton and seconded by Rev. Tolbert to allow SUBR Faculty representatives seventy-two hours to obtain the necessary signatures of 90% of the faculty in order to avoid a declaration of financial exigency by the Board of Supervisors; and, to schedule a special meeting of the Board for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 to act on the SUBR financial issue.

The substitute motion carried. Roll Call Vote: 12 yeas; Mire, P. Bell, Braxton, Clayton, Dumas, Forstall, Gaines, Jefferson, Lawson, Smith, Sumner and Tolbert; 4 nays: M. Bell, Hendricks, Kelly, and Magee; and 0 abstentions.

On motion of Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Braxton, the Board voted to waive the ten-day notice requirement for the Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 6.

Motion carried unanimously.

Faculty Senate representatives indicated that they would work during the interim to obtain the additional signatures. Board Counsel Tracie Woods has agreed to assist in verifying the signatures.

AGENDA ITEM 6B: APPROVAL OF THE 2011-12 OPERATING BUDGET, SUBR

Deferred.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Bell, the meeting was adjourned.

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