

*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 MINUTES
Louisiana Board of Regents
Board Conference Room (2-242)
Claiborne Building, Suite 6-200
 Tuesday, April 18, 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
Sen. Gerald Boudreaux	Senate Education Committee
Mr. Ronnie Dyer	Student Member/SUNO
Dr. Rochelle Ford	Dillard University
Mr. Rick Gallot	Grambling State University
Rep. Jason Hughes	Speaker of the House of Representatives, Designee
Mr. Michael McClanahan	NAACP
Dr. Orlando McMeans	Southern Ag Center
Mr. John Pierre	Southern Law Center
Mr. Dennis Shields	SUBR, SU System
Dr. Larissa Littleton- Steib	Delgado Community College
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana
Mr. Tavares Walker, Proxy	Louisiana Workforce Commission
Dr. Reynold Verret	Xavier University of Louisiana
Members Absent	Affiliation
Sen. Joseph Bouie	Senate President Representative
Mr. Preston Castille	BESE
Dr. James Henderson	University of Louisiana System

Ms. Makesha Judson	Department of Economic Development
Rep. Vincent Pierre	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Sen. Jimmy Harris	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Rep. Patrick Jefferson	House Education Committee
Ms. Stephanie Willis	ACLU of Louisiana

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 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 February 16, 2023, meeting.

On motion of Dr. Teamer, seconded by President Verret, the Council approved the minutes of the February 16, 2023, meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senator Boudreaux acknowledged the Reginald F. Lewis Scholars and shared that he accompanied them to Paris, France during a study abroad trip. He also encouraged the Council to remain engaged and informed during the Regular Legislative Session. Senator Boudreaux and Representative Hughes provided highlights and information to the Council on several pieces of pending legislation. Senator Boudreaux urged the Council to analyze the bills and their intent.

Dr. Verret shared some concerns on several topics such as tenure and the economic impact on the accreditation and federal funding of HBCUs. Dr. Ford seconded Dr. Verret’s concerns.

Commissioner Reed thanked Senator Boudreaux and Representative Hughes.

HBCU INSURANCE PREMIUMS DISCUSSION

Dr. Ford requested a change in the program to discuss the HBCU insurance premiums. Dr. Ford stated Dillard University has seen a 153% increase in the price of its insurance since last year. Other schools have seen similar increases and are being told to expect dramatic increases in their rates. Dr. Ford stated that Senate Bill 147 could prove helpful and allow for regulatory oversight.

PROJECT REACH

Dr. Reed introduced Mr. Willie Henderson, Cyber-Education Specialist at Cyber.org. He provided information on cybersecurity initiatives such as Project Reach. Mr. Henderson acknowledged that funding could create partnerships with at least ten different HBCUs outside of Louisiana but could also expand programs within the state.

Mr. Henderson stated that institutions of higher education serve as key target points for cybersecurity attacks. He also shared that Project Reach aims to work with workforce development to provide opportunities and programs for HBCU students and to keep them interested in cyber employment fields.

Mr. Henderson indicated that some of the success of his program could be attributed to President Gallot, who implemented the program at Grambling State University. President Gallot expressed that the partnership has been an incredible opportunity for Grambling.

Dr. Ford asked if the institutions were funding cyber camps for students or if funding was available through Cyber.org. Mr. Henderson responded that many of the camps are funded through the HBCU budget.

Mr. Tavares Walker stated that there is a fund designated to institutions for the expansion of cybersecurity programs. Dr. Reed indicated that information on how to submit their proposals for the funding would be provided to the Council members.

Chancellor Pierre stated that more of the law students at the Southern University Law Center have become interested in cybersecurity and he shared that the Law Center had entered into a partnership with the Department of Homeland Security.

Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib said students are looking at cybersecurity options at Delgado Community College and noted that Delgado has partnerships with four-year institutions.

Dr. Reed encouraged the Council to follow up with President Gallot and Mr. Henderson for more information about the Project Reach program.

CAPITOL PARK MUSEUM

Dr. Reed thanked the Council for participating in the Museum project, particularly recognizing Ms. Golden, who established the vision. Dr. Reed expressed her excitement for the unveiling of the exhibits and the evening reception, then introduced Ms. Annie Mahoney to present.

Ms. Mahoney provided information about the museum layout for each exhibit and estimated costs for Phase II, to continue building the exhibit.

CAMPUS UPDATES

President Gallot highlighted a student who is a native of Ghana and a double major in Accounting and Computer Information Systems. President Gallot shared that the student had plans to participate in a summer internship with Deloitte in Dallas. A second student is graduating in Cybersecurity and has plans to work for an entity in their cybersecurity practice. Also recognized was Kayla Mosby, a Thurgood Marshall College Fund Ambassador who has

seven job offers and is graduating in marketing. President Gallot acknowledged the Grambling State University cheerleading squad, which he shared is the first HBCU team to win the National co-ed division championship. He also discussed the shoe collaboration with Grambling, Adidas, and NBA Star Donovan Mitchell. The shoes were presented to Grambling players during the HBCU Classic of NBA All-Star Weekend.

President Verret provided information on the assessment and expansion of new programs, such as medicine, science, health, and STEM education research, at Xavier. Xavier is focused on the launch of the medical school to educate more practitioners and enhance bio-medical research.

President Shields shared his experience at the HBCU All-Star Classic in Salt Lake City this past February. He stated that Southern signed an MOU with Columbia University to collaborate on a variety of topics to increase opportunities for the faculty and students. He also provided information on Jaguar Success Academy which is designed to allow incoming first-year students to successfully matriculate into college. He indicated that Southern is in search of a science and engineering team to help build the engineering program.

Dr. McMeans stated that the SU Agricultural Center celebrated its annual livestock show, which is the only livestock show hosted by an HBCU. Dr. McMeans thanked Dr. Reed for being present at the Boots and Bling event. Dr. McMeans stated the enrollment rate has grown 42%, now numbering over 500 students, and that two recruitment and retention officers have been hired to increase the number of students enrolled in the program. Last weekend, 55 students attended a minorities in agriculture event, which consisted of LSU and SU students.

Dr. Ammons recognized Dana Marie Bailey, a student double majoring in Social Work and Public Administration who is also the incoming SGA President of SUNO. Dr. Ammons also acknowledged Mr. Ronnie Dyer, the outgoing SGA President and Council member, who will be attending medical school. He also shared that a former Ms. SUNO was accepted to ten law schools and plans to spend the summer with the World Bank. Ms. SUNO of 2022 is on her way to the University of Indiana School of Optometry.

SUNO was awarded a \$494,000 grant from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund that will be used to remove barriers from college enrollment and enhance student success. Dr. Ammons also shared that SUNO entered into a partnership with Delgado Community College and that the universal transfer legislation is being utilized to assist Delgado students with housing. Through a \$3,000,000 dollar grant from the National Telecommunications Agency and the Department of Commerce, SUNO will provide internet access to New Orleans communities during natural disasters and outages. The nursing program's first cohort is finishing up and incoming students will receive acceptance letters into the second cohort. Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation awarded the nursing program a large gift in the previous year. The Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity will launch in the fall. SUNO is also concerned with the overall physical and mental health of students. The counseling center is undergoing renovations, and 24-hour counseling will be made available to students. A Zen room for student mental health is opening and will be available to students.

Chancellor Appeaning acknowledged the steady leadership of Dr. Reed and shared insights from his year of transition. This past fall, enrollment was recorded at 3,154 students. This registered number is the highest in the last six years, the third-highest enrollment in the history of the institution, and the highest retention increase. Fall-to-spring retention is up 85%. Chancellor Appeaning credited the faculty and students. He also shared information on the cybersecurity certificate and engineering programs. Partnerships have been established with Northwestern State University to help provide a path for students to transfer from a two- to a four-year program. Nursing is strong with a 100% online program and the opportunity to transfer to Baton Rouge. Students are then able to finish within one year. SUSLA leveraged government funding to bring 100% of faculty members to the SREB average. The institution is fully accredited with no recommendations through 2031. The phlebotomy, radiology, and health information programs have been extended through 2027-2028. \$22,000,000 was secured last year for a new gymnasium and workforce center. This year, the bigger ask is for the STEM building. Chancellor Appeaning stated it had been a privilege to serve and was acknowledged for his service on the Council.

Chancellor Pierre shared that the papers from the Supreme Court decision, *Grutter v. Bollinger*, were donated by President Shields to the Law Center. The Law Center will take advantage of an MOU that will focus on a project with Georgetown University. Monique Edwards, a Visiting Professor and Law Center Alumna, was named as a Commissioner for Conservation. Chancellor Pierre recognized former Attorney General Richard Ieyoub, the former and now-deceased Attorney General of Louisiana who advocated for the Southern University System separate and apart from the LSU System. Chancellor Pierre also stated that Louisiana has the highest number of Black judges in the United States.

The Law Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Esports lab in conjunction with SUBR. He also shared that several students were accepted to summer internships in Austin, Houston and Washington, D.C. He recognized Ms. Whitley Parker, the newly elected Student Bar Association President who is the first part-time evening student to be elected. Chancellor Pierre also acknowledged several students who received \$40,000 scholarships from several organizations.

Dr. Ford stated Dillard is focusing on transfer admissions. The level of credits has been lowered across programs to make it easier for students to graduate. Dr. Ford expressed gratitude for Dr. Teamer, who served as a Transformation Officer. Dr. Ford says Dillard has a higher graduation and retention rate. The first-time pass rate for the nursing exam is currently at 84.6%. The Dillard pre-law program has a 100% law school acceptance rate and several of the students will be attending the Southern University Law Center with over \$1.3 million in scholarships. Dillard also hosted over 600 middle school students in partnership with Ascension, DePaul Community Health Center, and LSU Dental and Medical School programs. Dr. Ford shared that the institution is on track to move into the Master of Nursing program, which former nursing graduates helped to establish.

There is a STEM partnership with Verizon, which has been offered to 80 middle school students. Dillard partnered with NASA and had students compete in the rocket launch competition. The first cohort of students went to Japan to study at the Shibaura Institute of Technology and the Institute's students will study English at Dillard.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ashley Shelton of the Power Coalition for Equity and Justice stated that she plans to donate \$25,000 to Phase II of the museum project.

Joan Garner thanked the Council for the panel in the exhibit. She shared that her father was involved in the sit-ins that resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court case, Garner v. Louisiana. Ms. Garner stated on behalf of her family, all of whom graduated from HBCUs, that the history of her father's legacy should be properly reported and that hard conversations must be discussed. Dr. Reed indicated that she is open to conversation and looked forward to following up.

Hillary Davis and Tonya Bolden-Ball of Ochsner Health shared information about their 2021 HBCU Health Summit. The two stated that they would reach out to the Council to promote clinical and non-clinical positions and stress the importance of spaces for Black students in health care. The information regarding the fall 2022 summit will be sent to Council members.

Deshawn Jordan, the daughter of Vernon Jordan, who participated in sit-ins with Joan Garner's father, shared her agreement with Ms. Garner's concerns and statements. She stated that their story is not being told correctly and that she stands on behalf of him and is grateful for what he has taught and has done for the community.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Dr. Reed introduced student member Ronnie Dyer, who was elected by the Council of Student Body Presidents to serve on the HBCU Advisory Council. While serving on the Council, Ronnie expressed his gratitude for the collaboration and appreciation for the work of the Council. As SGA President, he enjoyed his tenure and his SpringFest at SUNO. Mr. Dyer then recognized the newly elected president, Dana Bailey, and Ms. SUNO, who were both present. Dr. Reed stated that Grambling will provide the next student member of the Council and announced the schedule for the rest of the day.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Reed noted that several handouts containing information about student financial aid programs and statistics, higher education funding, and the Master Plan were placed in the members' folders.

MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Dr. Teamer and seconded by Dr. Ford. the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.