

*Kim Hunter Reed, Chair*  
*James Ammons*  
*Ken Brass*  
*Joseph Bouie*  
*Gerald Boudreaux*  
*Preston Castille*  
*Rochelle Ford*  
*Richard Gallot, Jr.*  
*Aubra Gantt*  
*Jason Hughes*  
*Alexa Johnson*



*Edmond Jordan*  
*Michael McClanahan*  
*Orlando McMeans*  
*John Pierre*  
*Susana Schowen*  
*Dennis Shields*  
*Larissa Littleton-Steib*  
*Toya Barnes-Teamer*  
*Reynold Verret*  
*Stephanie Willis*

**HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, October 25, 2023**  
**Student Union Ballroom, Dillard University**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents
Dr. James Ammons	SUNO
Sen. Gerald Boudreaux	Senate Education Committee
Dr. Rochelle Ford	Dillard University
Mr. Theodore Callier, Proxy	Grambling State University
Ms. Lakeisha Ricks, Proxy	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
Rep. Candance Newell, Proxy	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Dr. Reynold Verret	Xavier University of LA
<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Dr. Aubra Gantt	SUSLA
Sen. Joseph Bouie	Senate President Representative
Alexa Johnson	Student Member, Grambling State University
Mr. Preston Castille	Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Mr. James Henderson	President of the University of Louisiana System
Rep. Jason Hughes	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Ms. Makesha Judson	Department of Economic Development
Rep. Patrick Jefferson	House Education Committee
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana
Ms. Stephanie Willis	ACLU of Louisiana

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 10:04 am on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Brianna Golden informed the Commissioner that a quorum had not been established.

**Consideration of approval of the April minutes was deferred to the Council's next meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.**

### WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Reed opened the floor to President Ford. President Ford welcomed the Council to Dillard University and expressed her gratitude for hosting the October meeting. She also recognized the continued partnership and collaboration among all the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Louisiana.

### 2023 HBCU WEEK CONFERENCE

#### HBCU SCHOLAR RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATION

Commissioner Reed introduced the 2023 White House HBCU Scholar Recipients:

- Crystal Ammons, Southern University Law Center
- Dana Bailey, Southern University at New Orleans
- Youma Diabira, Xavier University of Louisiana
- Tyler Finley, Dillard University
- Ebenezer Nyenwe, Xavier University of Louisiana
- Marissa Pittman, Dillard University
- Henry Steele III, Southern University and A&M College

Each student received a certificate presented by their campus President or Chancellor. Dr. Reed invited HBCU Scholar Crystal Ammons to share highlights of her award-winning presentation provided to the MUREP Innovation and Technology Transfer Idea Competition, sponsored by NASA. The Commissioner and the Council commended the Scholars on their recognition and expressed their gratitude for their hard work.

### NATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS ON HBCUS UPDATE

Commissioner Reed invited Dr. Walter Kimbrough, member of the President's National Advisory Board on HBCUs, to provide a federal update. Dr. Kimbrough thanked the Commissioner and the Council for extending an invitation to present. He shared informative updates on federal initiatives and areas of concern to HBCUs. He also provided a book of

interest to each Council member titled “Vital and Valuable: The Relevance of HBCUs to American Life and Education” written by James V. Koch and Omari H. Swinton.

### HBCU WEEK RECAP

Dr. Reed invited Chancellor Pierre to provide a recap of 2023 National HBCU Week Conference. Chancellor Pierre shared information on behalf of the National Science Foundation, specifically regarding national investments in STEM education and funding opportunities to support research and broaden participation in artificial intelligence research, education, and workforce development. Chancellor Pierre proposed inviting Dr. James Moore, Assistant Director of STEM Education for the National Science Foundation, to present at the next Advisory Council meeting.

### CYBERSECURITY UPDATES

Mr. Lonnie Leger, Executive Director of Louisiana Optical Network Infrastructure (LONI), presented information about the LONI Network and provided statewide cybersecurity updates.

Mr. Theodore Callier, Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs at Grambling State University, provided information on cybersecurity programs and initiatives taking place at Grambling. He shared that Grambling has experienced an increase in enrollment in its Cybersecurity programs. Additionally, Grambling has partnered with Caddo Parish to launch a pilot program that aims to engage with local students to introduce them to careers in cybersecurity.

### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DISCUSSION

President Dennis Shields led a discussion about the Supreme Court’s decision in *Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* and *SFFA v. University of North Carolina*.

### CAMPUS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Each of the HBCUs and Advisory Council subcommittees shared and provided updates to the Council.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

On motion of Dr. McMeans, seconded by Dr. Ammons, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.