

*Wesley Bishop, Chair
Kim Hunter Reed, Vice Chair
James Ammons
Gerald Boudreaux
Ava Dejoie
Lisa Mims-Devezin
Rodney Ellis
Randal Gaines
Richard Gallot, Jr.
Jeffrey Hall
James Henderson
Patrick Jefferson*



*Walter Kimbrough
Mandi Mitchell
Bobby Phills
John Pierre
Edward Price
Larissa Littleton-Steib
Toya Barnes-Teamer
Brianna Thomas
Lurie Thomason
Reynold Verret
Stephanie Willis*

MINUTES

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Advisory Council
Governor's Press Room ~ Louisiana State Capitol

April 24, 2019

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Advisory Council met in session at 3:05 p.m., on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, in the Governor's Press Room at Louisiana State Capitol. Senator Wesley Bishop called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called and a quorum was established.

Present at the meeting were:

Dr. James Ammons
Dr. Ray Belton
Senator Wesley Bishop
Kellie Taylor-White
Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin
Dr. Rodney Ellis
Representative Randal Gaines
Ashley Mitchell Carter
Dr. Walter Kimbrough
Chancellor John Pierre
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed
Senator Edward Price
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer
Brianna Thomas
Dr. Reynold Verret
Dr. C. Rueben Walker

Absent from the meeting were:

Senator Gerald Boudreaux
President Rick Gallot
Representative Patrick Jefferson
Mandi Mitchell
Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib
Dr. Lurie Thomason
Stephanie Willis

Senator Bishop acknowledged the legislators in attendance. Senator Troy Carter, Representative Royce Duplessis, Senator Greg Tarver, Senator Edward Price, Representative Randal Gaines and Representative Joseph Bouie provided brief comments to the Council. Dr. Kim Hunter Reed expressed gratitude in the Council for raising awareness of HBCUs. Next year's theme should be "We are one."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Kellie Taylor-White, seconded by Senator Edward Price, the HBCU Advisory Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February Council minutes.

PRESENTATION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION BY SEN. BISHOP

Senator Bishop explained this is a fiscal session and each legislator is allowed five bills. The workgroup's recommendations will be filed as a Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR). SCR is a resolution that will detail the recommendations for this session. The resolution will go before the Senate and House Education and full House and set the stage for the upcoming legislation. Senator Bishop requested that the council members have a discussion about the recommendations with key personnel on their campuses and brought back their ideas and thoughts. Senator Bishop commended Dr. James Ammons for his research on best practices for HBCUs.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF 2019 REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATION

Representative Gaines informed the Council of the increased focus on funding the public institutions that will enable universities to advance their efforts. Senator Bishop informed the Council of the pay raises for teachers and support staff. Dr. Kim Hunter Reed presented the

Board of Regents'(BoR) legislative package as it pertains to HBCUs. There is legislation around dual enrollment with a focus on universal access, affordable textbooks and e-textbooks, a recommendation around the formula to increase the weight for minority completion, and recommendation for infrastructure. Dr. Reed informed the Council of the national focus on Second Chance Pell.

AROUND THE TABLE- SPOTLIGHT ON HBCU ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Ray Belton, president of Southern University System (SUS), expressed appreciation and gratitude to the committee for their work and value of HBCUs. Dr. Belton presented the Council with legislative session recommendations. He shared an interest in exploring the recommendations, support for faculty increases on campuses, and supplemental resources that are comparable to K-12. Dr. Belton addressed the relief needed for the unfunded mandates and that the Black Caucus assisted Southern University and Grambling State University through supplemental appropriations. Since there were unfunded mandates, universities were forced to increase fees to obtain flat funding. This year's position is to forego increases and hope to get some relief in this session.

Dr. Reynold Verret, president of Xavier University of Louisiana, informed the Council of Xavier's overall increased enrollment and the new freshmen enrollment. Through a partnership with Ochsner Medical Center, Xavier has a new master's program in Physician Assistant. The university has added data science and neuroscience to the academic offerings.

Mr. John Pierre, Chancellor of the Southern University Law Center, informed the Council that Professor Angela Bell lead the discussion on the unanimous jury in Louisiana. The law center has become involved in the growing technology field. The law center has assisted

individuals with trademarking and branding. The law center has guided students with STEM opportunities that the students did realize were available.

Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin, Chancellor of Southern University-New Orleans (SUNO), informed the Council of SUNO's College Access Retention Excellence Success Program results. SUNO had retained 80% of their freshmen and sophomores, and 53% of their enrollment is adult learners. The percentage of adult learners exceeds the national percent of 41.5% by 2025. SUNO received the AKA foundation award for student scholarships. This year, there will be a new College of Education wing for early childhood and head start education. This wing will have an indoor and outdoor playground area that will be conducive for students. The wing also allows teaching-learning enhancement, provides research experiences, and provides parents with childcare. There is a partnership with DXC Tech, and 20 alumni have gained employment. Dr. Carmen Walters, a SUNO graduate, has been named the 14th President of Tougaloo University. The Police Chief of New Orleans, Shawn Ferguson is a SUNO graduate as well.

Dr. Walter Kimbrough, President of Dillard University, encouraged Ms. Brianna Thomas, Miss Dillard University, Traylin Rogers, Student Government Association Vice President, and Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer to speak on their experiences at Dillard. Ms. Thomas informed the Council of her internship with the Thurgood Marshall Fund. Mr. Rogers informed the Council of mock trial team, the accomplishments of the team, and provided information on the pre-law program. Dr. Teamer provided the Council with an in-depth look at the pre-law program and the grants the program receives. The pre-law program assigns a mentor, provides preparation for a career in law, individual coaching, and attempts to address all the obstacles that

may hinder a student's success. The program has accepted 20 students but has applied for more funding to expand it.

Dr. Rodney Ellis, Chancellor of Southern University-Shreveport (SUSLA), informed the Council that SUSLA has increased their workforce-related programs. SUSLA has a 100% licensure passing rate for dental hygiene, radiology, and licensed practical nurse. There has been an increase in the registered nurse program which has a 90% passing rate. They have a SUSLA connect program that aims to connect students to get into the New Orleans and Baton Rouge campuses. Dr. Ellis provided information on the Williams Center for minority males. This center focuses on the retention rates and graduation of males at a two-year college. SUSLA has launched a band that will participate in Bayou Classic.

Dr. James Ammons, Executive Vice President (SUS), thanked the legislature for creating the Council and Representative Randal Gaines for supporting and providing wisdom to the academic workgroup. Dr. Ammons commended Commissioner Reed for the master plan. The SUS has strengthened its partnership with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance. SUS has completed a program prioritization study. The results helped SUS to align academia to the workforce and identify the focus areas to expand and invest in. SUS received \$2 million from Entergy, and Governor John Bel Edwards matched the donation. SUS is making online programs a priority to access in reaching the adult learners. The nurse practitioner has a 100% licensure passing rate. There has been a focus around dual enrollment and expanding staff.

Dr. C. Reuben Walker, Chancellor of Southern University Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SU Ag Center), informed the Council of the Ag Center's need for an equitable match. It is their goal to provide services statewide. As of right now, the ag center services 34

parishes. There are members of the SUS assisting in the statewide expansion. The ag center found a food specialist to assist SUSLA in securing \$1.5 million for a commercial kitchen. The United States Department of Agriculture gives \$500,000 in farm schools to the 19 ag centers in Louisiana. The Minority Students in the Agricultural and Natural Resources Club won chapter of the year for Region 4. The ag center hosted the Minister of South African and a representative from Uganda. There will be a summer program held for sophomores and juniors from June 3rd- June 28th. There will be a partnership with PrairieView A&M University and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to create a Center of Excellence for Student Success and Workforce. The center will be named the ArkLaTex Center. The Ag Center is encouraging dual enrollment for Family and Consumer Science and has brought St. Landry Parish on board. Next month the child development center will receive its license. The Urban Forestry Department has been named the top program in the country.

FUTURE MEETINGS, FUTURE FOCUS AREAS, AND NEXT STEPS

The next meeting will be tentatively held in Shreveport in September. New Orleans will host the November meeting. Senator Bishop requested that the committees continue to work on their recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Albert Samuels, Southern University Baton Rouge Faculty Senate President, inquired about the funding formula, the weight of Pell in the formula, and plans for the formula going forward. Dr. Reed informed Dr. Samuels that the BoR is aligning the formula with the new Master Plan and that the Chief Financial Officers from the institutions will meet with BoR to discuss it.

OTHER BUSINESS

Senate Bishop provided an overview of the Legislative Black Caucus Prayer Breakfast and complimented Grambling State University's and Southern University's choirs. Senator Bishop requested that Dr. Robyn Merrick coordinate HBCU Day at the Capitol with the Legislative Black Caucus Prayer Breakfast moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the HBCU Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.