

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

Tuesday, November 2, 2021
 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
Rep. Jason Hughes	Speaker Clay Schexnayder
Dr. Walter Kimbrough	Dillard University
Dr. Orlando McMeans	SouthernAg Center
Ms. Mandi Mitchell	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
Dr. Reynold Verret designee Mable Moore	Xavier University
Dr. Ray Belton designee Robyn Merrick	Southern University Baton Rouge
Members Absent	Affiliation
Sen. Joseph Bouie	President Page Cortez
Mr. Preston Castille	BESE
Ms. Ava Dejoie	LWC
Dr. Rodney Ellis	SUSLA
Mr. Rick Gallot	Grambling State University
Dr. Jim Henderson	UL System
Rep. Patrick Jefferson	House Education Committee
Ms. Kelsey Perine	NAACP
Ms. Arlanda Williams	Southern University System
Ms. Stephanie Willis	ACLU of Louisiana

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, via Zoom. The roll was taken, and a quorum was established.

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT MEMBER

SGA President Emmanuel Ukot, Xavier University was introduced and shared a few words. It was shared that student membership will rotate between private and public HBCU institutions. With Xavier represented this year, the student member next year will be elected from among the state's public HBCUs. The following year it will be another LAICU HBCU student and so on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2021 meeting. On motion of Dr. Ammons, seconded by Dr. Barnes-Teamer, the Task Force approved the minutes.

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF BROADBAND UPDATE

Veneeth Iyengar, LA Executive Director of Broadband and Connectivity provided an update to the Task Force. He explained the office's focus on INFRASTRUCTURE, AFFORDABILITY and DIGITAL LITERACY (without the last component the other two don't matter). GUMBO Grants program application period opened Monday and will close December 31. Awards are planned mid-March with construction thereafter. Mr. Iyengar said that the White House is impressed that 166,000 Louisianians are participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefits

program. This is good because it emphasizes the state's need and strong participation. A new Broadband Toolkit is available and the website has launched to provide information.

Mr. Iyengar encouraged participants in the NTIA grant program and recommended that campuses be very specific in grant applications.

FEDERAL BROADBAND OUTLOOK

Brian Looser, Policy Advisor, Sen. Bill Cassidy's Office, joined the meeting to provide federal updates. He noted that funding is mainly available through FCC and NTIA with some through USDA, too. NTIA Connecting Minorities grants hold \$268M. Info can be found here:

[https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/FY21%20BroadbandUSA%20Federal%20Funding%20Interactive%20Guide.pdf)

[09/FY21%20BroadbandUSA%20Federal%20Funding%20Interactive%20Guide.pdf](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/FY21%20BroadbandUSA%20Federal%20Funding%20Interactive%20Guide.pdf)

<https://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2021/department-commerce-s-ntia-begin-accepting-applications-268-million-connecting>

His advice: Broadband does not recognize municipal boundary lines. Be inclusive in your applications. Mr. Looser also offered to assist campuses with any follow-up questions or requested information.

He stated that the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill will be a game-changer if passed. **Questions posed to Council members: What are ideas where we can create flexibility in the initial rulemaking that will benefit HBCUs? What programs should the state fund with this**

money if it comes through. Commissioner Reed encouraged members to think in terms of HBCU talent that can contribute after broadband installation: students as digital literacy navigators, supporting ecommerce, cybersecurity. Dr. Ammons commented on the HBCU role as resource providers and talent developers in their communities. By way of suggestion, Mr. Iyengar suggested campuses consider digital literacy interventions in their respective communities.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER NTIA GRANT PROMOTION

Chancellor John Pierre, Greg Clinton and Lata Johnson, Southern University Law Center, shared information about the Southern Law Center partnership with NTIA to host three informational sessions about applying to fund the creation of pilots. Deadline to apply is December 1. While institutions cannot create official consortiums to apply for funds, they are encouraged to collaborate and apply collectively with one lead institution. Applications should consider the 15-mile radius around campuses. Online mapping resource to locate “eligible census tracts” can be found here:

<https://broadbandusa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1725df85c8b94d0ab91f5807bcc91c39>.

If an underserved area reaches into the 15-mile radius, that entire area can be included in the proposal (even if it extends beyond 15 miles).

Xavier will apply with focus on quality devices, infrastructure, personnel, campus wifi network capacity.

SUNO will apply with focus on providing neighborhood access and activities to encourage tech careers, such as summer camps.

Dillard did not indicate that they would be submitting an application.

Mr. Iyengar asked that institutions share their submitted applications with him and the Commissioner (veneeth.iyengar@la.gov and kim.reed@laregents.edu) and offered to provide strong letters of support. Mr. Looser added to be aware that current awards don't preclude new awards.

Congratulations were shared with Ms. Mandi Mitchell for her new role leading the Lafayette Economic Development Authority. She also shared her new contact information with the council members

HBCU CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Southern University New Orleans – Five new online programs and focus on dual enrollment to meet 60% by 2030 goal.

Dillard – still working through Hurricane Ida; storm was not visibly catastrophic, but finding underlying issues while repairing; working with UNCF and USDOE to request 1 year extension for expending COVID-19 relief funds; working on “hardening” the campus for future disasters.

He noted the mental toll on students, faculty and staff is real; and the campus is beginning its presidential search

SU-Ag – Black (socially-disadvantaged) farmers’ federal relief dollars are now tied up in court; farmers’ plight exacerbated by Hurricane Ida; mobile unit helping farmers apply for grants; thank you to Commissioner Reed for help attaining match for federal dollars this year; enrollment is up with 24% increase 2020-2021 and 33% from 2019-2021

SU-BR – Power Based Violence policies approved at October System Board meeting; president/chancellor search under way; enrollment up for 2nd consecutive year with 7% overall increase from 2020-2021, 75% increase Asian students, 25% Native American students and 15% Hispanic students; U.S. News and World Report Top 20 HBCU, rose 14 points; Bayou Classic will include all HBCUs this year; Don’t Wait Vaccinate campaign continues; mask mandate in place through end of semester; hosting redistricting roadshow with House of Representatives

Xavier – Mask mandate ongoing; post-Ida campus was prompt in getting students back and provided direct aid to students

Southern Law Center – Enrollment is up; USDA grant received

Sen. Boudreaux commended and encouraged the Council to continue excellent dialogue.

Rep. Hughes expressed appreciation for Commissioner Reed as the state's chief talent developer. He praised Regents' impressive higher education agenda that accompanies the budget request for next fiscal year. He stated that he and Sen. Boudreaux will be honoring Drs. Belton and Kimbrough from the Capitol floor upon their retirements.

FUTURE MEETINGS, FUTURE FOCUS AREAS AND NEXT STEPS

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2022, hopefully in person. We previously rotated HBCU campuses as locations for our Advisory Council meetings. We will review the rotation status that had been scheduled before the onset of COVID and work with potential host institutions to schedule accordingly.

We have received a recommendation to focus our next meeting on opportunities for HBCUs to partner with the manufacturing industry on internship-to-employment pathways and research and development opportunities.

Please note that our first Annual Report is due to the Legislature by Jan. 14. A draft document will be shared with Committee Co-Chairs for review later this month before it is presented to the Board of Regents at its January 6 meeting for approval to transmit to the Legislature.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Business, Dr. Reed adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES & GUESTS

Name	Affiliation
Venneth Iyengar	Office of Broadband and Connectivity
Brian Looser	Sen. Cassidy's Office
Chad Dyer	Folgers
Greg Clinton	Representing Southern Law Center
Lata Johnson	Southern Law Center
Allison Smith	Board of Regents
Melissa Cloutet	Board of Regents
Erin Cowser	Board of Regents
Chris Yandle	Board of Regents