



Southern University System Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southern University System Presidential Search Committee Convenes First Meeting

Baton Rouge, LA- On yesterday, an impressive cadre of the 15-member Southern University System Presidential Search Committee convened for the first time. The meeting opened with public comments, an introduction of committee members, followed by a charge to the committee.

Search committee members include: Attorney Murphy Bell (co-chair), Partner Jackson-Bell Law Firm, SU National Alumni Federation President and Attorney Domoine Rutledge (co-chair), Linda Antoine, Director of Purchasing-SUBR, Dr. Sandra Brown, School of Nursing-SUBR, Matthew Butler, Vice President, Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, Walter Dumas, Senior Attorney, Dumas and Associates Law Firm, Raushanah Hunter, SU Student Board Member, Attorney Michael Jackson, LA House of Representatives, Theron Jackson, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Institutional Advancement and University Relations-SUSLA, Adam Knapp, CEO-Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Raymond Lockett, Department of History (Chair)- SUBR, Gloria Moultrie, Vice Chancellor for Community and Alumni Affairs- SUNO, Dr. Sudhir Travedi, Faculty Senate-SUBR, Donald Wade, former National President of the Southern University Alumni Federation, and Attorney Tony Clayton (Ex-officio).

This marks the first of many other public meetings slated for the search committee, which has been charged with identifying and recommending candidates for the Southern University System Presidency position, of which interim president, Dr. Kassie Freeman is currently holding.

At the start of the meeting, co-chairs Domoine Rutledge and Murphy Bell conveyed to the committee the importance of selecting the right candidate to lead the five campus system. Additionally, committee member and State Representative Michael Jackson stressed transparency. "The focus of our search should be to ensure a fair and open process to the extent that it offers legitimacy to the presidential position," said Jackson.

The committee plans to place ads in local as well as national publications ranging from academia to business. Public meetings will be held on the Baton Rouge, Shreveport and New Orleans campuses to foster faculty, staff, alumni, student, and stakeholder input. "We vow to make sure that this is an inclusive process," said committee member Walter Dumas.

The committee adopted a 6-month guideline to follow in pursuit of making a recommendation of a candidate to the SU Board of Supervisors in November. Utilizing a national search firm will also be recommended by the committee to the SU Board of Supervisors at its next meeting scheduled for Friday, July 24th.

Southern University supporters are urged to send any questions or comments regarding the Presidential search to supresidentialsearch@sus.edu.

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