

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

JS Clark Administration Building, 2nd Floor

Southern University – Baton Rouge

MINUTES

The meeting of the Southern University Presidential Search Committee was convened by Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr., Committee Co-Chair. The invocation was given by Atty. Domoine Rutledge.

PRESENT

Atty. Murphy F. Bell, Jr. – Co-Chair
Atty. Domoine Rutledge – Co- Chair
Ms. Linda Antoine
Dr. Sandra Brown
Atty. Walter Dumas
Ms. Raushanah Hunter
Atty. Michael Jackson
Mr. Adam Knapp
Dr. Raymond Lockett
Mrs. Gloria Moultrie
Atty. John Pierre
Dr. Sudhir Trivedi
Mr. Donald Wade

ABSENT

Mr. Matthew Butler
Mr. Theron Jackson
Atty. Tony Clayton, Ex-Officio

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion of Atty. Rutledge, seconded by Atty. Jackson, the agenda was adopted.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Diola Bagayoko, SUBR Professor of Physics, cautioned the Committee to be cognizant of paying an exorbitant fee to the chosen Executive Search Firm in light of the current period of financial austerity crisis at the University.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM PROPOSALS

Atty. Bell reported that there were proposals from three executive search firms to assist the Committee in its search for a President for the SU System:

- Ayers and Associates, LLC, Arlington, VA
- DHR International, Washington, DC
- Heidricks and Struggles, New York and Atlanta

Atty. Bell also advised that other executive search firms were interested in providing this service, but were unable to do so because of Louisiana's Public Meetings Law.

During the discussions on the qualifications of each firm, concerns were raised relative to the fees charged by the executive search firms, especially when programs and service offerings have been severely impacted from recent cuts to the operating budgets of the System's entities. As a cost saving measure, a suggestion was offered to have the Committee conduct the search in lieu of engaging a search firm.

Responding to these concerns, the Committee was advised that the expenditure of funds to hire an executive search firm would not impact the University's operating budgets, which are separate from the funds that will be budgeted for the presidential search. The Committee members were also assured that the scope of the services required by the search firm would be defined and the fee negotiated to an acceptable level before a contract between the University and the search firm is finalized.

On motion of Atty. Jackson, seconded by Atty. Rutledge, the Committee approved, and so recommends to the Board, that the Board engage the services of Heidricks and Struggles to assist in identifying viable candidates for the search to fill the position of Southern University System President.

Motion carried. 10 yeas; 1 nay: Trivedi; 2 abstentions: Dumas and Hunter

AGENDA ITEM 6: DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND FORMAT FOR THE AUGUST 27 PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING IN SHREVEPORT, LA

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, in Shreveport, LA. The format includes a formal business meeting, following by an

open forum in which the SUSLA Family and Shreveport community will be afforded an opportunity to make comments and suggestions to the Committee relative to the Presidential search and selection. The meeting will be simulcast to allow for on line viewing of the Committee's proceedings by the general public.

The format for the open forum will be developed by the Co-Chairs and will include:

- Welcome by the Board Chair
- A moderator to facilitate a smooth and orderly flow of dialogue

The agenda for the meeting and forum will be sent to the members prior to the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Trivedi was advised that fundraising is listed among the qualifications listed in the SU Presidential Criteria. Additional emphasis can be placed on fundraising abilities of the candidates during the interview process.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Prof. Pierre, seconded by Ms. Hunter, the meeting was adjourned.

Co-Chair, Presidential Search Committee

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