

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECEMBER 18, 2008

The Executive Committee of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met on Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 2:10 p.m. in Room 141, "*The Colorado Room*," of the Claiborne Building Conference Center, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Members Present:**

Mrs. Elsie Burkhalter, Chair  
Mr. Winfred Sibille, Vice Chair  
Mr. D. Wayne Parker, Parliamentarian  
Mr. Andre Coudrain  
Dr. Mildred Gallot  
Mr. Jimmy Long  
Mr. Russell Mosely

**Other Members Present:**

Mr. Gregory Hamer, Sr.  
Mr. E. Gerald Hebert

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Randy Moffett  
Dr. Nick Bruno  
Dr. Brad O'Hara  
Dr. Kay Kirkpatrick  
Dr. Bea Baldwin  
Mrs. Catherine Heitman  
Dr. Edwin Litolff  
Mr. Todd Barré  
Mrs. Jodi Mauroner  
Mr. Ralph Perlman  
Mrs. Carol Slaght

Presidents of the following universities were participating in the meeting via teleconference: Dr. Horace Judson (Grambling), Dr. Daniel Reneau (Louisiana Tech University), Dr. Stephen Hulbert (Nicholls), Dr. James Cofer (University of Louisiana at Monroe). Presidents Robert Hebert (McNeese State University), John Crain (Interim - Southeastern Louisiana University), and E. Joseph Savoie (University of Louisiana at Lafayette) were present. Mr. Carl Jones represented Northwestern State University.

Chair Burkhalter stated that a public comment card should be filled out if anyone wished to address the Committee.

The roll was called, and all members of the Executive Committee were present. Board Members Gregory Hamer and E. Gerald Hebert were present and made voting members of the Committee.

The purpose of the meeting of the Executive Committee was to discuss recent proposed budget cuts affecting System universities and higher education across the state. Board member folders included a list of proposed mid-year budget cuts and a chart of expenditures by object for their review.

C. Report of Planned Budget Reductions

Dr. Randy Moffett, System President, stated that overall higher education in the State of Louisiana has been requested to reduce the budget by \$109 million for the remainder of the fiscal year. He stated that this economic downturn is being felt by higher education across the country. The System's proportional share of the \$109 million is \$33.4 million.

Dr. Moffett indicated that Presidents have already begun to make strategic reductions to their campus budgets, such as freezing travel, placing non-essential acquisitions on hold, reducing necessary library acquisitions, reducing expenditures on necessary scientific equipment and information technology, freezing vacant and/or non-essential positions, eliminating essential positions, as well as many other methods to reduce their budgets.

Each Campus President took the opportunity to address the Board with comments and proposed plans to reduce expenditures.

D. Resolution in Response to 2008/2009 Budget Shortfall

Dr. Moffett introduced a resolution which allows Campus Presidents to initiate and implement plans related to personnel actions, reduction/elimination of student programs and services, reduction and/or elimination of faculty/staff programs and services, and revenue enhancement strategies. Secondly, the resolution authorizes the System President to provide provisional approval of revised budgets submitted by the Campus Presidents. Finally, the resolution states that the revised budgets/amendments must be presented to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

After Board Members voiced their thoughtful concerns and suggestions, upon motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Mr. Long, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the following resolution.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System does hereby approve A Resolution – University of Louisiana System Response – 2008/2009 Budget Shortfall stated below:***

*WHEREAS the State of Louisiana's Revenue Estimating Committee has projected a \$341 million shortfall for the 2008/2009 fiscal year; and*

*WHEREAS the Louisiana's public higher education community has been requested to generate budget reductions totaling \$109 million in response to the State's fiscal shortfall; and*

*WHEREAS the University of Louisiana System's contribution to this budget reduction has been estimated to be \$33.4 million; and*

*WHEREAS the campus presidents of UL System schools will be required to develop various strategies to effect this budget reduction in totality; and*

*WHEREAS actions will have to be time sensitive;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, acting within its full rights and responsibilities as established by its Bylaws, does hereby authorize campus presidents to initiate and implement plans related to:*

- *Personnel actions*
- *Reduction and/or elimination of student programs and services*
- *Reduction and/or elimination of faculty/staff programs and services*
- *Reduction and/or elimination of community programs and services*
- *Revenue enhancement strategies*

*FURTHER, the Executive Committee authorizes the President of the University of Louisiana System to provide provisional approval of revised budgets submitted by the campus presidents. The System President shall present revised budgets/amendments to the Board for final approval.*

*Approved this 18th day of December, 2008*

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*Elsie Burkhalter, Chair*

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*Winfred Sibille, Vice Chair*

E. Other Business

Mrs. Burkhalter commended Dr. Moffett and Campus Presidents for their hard work in addressing these important budget challenges.

Mrs. Burkhalter reminded Board Members that the next meeting of the Board will be held on Friday, January 9, 2009, including installation of officers and a presentation by a Board of Ethics representative as well as regular Board business being conducted on January 22-23, 2009 in Baton Rouge.

F. Adjournment

Upon motion of Mr. Hebert, seconded by Mr. Long, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.