

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
September 23, 2014**

A. **Call to Order**

Mr. E. Gerald Hebert, Chair, called to order the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System in Room 100, the "Louisiana Purchase Room," Claiborne Conference Center, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana at 9:10 a.m.

B. **Roll Call**

The roll was called.

PRESENT

Mr. E. Gerald Hebert, Chair	Mr. Jimmy Long
Mr. Jimmie "Beau" Martin, Jr., Vice Chair	Mr. D. Wayne Parker
Mr. Andre G. Coudrain	Mr. Mark Romero
Mr. Edward Crawford III	Mr. Robert Shreve
Dr. Kelly Faircloth	Mr. Winfred Sibille
Mr. Adam Lefort	

ABSENT

Mr. John Condos	Mr. Carl Shetler
Mr. David Guidry	Mr. Gary Solomon
Mr. John LeTard	

Also present for the meeting were the following: System President Sandra Woodley, System staff, Winston DeCuir, Jr., interested citizens, and representatives of the news media.

Dr. Woodley explained that at the August 22 Board meeting a motion had been passed to give implementation decisions on the WISE Plan to the Special Committee on the WISE Plan. She indicated the Special Committee has not yet met and asked that she and Mr. Hebert be given authority to act on behalf of the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Mr. Parker, the Board unanimously voted to amend its agenda to include an item of Other Business.

Upon motion of Mr. Coudrain, seconded by Mr. Romero, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby authorizes System President Sandra Woodley and Board Chair E. Gerald Hebert to act on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System in the distribution of WISE funding to the UL System campuses.

C. **Report of Northwestern State University Presidential Search Committee**

Chair of the Search Committee Sandra Woodley said that the search process had begun in May with a business meeting and public forum, after which a search firm was engaged to assist with the search. Forty-one applications were submitted to the firm and 12 candidates were recommended to the Committee for consideration. At the August 21 meeting, the Committee narrowed the field to four candidates: Dr. Lisa Abney, Dr. James Henderson, Dr. Linda Rinker, and Dr. Renva Watterson.

After three days of meetings on the Northwestern campus on September 10-12, 2014, two finalists were chosen for interview by the Board: Dr. Lisa Abney and Dr. James Henderson. Dr. Woodley gave her thanks to the Northwestern community for hosting the four semifinalist interviews.

Dr. Woodley thanked the entire Search Committee members for their service. Board members who served on the Committee included Mr. Edward Crawford III, Dr. Kelly Faircloth, Mr. E. Gerald Hebert, Mr. Adam Lefort, Mr. Jimmy Long, Mr. D. Wayne Parker, Mr. Mark Romero, Mr. Carl Shetler, Mr. Robert Shreve, and Mr. Winfred Sibille. Dr. Woodley also recognized those non-Board members who committed their time and efforts to participate in the search process. These members included: Dr. Massimo Bezoari, Mrs. Lola Dunahoe, Mr. Joe Stamey, and Ms. Kyla Winey. Mr. Hebert also especially commended these individuals for their dedication to the University.

D. **Public Comments/Overview of Interview Procedures**

Mr. Hebert described the procedure for the interviews. He stated that each candidate would be asked to provide an opening statement, followed by questions from Board members. After each public interview, the Board would individually meet with the finalist in executive session. After the second interview and executive session, the Board planned to remain in executive session. When the Board returned to open session, discussion and voting would follow.

Dr. Karla Hughes, System Executive Vice President and Provost, asked for public comment. Two individuals requested time to give public comments. The first was Dr. Massimo Bezoari, who thanked the Board for offering him the opportunity to be included on the Search Committee and stated that it was a rewarding experience. He also commended Dr. Randall Webb, President, for his exemplary years of service to Northwestern State University. Finally, Dr. Bezoari presented a token of his appreciation to Dr. Woodley and the Board members.

Second to speak was Mrs. Lola Dunahoe, who also expressed her appreciation to be included on the Committee. She voiced her support for Dr. James Henderson especially for his business experience and fundraising ability.

E. **Candidate Interviews**

Dr. Lisa Abney

Mr. Hebert introduced Dr. Lisa Abney as the first finalist to be interviewed by the Board.

Dr. Woodley informed the Board that Dr. Abney has served as the Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Northwestern since 2009. She previously held the positions of Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Department Head of Language and Communication, Director of the NSU Writing Project and Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern. Dr. Abney earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of Houston, and her Master of Arts in English and Bachelor of Arts in Spanish at Texas A&M.

Dr. Abney made an opening statement and thanked the Board for the opportunity to be interviewed. Joining her at the table was her husband, Douglas Hollingsworth. Board members had the opportunity to question Dr. Abney.

Mr. Hebert stated that the Board would meet in Executive Session pursuant to R.S. 42:17 with Dr. Abney to discuss personnel matters associated with the search.

Upon motion of Mr. Romero, seconded by Mr. Long, the Board voted to convene in Executive Session. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Mr. Coudrain, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Faircloth, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Lefort, Mr. Long, Mr. Martin, Mr. Parker, Mr. Romero, Mr. Shreve, Mr. Sibille

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Condos, Mr. Guidry, Mr. LeTard, Mr. Shetler, Mr. Solomon

At 9:55 a.m., the Board met in Executive Session with Dr. Abney.

Upon motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Lefort, at 10:35 a.m. the Board reconvened in Open Session. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

Dr. James Henderson

Mr. Hebert introduced Dr. James Henderson as the second finalist to be interviewed by the Board.

Dr. Woodley stated that Dr. Henderson has held the position of Chancellor of Bossier Parish Community College since 2009. Prior to that, he was Senior Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Northwestern, his Master of Science

degree in Human Performance Technology from University of West Florida, and a Doctor of Management from University of Maryland.

Dr. Henderson gave his opening statement. His wife, Tonia, joined Dr. Henderson at the table. Board members each had an opportunity to question Dr. Henderson.

Mr. Hebert stated that the Board would meet in Executive Session pursuant to R.S. 42:17 with Dr. Henderson to discuss personnel matters associated with the search.

Upon motion of Mr. Coudrain, seconded by Mr. Condos, the Board voted to convene in Executive Session. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Mr. Coudrain, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Faircloth, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Lefort, Mr. Long, Mr. Martin, Mr. Parker, Mr. Romero, Mr. Shreve, Mr. Sibille

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Condos, Mr. Guidry, Mr. LeTard, Mr. Shetler, Mr. Solomon

At 11:10 a.m., the Board met in Executive Session with Dr. Henderson.

Upon motion of Dr. Faircloth, seconded by Mr. Parker, at 12:10 p.m. the Board reconvened in Open Session. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

F.-G. **Deliberations/Introduction of President of Northwestern State University**

Mr. Hebert asked for comments from Board members.

Mr. Long made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Sibille:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby appoints Dr. James Henderson as President of Northwestern State University, effective January 1, 2015, and further authorizes the President of the University of Louisiana System Sandra Woodley and Board Chair E. Gerald Hebert on behalf of the Board to negotiate the terms of the appointment and execute an offer of employment.*

The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Mr. Coudrain, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Faircloth, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Lefort, Mr. Long, Mr. Martin, Mr. Parker, Mr. Romero, Mr. Shreve, Mr. Sibille

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Condos, Mr. Guidry, Mr. LeTard, Mr. Shetler, Mr. Solomon

Dr. Henderson and his wife were greeted with a standing ovation as they were escorted back into the auditorium. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Hebert congratulated him.

Dr. Henderson said that he was honored, humbled, and moved at the opportunity to serve Northwestern State University as President.

H. **Other Business**

There was no other business to come before the Board.

I. **Adjournment**

Upon motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Mr. Long, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.