

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
June 4, 2015**

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 104, the Betty E. Smith Nursing Building Auditorium, Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana, at 11:05 a.m.

B. **Roll Call**

The roll was called.

PRESENT

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|---|---------------------|
| Mr. E. Gerald Hebert, Chair | Dr. Kelly Faircloth |
| Mr. Jimmie “Beau” Martin, Jr., Vice Chair | Mr. David Guidry |
| Ms. Maggie Brakeville | Mr. Shawn Murphy |
| Mr. John Condos | Mr. Carl Shetler |
| Mr. Edward Crawford III | Mr. Robert Shreve |

ABSENT

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|-------------------|------------------------|
| Ms. Pamela Egan | Mr. Mark Romero |
| Mr. John LeTard | Mr. Winfred F. Sibille |
| Mr. Jimmy D. Long | Mr. Gary Solomon |

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.

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

Chair of the Search Committee Sandra Woodley said that the search process had begun with a business meeting and public forum, after which a search firm had been engaged to assist with the search. A total of forty-nine applications, four nominations, and approximately fifty-nine inquiries were received by the search firm. Eight candidates were recommended to the Committee for consideration. At the May 29 meeting, the

Committee narrowed the field to five candidates: Dr. Wayne Brumfield, Dr. Thomas J. Calhoun, Dr. Glenda Carter, Dr. Willie Larkin, and Dr. Gilbert Rochon.

After two days of meetings on the Grambling campus on June 2-3, 2015, two finalists were chosen for interview by the Board: Dr. Willie Larkin and Dr. Gilbert Rochon. Dr. Woodley gave her thanks to the Grambling community for hosting the five semifinalist interviews.

Dr. Woodley thanked the entire Search Committee for their service. Board members who served on the Committee included Mr. Edward Crawford III, Dr. Kelly Faircloth, Mr. David Guidry, Mr. E. Gerald Hebert, Mr. Jimmy Long, Mr. Jimmie "Beau" Martin, Mr. Shawn Murphy, Mr. Mark Romero, Mr. Winfred Sibille, and Student Board members, Mr. Adam Lefort and Ms. Maggie Brakeville. Dr. Woodley also recognized those non-Board members who committed their time and efforts to participate in the search process. These members included: Ms. Melissa Bickham, Mr. Howard Davis, Mr. Wilbert Ellis, Dr. Mildred Gallot, Dr. Herbert Simmons, and Mr. Jonathan Wallace.

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

Dr. Woodley described the procedure for the interviews. She 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. Five individuals requested time to give public comments. The first was Dr. Mack Himaya, Professor of Mathematics at GSU, who commented on the attributes needed by the new president to lead the university. He also thanked the Committee for its hard work in selecting that individual.

Second to speak was Ms. Cathy Conwright, GSU alumnus and member of the Dallas Alumni Chapter. Ms. Conwright asked the Board to provide the new president the autonomy to do what is best for Grambling based on collaborative work efforts with students and faculty.

Thirdly, Dr. Doris Williams-Smith, Professor of Education at GSU, provided comments including her appreciation that the faculty had an opportunity to interact with each of the candidates. Dr. Williams-Smith also expressed concern for the selection of a president who supports faculty research efforts.

Comments were next made by GSU student Yvonne St. Luce who stated that she was impressed by the manner in which the search was handled as it showed the prestige and legacy of Grambling.

Final comments were made by Dr. David Hodges, Faculty Senate Executive Officer and Assistant Professor of English at Grambling. He indicated that he recognized the strengths of those candidates selected, but also expressed concerns he had about them. Dr. Hodges asked the Board to carefully review these issues.

E. **Candidate Interviews**

Dr. Willie Larkin

Dr. Willie Larkin was introduced by Dr. Woodley as the first finalist to be interviewed by the Board. Dr. Woodley welcomed him and thanked him for his interest in Grambling State University.

Dr. Larkin thanked the Board and made an opening statement. Board members had the opportunity to question Dr. Larkin.

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

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

Yeas: Ms. Brakeville, Mr. Condos, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Faircloth, Mr. Guidry, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Martin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Shetler, Mr. Shreve

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Egan, Mr. LeTard, Mr. Long, Mr. Romero, Mr. Sibille, Mr. Solomon

At 11:50 a.m., the Board met in Executive Session with Dr. Larkin.

Upon the motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Shetler, at 12:29 p.m. the Board reconvened in Open Session. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

Dr. Gilbert Rochon

Dr. Gilbert Rochon was introduced by Dr. Woodley as the second finalist to be interviewed by the Board.

Dr. Woodley informed the Board that Dr. Rochon was the former President at Tuskegee University. He earned the Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a master's degree in Public Health from Yale University, and an undergraduate degree from Xavier University of Louisiana.

Dr. Rochon introduced his wife, Patricia Saul Rochon, and made an opening statement. Board members each had an opportunity to question Dr. Rochon.

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

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

Yeas: Ms. Brakeville, Mr. Condos, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Faircloth, Mr. Guidry, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Martin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Shetler, Mr. Shreve

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Egan, Mr. LeTard, Mr. Long, Mr. Romero, Mr. Sibille, Mr. Solomon

At 12:57 p.m., the Board met in Executive Session with Dr. Rochon.

Upon motion of Mr. Condos, seconded by Mr. Shetler, at 4:32 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 Grambling State University**

Mr. Hebert commended Grambling constituents for their dedication to the University.

Ms. Brakeville made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Shreve:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby appoints Dr. Willie Larkin as President of Grambling State University, effective July 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: Ms. Brakeville, Mr. Condos, Mr. Crawford, Dr. Faircloth, Mr. Guidry, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Martin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Shetler, Mr. Shreve

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Egan, Mr. LeTard, Mr. Long, Mr. Romero, Mr. Sibille, Mr. Solomon

Dr. Larkin was greeted with a standing ovation as he was escorted back into the auditorium by the search consultants. On behalf of the Board and the System, Mr. Hebert congratulated Dr. Larkin for being selected as the 9th President of Grambling State University.

Dr. Larkin thanked those who had nominated him for the position, the UL System Board, and Dr. Woodley.

H. **Other Business**

There was no other business to come before the Board.

I. **Adjournment**

Mr. Hebert again congratulated Dr. Larkin and thanked Dr. Woodley, the Board, and the Search Committee for their diligent work.

Dr. Woodley announced that Dr. Larkin would greet the Grambling community after speaking with the press.

Upon motion of Mr. Shetler, seconded by Mr. Guidry, the meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.