

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
October 6, 2016**

A. **Call to Order**

Mr. Edward Crawford III, Vice Chair of the Board, 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 11:20 a.m.

B. **Roll Call**

The roll was called.

PRESENT

Mr. James Carter
Mr. Edward Crawford III
Ms. Pamela Egan
Mr. E. Gerald Hebert
Mr. Shawn Murphy

Mr. Alejandro "Al" Perkins
Mr. Virgil Robinson, Jr.
Mr. Mark Romero
Mr. Winfred Sibille
Mr. Antonio Torres

ABSENT

Dr. John Condos
Dr. Kelly Faircloth
Mr. Jimmie "Beau" Martin, Jr.

Mr. Carl Shetler
Mr. Robert Shreve

Also present for the meeting were the following: Interim System President Daniel Reneau, System staff, Attorneys Linda Clark and Winston DeCuir, Jr., interested citizens, and representatives of the news media.

C. **Report of the Application Review Committee**

Mr. Crawford reported that the University of Louisiana System Presidential Application Review Committee had met the previous week and had received a final report from the search firm, R.H. Perry and Associates. At that meeting, it was recommended that Dr. James Henderson be considered for the position of President of the University of Louisiana System and that he be interviewed by the full Board at a Special Meeting.

Mr. Crawford thanked members of the Committee for their work, Dr. Reneau for his leadership, and Ms. Erica Calais for overseeing the search process.

D. **Public Comment/Interview Procedures**

Mr. Crawford invited public comment, but there were no requests to speak by the audience.

Mr. Crawford briefly explained the procedure for the interview. He indicated that Dr. Henderson would first be given the opportunity to provide an opening statement, after which the Board would question him. After the interview, the Board would adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues with Dr. Henderson and his wife Tonia. Subsequent to reconvening in Open Session, the Board would have discussion and make a recommendation.

E. **Candidate Interview**

After welcoming Dr. Henderson and his wife, Mr. Crawford invited them to the table.

Mr. Crawford said that Dr. Henderson had been appointed as President of Northwestern State University in 2015, previously having served as Chancellor of Bossier Parish Community College from 2009 until 2014. Prior to that, Dr. Henderson worked in Baton Rouge for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System as Senior Vice President, and from 2001 until 2005 he had worked in the Louisiana Department of Labor.

Mr. Crawford said that Dr. Henderson is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, and he graduated from Northwestern State University. Dr. Henderson earned his Master of Science in Administration from University of West Florida and Doctor of Management from the University of Maryland-University College.

Vice Chair Crawford invited Dr. Henderson to introduce his wife. Mrs. Tonia Henderson said that she and her husband immensely enjoyed their tenure as President at their alma mater, Northwestern State University, but would welcome the prospect of serving the citizens of the state in an even greater capacity at the System Office.

Dr. Henderson thanked the Board for the opportunity to interview for the position and said it had been an honor to serve Northwestern State as President. He thanked Dr. Reneau for his strong leadership as Interim System President during challenging times. Dr. Henderson indicated that he was excited at the prospect of working with the Board and the other higher education leaders in the state to reverse the 10-year disinvestment in higher education funding in the state.

Board members asked Dr. Henderson a variety of questions including the importance of contact with students, relationship with the Board, interaction with legislators, commitment to diversity on campuses, System staff, and goals for the System.

F. **Deliberations**

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

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Sibille, at 11:50 a.m., the Board unanimously voted to convene in Executive Session. The following roll call vote was recorded:

Yeas: Mr. Carter, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Egan, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Romero, Mr. Sibille, Mr. Torres

Nays: None

Absent: Dr. Condos, Dr. Faircloth, Mr. Martin, Mr. Shetler, Mr. Shreve

Upon motion of Mr. Sibille, seconded by Mr. Murphy, at 12:25 p.m. the Board reconvened in Open Session. While in Executive Session, no motions were made nor votes taken.

G. **Board Decision on Selection of President of the University of Louisiana System**

Mr. Crawford asked for comments from the Board.

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

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves the appointment of Dr. James B. Henderson as President of the University of Louisiana System effective January 1, 2017.*

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

Dr. Henderson said that it was an honor to be selected to serve as System President and thanked the Board for their confidence.

H. **Other Business**

Mr. Crawford indicated that it would be appropriate to entertain a motion to authorize negotiation of the terms of Dr. Henderson's employment.

Upon motion of Mr. Torres, seconded by Ms. Egan, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby authorizes the Executive Committee and the Interim President to negotiate Dr. Henderson's letter of appointment and terms of employment and that Mr. James Carter and Mr. Alejandro Perkins be added to the Executive Committee for this purpose.*

Upon motion of Mr. Hebert, seconded by Ms. Egan, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Personnel Committee, with the assistance of staff and legal counsel, be tasked with reviewing and recommending updates to the policies regarding the employment of Campus and System Presidents.

Mr. Crawford also reminded Board members that the next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 27 in Baton Rouge.

I. **Adjournment**

Mr. Carter asked for a personal point of privilege and introduced his father Mr. James Carter, Sr., who was present in the audience.

Mr. Romero also asked for a personal point of privilege and presented Dr. Henderson with a welcoming gift that included the nine institution logos. Mr. Romero said that he looked forward to working with Dr. Henderson.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Sibille, the Board adjourned at 12:35 p.m.