

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

April 20, 2017

Item F. **Grambling State University's** request for approval to award the title of President Emeritus to Dr. Joseph B. Johnson.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Grambling State University (GSU) is requesting approval to award the title of President Emeritus to Dr. Joseph B. Johnson. Dr. Johnson, third president of Grambling State University, served the University honorably from 1977 to 1991. During his tenure, Grambling reached a record high enrollment which peaked at approximately 6,000 students.

Among Dr. Johnson's notable achievements at Grambling is his leadership of the University through the longstanding higher education desegregation litigation in Louisiana which resulted in the Consent Decree. The Decree provided Grambling with major legislative appropriations for assistance in capital outlay projects and for implementation of new curricula. This also resulted in the addition of new buildings on campus, innovative achievements and the establishment of numerous new academic programs.

Dr. Johnson and his administrative team grounded the University and paved the way for future growth and expansion. Following his retirement in 1991, Dr. Johnson continued to support Grambling by offering his consultative services to university leadership, faculty and academic departments. Grambling State University would like to bestow upon Dr. Joseph B. Johnson the honorary title of President Emeritus for his valiant service to his alma mater.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves awarding the title of President Emeritus to Dr. Joseph B. Johnson.*



F

Office of the President

March 30, 2017

**MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AWARD THE TITLE OF
PRESIDENT EMERITUS TO DR. JOSEPH B. JOHNSON**

Grambling State University respectfully requests approval to award the title of *President Emeritus* to Dr. Joseph B. Johnson.

Dr. Joseph B. Johnson, third president of Grambling State University (GSU), served the university with honor and distinction from 1977 to 1991. During his 14-year tenure, GSU thrived and boasted a record high in student enrollment, specifically in the fall of 1988 when enrollment peaked at 6,002. Under his outstanding leadership, Dr. Johnson and his administrative team grounded the university and paved the way for future growth and expansion.

He led GSU through the longstanding higher education desegregation litigation in Louisiana which ended in the Consent Decree in August 1982. The decree provided the university with major legislative appropriations for assistance in capital outlay projects and for implementation of new curricula. As a result, the university saw the addition of new buildings on campus, innovative achievements, and the establishment of numerous new academic programs including the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, the Master of Public Administration, the Master of Business Administration and the Doctor of Education in Developmental Education, as well as the institution of two professional schools, the School of Nursing and the School of Social Work.

Following his retirement in 1991, Dr. Johnson continued to support the university by offering his consultative services to university leadership, faculty and academic departments. We, therefore, would like to bestow upon Dr. Joseph B. Johnson the honorary title of President Emeritus for his valiant service at his alma mater, Grambling State University.

Your favorable consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Gallot, Jr., JD
President

RJG:jpb

HISTORICAL MILESTONES

Second Honorary Doctorate awarded; Recipient, Ben D. Johnson of Natchitoches, president of Winnfield Life Insurance Company

Two-year program, Associate Degree in Law Enforcement, inaugurated in the Spring Semester

Legislature appropriated \$750,000 for library resources

Largest class ever graduated at Grambling State University (308)



THE ENHANCING YEARS 1977-1991

Dr. Joseph B. Johnson

- 1977 Dr. Joseph B. Johnson became third president of Grambling State University, effective July 1, 1977
First Associate of Science Degree in Law Enforcement awarded
Grambling State University awarded \$2.8 million grant for a five-year period under Title III from the Office of Education, Washington, D.C.
Graduate school accredited by SACS
- 1978 College mission updated and institutional goals and objectives redefined
- 1979 Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice inaugurated during Fall semester
Founder's Day celebration initiated
Department of Criminal Justice formed during Fall Semester
Home site of the Founder, Charles P. Adams, dedicated to GSU Foundation, November 2, 1979 by the Adams Family
Third Honorary Doctorate awarded to Dr. E. L. Cole, Vice President Emeritus of Grambling State University
NCATE Accreditation of all teacher education programs submitted by GSU re-affirmed
A. C. Lewis Memorial Library obtained membership in the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET); on-line cataloging began with the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC)
Legislature appropriated Grambling State University \$2,868,000 for major improvements to facilities,

buildings, and grounds; \$9,000,000 for construction of new football stadium; \$2,650,000 for construction of a new laboratory school; \$5,000,000 for Developmental Education to be awarded over an unspecified period of time

Fourth Honorary Doctorate awarded; Recipient, Dr. Mary Frances Berry, Assistant Secretary of Education, Department of HEW, Washington, D.C.

1980 Accreditation by the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmed

Fifth Honorary Doctorate awarded to The Most Reverend James P. Lyke, O.F.M., D.D. Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, Ohio

Approval granted to offer the B.P.A. Degree in Public Administration

GSU awarded \$314,105 for Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC), first Conservation Corps on college campus in the United States of America

GSU Hall of Fame instituted; First Inductee, Charles P. Adams, founder (posthumously)

1981 Legislature appropriated \$3,631,171 for major improvements to facilities, buildings, and grounds

Division of General Studies reorganized into the Division of Basic Studies and Services

Division of Academic Support established

Charles P. Adams Park dedicated and Nature Trail completed

New Academic Skills Center dedicated

First phase of GSU's Planning Process implemented

University's Mission, Goals, and Objectives updated

Hall of Fame Inductees: Martha Norman Adams (posthumously), Fred C. Hobdy, Ralph W. E. Jones, Jane Ellen McAllister, Helen L. Richards, Eddie G. Robinson, and Calvin Wilkerson

1982 United States vs. State of Louisiana: Longstanding Higher Education Desegregation Litigation in Louisiana ended in Consent Decree in August

Grambling State University awarded \$637,816 for the Strengthening Program and \$207,619 Challenge Grant under Title III from the Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

The second phase of GSU's Planning Process implemented

Legislature appropriated \$3,990,000 for major improvements to facilities, buildings, and grounds

Legislature appropriated \$213,340 in matching funds for the purchase of a new computer with Digital contributing the initial \$213,340

Sixth and seventh Honorary Doctorates awarded respectively to Willie Davis, alumnus of Grambling and George Steinbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees Baseball Team

HISTORICAL MILESTONES

- GSU successfully completed its 2.8 million dollar five-year Title III grant from the Office of Education, Washington, D. C.
- Lake and Biological Fishing Laboratory dedicated
- Grambling State University Tiger Band invited and returned to Japan for concert and parades
- Caterpillar Scholarship Program for \$200,000 initiated in the College of Business
- State Developmental Education Model for Freshman students implemented
- Grambling State University established a Student Exchange Agreement Program with Autonomous University of Columbia in Saltillo, Mexico
- Grambling State University established Faculty Exchange Program with Louisiana Tech University
- Department of Educational Leadership and Habilitative Services established
- Hall of Fame Inductees: Alice G. Blalock (posthumously), Dr. Kara V. Jackson, Fidelia O. Johnson, Collie J. Nicholson, Elizabeth Robinson (posthumously), B. T. Woodard, and Paul Younger
- Coach Eddie Robinson wins his 300th victory against Florida A&M University on September 25, 1982
- President-Emeritus, R. W. E. "Prez" Jones expired on April 9th
- 1983 Phase I of the Alma J. Brown Elementary School completed
- Grambling State University's \$9-million football stadium completed and named Robinson Stadium
- Grambling State University awarded \$1,166,128 under Title III from the Office of Education, Washington, D.C.
- College of Science and Technology established during the Fall Semester - College of Arts and Sciences renamed, The College of Liberal Arts - College of Business and Applied Programs renamed The College of Business - College of Basic Studies and Services established
- School of Nursing established
- Master of Arts in Liberal Studies and Master of Science in Developmental Education Programs implemented
- Louisiana legislature appropriated \$16,620,000 for construction projects at Grambling State
- Weekend College established through the College of Education
- A \$250,000 endowment fund established to attract a \$100,000 matching grant from the Mott Foundation and \$400,000 from an Insurance Consortium
- Alumni contributions increased by 50 percent
- Hall of Fame Inductees: Alphonse Jackson, Jr., Emmett S. Moten, Jr., Dr. Ben D. Johnson, Willie Brown and Clarence Baldwin
- Ribbon Cutting for United Campus Ministry building on GSU campus, November 6th
- Coach Eddie Robinson (313-102-15) achieves a tie with Glen "Pop" Warner (313-106-32) on the career victory list
- Highest enrollment of 4,593 in history of Grambling State University attained
- 1984 School of Social Work established
- Department of Music accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music
- Program offerings expanded in Law Enforcement & Industrial Technology at Barksdale AF Base
- Specialist Degree (Ed. S) program in Developmental Education offered
- Department of Speech and Drama renamed the Department of Communications and Theatre
- GSU received a \$250,000 endowment fund contribution from General Motors
- Grambling State University's Television Studio commences regular broadcasts on local cable station
- Phase I of the new Physical Plant facility completed
- New campuswide telecommunications system installed
- New residence for the President completed
- Long Hall renovated
- Honors' Program established for Outstanding Freshman Students
- Nursing Program began operation with 118 students
- MBA Program approved by Board of Regents
- Highest Fall enrollment attained on record - 4,767 students
- Legislature appropriated \$9,745,000 for major improvements to facilities
- Legislature appropriated \$12,390,000 for construction of New Library Wing, Physical Plant (Phase II), Nursing Building and Business and Computer Center
- Hall of Fame Inductees: Alma J. Brown (posthumously), Adolph Byrd, Charles Herbert, John Maxwell, Edward Purvis, and Bennie Reynolds
- 1985 A History of Grambling State University written by Mildred B. G. Gallot published
- \$90,000 received for Research and the Council for Academic Research and Development established
- Masters of Criminal Justice Program initiated
- Administration Building name changed to Long-Jones Hall in honor of the late President-Emeritus, R.W.E. "Prez" Jones
- Coach Eddie Robinson became the 'winningest' collegiate football coach with 324 victories on October 5, 1985 at the Dallas Cotton Bowl
- Hall of Fame Inductees: Henry L. Essex, Theresa

HISTORICAL MILESTONES

- Garner, J. K. Haynes, Virginia H. Hunter, Willis Reed and Doug Williams
- 1986 Doctor of Education and Masters of Public Administration programs approved by the Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities
- University enrollment reached 5,000 plus for Fall and Spring semesters
- \$3.5 million loan received from U. S. Department of Education's College House Loan Program
- \$2.7 million A. C. Lewis Memorial Library wing completed
- Over \$640,000 received from Department of Education to implement Magnet School concept of academic excellence in laboratory schools
- Three Honors dormitories - one male and two female - established
- Masters of Social Work (MSW) program implemented
- College of Education awarded "Showcase of Excellence Award" in Teacher Education by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
- Department of Communications and Theatre accredited by National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)
- \$640,000 appropriated by Legislature for construction of Phase II Physical Plant Building
- \$50 Million appropriated by Legislature, and groundbreaking held for Nursing School Building
- Hall of Fame Inductees: Dr. Joseph B. Johnson, Dr. E. Edward Jones, Dr. F. L. Sandle, Eugene McCullers, Curtis Armand, Robert M. Hopkins and Charlie Joiner
- 1987 On-line registration process implemented in April
- Masters degree program in International Business and Trade approved by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents
- 1987 Bachelors degree program in Therapeutic Recreation accredited
- Associate degree programs in Electronic Technology and Criminal Justice at Barksdale Air Force Base approved for continuation by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- First School of Nursing graduates get degrees at Spring Semester graduation
- Hall of Fame Inductees: Ruby Billups, Dr. Edward Ashton Robinson, III, Dr. Jacob T. Stewart (posthumously), Dr. Arlyne Lake Cheers, Dr. Daniel W. Fullmer, Legolian "Boots" Moore and Junious "Buck" Buchanan
- 1988 A university-wide comprehensive five-year planning process implemented
- Awarded honorary doctor of laws degree to Douglas Williams, alumnus of Grambling State University and Super Bowl XXII "Most Valuable Player"
- Conferred first doctoral degrees in Developmental Education from Grambling State University
- Created a Management Information Center to assist the university faculty and staff in professional growth and development
- Adopted a strategic plan for Telecommunication Energy Management/Surveillance and Security for GSU
- Created a Computer Information Center to assist university faculty and staff in the use of microcomputers and relevant software
- Awarded honorary doctor of humane letters degree to Whitney Houston, singer and two-time Grammy award winner
- The Masters degree program in International Business implemented
- The Senior Comprehensive Competence Examination implemented as part of the requirements for graduation
- Rising Junior Examination implemented to be administered to all students at the end of their sophomore year
- Department of Mass Communication was created by merging the existing programs in Journalism and Broadcasting
- Hall of Fame Inductees: Ms. Joan Smith, Dr. Dorothy Pierre Thompson, Vernell Delafosse (posthumously), Reverend S. L. Holland (posthumously), Mrs. Hazel Johnson Jones, Thomas N. Todd, Esq., Jerry Barr and Benjamin Gipson
- 1989 Enrollment increased to record high of 6,002
- University Marching Band made fifth trip to Tokyo, Japan to perform in the Mirage Bowl
- Grambling State University awarded new \$1.3 million Title III Program grant
- The International Studies Program completed First HBCU Faculty Development Seminar in the Soviet Union
- Awarded honorary doctor of laws degree to Charles E. Morrison, Vice President of Black/Hispanic Marketing of Coco-Cola USA in Atlanta, Georgia
- Hall of Fame Inductees: Dr. Huey Perry, Dr. Winnie F. Dudley Taylor, Mrs. Anita Auzenne, Dr. Ruth D. Bradford, Dr. Robert Hunter (posthumously), James Hooper, Ernest Ladd and Earl Smith (posthumously)
- University awarded \$1,226,450 for a five-year Naval Scholars of Science grant for initiation of the Science Research Institute to recruit, retain and prepare science students for graduate studies and research careers
- 1990 Reaffirmation of Accreditation of teacher education programs by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
- Full Accreditation granted the Doctoral Program in Developmental Education by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

HISTORICAL MILESTONES

Ten-year Cycle Institutional Self-Study completed and presented to a Reaffirmation Team for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Initial approval granted the Master of Social Work (MSW) Program by the Council of Social Work Education

School of Nursing granted full approval by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, a step required for approval by the National League of Nursing

Provisional approval granted the Bachelor of Arts Program in Music by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)

College of Basic and Special Studies created as part of the Academic Affairs organizational structure

Dedication of KGRM 50,000-Watt Tower and The Gramblinite state-of-the art equipment laboratory

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Intramural-Recreational Complex

Formal inauguration of the Earl Lester Cole Honors College

Formal initiation of the University Archives

Accreditation by The Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, reaffirmed

University conducted Fulbright Faculty Development Seminar in Brazil

Initiated Faculty/Student Exchange Program with the University of Malaysia

University awarded a \$998,000 grant from the Office of Naval Research aimed at increasing the number of under-represented minorities in science and engineering

Received \$408,00 in state bond money for enhancement of A. C. Lewis Memorial Library

Hall of Fame Inductees: Drs. Shelton and Janet Barnes, Conrad Hutchinson, Jr., A. D. Smith, Otis Moore, James Harris; Posthumous Inductees: Mrs. Clara Carr, Dr. Mary Watson Hymon and Ozias A. Johnson

1991 Formal groundbreaking held for the Business/Computing Center Building

Dr. Joseph B. Johnson resigned as the third President of Grambling State University ending 14 years of leadership, effective June 30,1991