

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
SPECIAL MEETING
September 3, 2020

A. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met for a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 9:10 a.m. Those in attendance met in Room 136A-B, Thomas Jefferson Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge. Others attended remotely.

PRESENT

Ms. Olivia Bailey	Ms. Mildred “Mimi” Methvin
Mr. James Carter	Mr. Shawn Murphy
Dr. Jimmy Clarke (Zoom)	Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins*
Dr. John Condos (Zoom)	Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Edward Crawford (Zoom)	Mr. Mark Romero
Ms. Lola Dunahoe	Ms. Kristine Russell (Zoom)
Dr. Pamela Egan (Zoom)	Mr. Joe Salter
Mr. Thomas Kitchen	

**Arrived after roll call*

ABSENT

Mr. Virgil Robinson

Also present were the following: System President Jim Henderson, System staff, and Attorney Brandon DeCuir.

Mr. Joe Salter opened the meeting with an invocation.

B. **Certification of Inability to Operate due to Lack of Quorum**

Mr. Romero asked for a motion to approve the Certification of Inability to Operate due to Lack of Quorum. Upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Dunahoe, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Certification.

C. **Report of University of Louisiana at Monroe Presidential Search Committee**

Chair Henderson reported that the Search Committee had begun its work in March with an initial meeting to gather input from the campus community. In April the Committee had reviewed applications and in May the Committee voted to interview seven semifinalists. He stated that in August the Committee interviewed the remaining six semifinalists and recommended three to be interviewed as finalists, including Dr. Katrice Albert, Dr. Ronald Berry, and Dr. Jeannine Kahn.

Dr. Henderson thanked the Committee members for their service: Olivia Bailey, Lola Dunahoe, Mimi Methvin, Shawn Murphy, Al Perkins, Elizabeth Pierre, Mark Romero, Joe Salter, Carl Aron, Dennis Blunt, Sara Brice, Alberta Green, Susan Hoffmann, Rachel Lautigar, Hannah Livingston, Janelle McDaniel, Jamie Mayo, James Moore, Jeremy Tinnerello, and James Wright.

D. **Overview of Interview Procedures**

Ms. Erica Calais read comments that had been electronically submitted to the Search Committee. The following had comments:

Deborah Golemon, faculty member – In support of Dr. Ron Berry
Michelle McEacharn, faculty member – In support of Dr. Ron Berry
Elizabeth Guerriero, attorney and adjunct faculty member – In support of Dr. Ron Berry
Melissa Loporati, Assistant Director, Human Resources-ULM – In support of Dr. Katrice Albert
Damian Glover, student – In support of Dr. Katrice Albert
Stewart Cathey, Jr., Louisiana State Senator, District 33* – In support of Dr. Ron Berry
Jennifer Smith, alumnus – In support of Dr. Katrice Albert
Glen Post, CenturyLink – In support of Dr. Ron Berry
Doug Peterson, alumnus – In support of Dr. Ron Berry
Kristin Wolkart, President, St. Francis Medical Center – In support of Dr. Ron Berry
Adam Holland, Mayor, Oak Grove – In support of Dr. Ron Berry
Staci Mitchell, Mayor, West Monroe – Importance of academics and athletics and community involvement

** Senator Cathey made his comments in person.*

Mr. Romero explained the interview process. He stated that each finalist will be introduced, given an opportunity to present an opening statement, and then interviewed by the Board. After each interview, the Board will meet in Executive Session with the candidate. At the conclusion of the Executive Session with the third candidate, the Board will remain in Executive Session to continue discussions. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board will return to have a discussion and a vote.

E. **Candidate Interviews**

Dr. Katrice Albert

Dr. Katrice Albert was introduced, and she made an opening statement. After several questions from the Board, upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, at 10:13 a.m., the Board voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

The following vote was taken: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Crawford, Ms. Dunahoe, Dr. Egan, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salter. None was in opposition.

At 11:16 a.m., upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Kitchen, the members reconvened in Open Session.

Dr. Ron Berry

Dr. Ron Berry was introduced by Mr. Romero, and Dr. Berry introduced his wife Christine. After questioning from the Board members, upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Perkins, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 12:07 p.m. The following roll call vote was recorded: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Salter. None was in opposition.

At 1:52 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Kitchen, seconded by Mr. Carter, the members reconvened in Open Session.

Dr. Jeannine Kahn

Dr. Jeannine Kahn was introduced to the Board and she introduced her husband Brad. After an opening statement and questioning by the Board, upon motion of Mr. Kitchen and seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 2:20 p.m. The following roll call vote was recorded: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salter. None was in opposition.

At 5:42 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Kitchen, the Board reconvened in Open Session.

F. Deliberations

Mr. Romero asked for comments from the Board. Mr. Carter made a motion to nominate Dr. Katrice Albert as President of University of Louisiana at Monroe. Mr. Perkins seconded the motion.

Ms. Methvin made a motion to nominate Dr. Jeannine Kahn as President of University of Louisiana at Monroe. Ms. Dunahoe seconded the motion.

Ms. Bailey made a motion to nominate Dr. Berry as President of University of Louisiana at Monroe. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Mr. Salter called for nominations to close, and Mr. Carter seconded the motion.

The following votes were recorded:

Dr. Katrice Albert

Mr. James Carter
Dr. Jimmy Clarke
Mr. Al Perkins

Dr. Ron Berry

Ms. Olivia Bailey
Dr. John Condos
Mr. Edward Crawford
Dr. Pamela Egan
Mr. Shawn Murphy
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Mark Romero
Ms. Kristine Russell
Mr. Joe Salter

Dr. Jeannine Kahn

Ms. Lola Dunahoe
Mr. Thomas Kitchen
Ms. Mimi Methvin

The results of the vote were three for Dr. Albert, nine for Dr. Berry, and three for Dr. Kahn.

Upon motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Salter, the Board voted to appoint Dr. Ron Berry as President of University of Louisiana at Monroe and to authorize the University of Louisiana System President James Henderson and Board Chair Mark Romero to negotiate the terms of appointment and execute an offer of employment on behalf of the Board.

Upon motion of Mr. Kitchen, seconded by Mr. Murphy, the Board voted unanimously to give Dr. Berry 100% support as he takes leadership as President of University of Louisiana at Monroe.

G. **Introduction of President of University of Louisiana at Monroe**

Dr. Ron Berry thanked the Board for selecting him as the next President. He said that he was excited and honored to serve the University and looked forward to advancing ULM's vision to continue to transform lives in Northeast Louisiana.

Vice Chair Carter and Mr. Perkins congratulated Dr. Berry and asked him to prioritize diversity and inclusion in his cabinet.

H. **Other Business**

There was no other business to come before the Board.

I. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Murphy, at 5:52 p.m., the Board voted to adjourn.