

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
January 7, 2021**

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

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met virtually on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 1:03 p.m.

PRESENT

Ms. Olivia Bailey
Mr. Barry Busada
Mr. James Carter
Dr. Jimmy Clarke
Mr. Steve Davison
Ms. Lola Dunahoe
Mr. Thomas Kitchen

Ms. Mimi Methvin
Mr. Alejandro Perkins
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre
Mr. Virgil Robinson
Mr. Mark Romero
Ms. Kristine Russell
Mr. Brad Stevens

ABSENT

Dr. John Condos

Mr. Joe Salter

Also present for the meeting were the following: System President Jim Henderson, System staff, administrators from System campuses, and Attorneys Brandon DeCuir and Linda Clark.

B. **Certification**

Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Ms. Russell, the Board unanimously accepted the Certification that authorizes the virtual meeting. The following roll call vote was recorded: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Busada, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Davison, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Stevens.

C. **Invocation**

Ms. Pierre opened the meeting with an invocation.

D. **Administration of Oath to Newly Appointed and Reappointed Board Members and Installation of 2021 Board Officers**

Mr. Romero asked Legal Counsel Brandon DeCuir to administer the Oath of Office to Mr. James Carter, who was reappointed to the Board on January 1, and then individually administer the Oath to the 2021 Board officers: Mr. James Carter, Chair; Ms. Elizabeth Pierre, Vice Chair; and Dr. Jimmy Clarke, Parliamentarian.

Mr. Romero introduced the new Board members Governor John Bel Edwards had appointed: Mr. George "Barry" Busada serving the 4th Congressional District; Mr. Steven Davison serving the 5th Congressional District; and Mr. Bradley Stevens serving the 1st Congressional District. Mr. DeCuir individually administered the Oath to each new member.

Mr. Busada, who lives in Shreveport, said he looks forward to working with the Board. He stated his longstanding interest in higher education and the opportunity to improve it for Louisiana citizens. Mr. Davison lives in Choudrant and said that he is excited to join the Board and would like to be part of enhancing the universities. Mr. Stevens lives in Hammond and said that he is happy to become part of the UL System Board. He indicated that he has always been invested in community involvement with the university.

Mr. Carter said he was grateful and excited to begin the new year as Chair. He also welcomed the new members and noted that their backgrounds will serve to enhance the work of the Board. Vice Chair Pierre echoed Mr. Carter's sentiments. Dr. Clarke thanked Mr. Carter for selecting him as Parliamentarian and complimented the Board and staff for the quality of their work.

In addition, Mr. Perkins took a personal point of privilege to welcome new talent to the Board and also to express his thanks to Mr. Mark Romero for his exceptional leadership as Chair for the past two terms. He commended Mr. Romero for promoting stability and respect. Ms. Pierre added that she had experienced significant growth as a result of his leadership, and Mr. Carter commended him for being a diligent and compassionate leader during extraordinary circumstances.

E. **Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2020 Board Meeting**

Chair Carter asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Kitchen, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve the December 3, 2020 Board Meeting minutes. The following voted aye: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Busada, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Davison, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Virgil Robinson, Mr. Mark Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Stevens.

F. **System President's Report**

President Henderson requested a motion and second to approve two personnel actions from the UL System office. One was for the resignation of Katie Barras and the other was for Katie Dawson, who would assume the duties as Assistant Vice President for Academic Innovation and Learning. Upon motion of Dr. Clarke, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the following roll call vote was recorded: Ms. Bailey, Mr. Busada, Mr. Carter, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Davison, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Ms. Methvin, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, and Mr. Stevens.

Dr. Henderson also congratulated Mr. Mark Romero, former Board Chair, for recently having been honored with Northwestern State University's Nth Degree award. This award recognizes individuals who have exhibited extraordinary service to the university or community.

COVID-19

Dr. Henderson reported that he had discussed with the institution Presidents plans for the coming Spring semester. Primarily the approach for all campuses will remain the same as in the Fall—masks, social distancing, and hybrid and online class instruction. Additionally, there will be increased opportunity for testing, tracing, and vaccine distribution when appropriate.

Student Highlights

In an effort to recognize students' accomplishments, two System students were highlighted. The first was a video about Taquilla Babin, a recent UL-Lafayette graduate, who had been encouraged and guided by the Compete LA program. The second was SGA President-UNO, Julianne Romero, who described her priority to promote equity and social justice on her campus.

Out-of-State Study

Mr. Marcus Jones reported on the added benefit of studying outside the state in order to broaden one's exposure and appreciation of diverse cultures and experiences. He said that studying abroad can improve a student's cultural competency and enhance creativity and future career success.

Annual Conference

Dr. Henderson encouraged the members to save the dates of March 18 and 19 for the annual conference. He indicated that, while the *For Our Future* conference will be held virtually, the content will be as rigorous as in the past years and participation will prove valuable.

G. **Board Chair's Report**

Mr. Carter thanked Governor John Bel Edwards for his reappointment. He said he was excited and honored to begin his tenure as Chair of the Board.

Standing Committee Assignments/February Meeting

Mr. Carter said that he has been discussing Committee assignments with Board members. He indicated that he would finalize and distribute the assignments prior to the next meeting.

In addition, Chair Carter said that, for the foreseeable future, all meetings will be held virtually. The next meeting will be February 25 beginning at 11:00 a.m.

H. **Other Business/Adjournment**

There was no other business to come before the Board.

At 2:12 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Romero, seconded by Ms. Pierre, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.