

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**November 8, 2021**

A. **Call to Order**

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met for a Special Meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2021 at 10:04 a.m. The meeting was held in the Louisiana Purchase Room of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge. Vice Chair Elizabeth Pierre called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call**

**PRESENT**

Mr. Barry Busada	Mr. Virgil Robinson
Dr. Jimmy Clarke	Mr. Mark Romero
Ms. Lola Dunahoe	Ms. Kristine Russell
Mr. Thomas Kitchen	Mr. Joe Salter
Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins	Mr. Brad Stevens
Mr. Dana Peterson*	Ms. L’Oreal Williams
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre	

*\*Arrived after roll call*

**ABSENT**

Dr. John Condos	Ms. Mildred “Mimi” Methvin
Mr. Steve Davison	

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

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

Dr. Henderson reported that the Search Committee had begun its work in August, holding an initial meeting to solicit input from the campus community regarding desirable characteristics in a new president. After comprehensive advertisement of the position and receiving applications, the Committee next met virtually on October 14 to review applications. At that meeting the Committee selected six semifinalists and met again on November 1-2 to interview the following: Dr. Nancy Albers, Dr. Virginia Burkett, Dr. Marcus Jones, Dr. Darrell Kruger, Dr. Kim LeDuff, and Dr. Jeremy Thomas. At the conclusion of those two days of interviews, Dr. Jones and Dr. LeDuff emerged as the finalists.

Dr. Henderson thanked the Committee members for their service: Barry Busada, Jimmy Clarke, Lola Dunahoe, Al Perkins, Elizabeth Pierre, Joe Salter, L’Oreal Williams, William Brent, Nikki Ceasar-Small, John Dunn, Tja’h Edwards Patricia Hrapmann, Mike Knotts, and John Manno.

Additionally, he commended the Northwestern community for the hospitality in hosting the semifinalists, committee members, and staff during the recent campus interviews.

D. **Overview of Interview Procedures**

Ms. Pierre explained the interview process for the day's meeting. She 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 finalist. At the conclusion of the Executive Session with the second finalist, the Board will remain in Executive Session to continue discussions. At the conclusion of the second Executive Session, the Board will return to Open Session for discussion and a vote.

E. **Candidate Interviews**

*Dr. Kim LeDuff*

Dr. Kim LeDuff was introduced, and she made an opening statement. She introduced her father, Kenneth LeDuff, and her twin sister, Lori LeDuff, who accompanied her to the interview. After several questions from the Board, upon motion of Mr. Busada, seconded by Mr. Salter, at 10:25 a.m., the Board voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

The following affirmative vote was taken: Mr. Busada, Dr. Clarke, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salter, Mr. Stevens, and Ms. Williams. None was in opposition.

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At 11:02 a.m., upon motion of Mr. Romero, seconded by Mr. Busada, the members reconvened in Open Session.

*Dr. Marcus Jones*

Dr. Marcus Jones was introduced to the Board, and he made his opening statement. After questioning by the Board, upon motion of Mr. Kitchen and seconded by Ms. Russell, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 11:22 a.m. The following roll call vote was recorded: Mr. Busada, Dr. Clarke, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salter, Mr. Stevens, and Ms. Williams. None was in opposition.

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At 12:40 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Kitchen, the Board reconvened in Open Session.

F. **Deliberations**

Ms. Pierre asked for comments from the Board. Dr. Clarke said that he was highly impressed with the search process and also thanked the Northwestern community for its hospitality during the recent semifinalist interviews on campus.

*Upon motion of Ms. Dunahoe, seconded by Mr. Perkins, the Board voted to appoint Dr. Marcus Jones as President of Northwestern State University effective November 15, 2021 and to authorize the University of Louisiana System President James Henderson and Board Vice Chair Elizabeth Pierre to negotiate the terms of appointment and execute an offer of employment on behalf of the Board.*

The following affirmative roll call vote was recorded: Mr. Busada, Dr. Clarke, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Kitchen, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Pierre, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Romero, Ms. Russell, Mr. Salter, Mr. Stevens, and Ms. Williams. There was no opposition.

G. **Introduction of President of Northwestern State University**

Dr. Jones received a standing ovation as he entered the Louisiana Purchase Room. He said he was tremendously humbled to be selected as the next President of the University. Dr. Jones said that he was excited to be able to give back to the institution that had given so much to him.

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. Busada, at 12:45 p.m., the Board voted to adjourn.