

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
SPECIAL MEETING
April 27, 2023

A. **Call to Order**

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System met for a Special Meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 11:56 a.m. The meeting was held in the Louisiana Purchase Room of the Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge. Vice Chair Jimmy Clarke called the meeting to order.

B. **Roll Call**

PRESENT

Mr. Barry Busada	Mr. Alejandro “Al” Perkins
Dr. Jimmy Clarke	Mr. Dana Peterson
Mr. Steve Davison	Mr. Mark Romero
Ms. Lola Dunahoe	Mr. Joe Salter
Mr. Ethan Estis	Mr. Brad Stevens
Ms. Jo Lethermon	Ms. Julie Stokes

ABSENT

Dr. John Condos	Mr. Virgil Robinson
Ms. Elizabeth Pierre	Ms. Kristine Russell

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

C. **Report of Southeastern Louisiana University Presidential Search Committee**

Non-voting Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, Dr. Henderson, gave a report that the Search Committee had begun its work in February with an initial meeting to request input from the campus community regarding desirable characteristics in a new president. He stated that in April the Committee decided on five candidates for interview on campus: Dr. Joseph Odenwald, Dr. Mary Parker, Dr. Eric Summers, Dr. Sebastian van Delden, and Dr. William Wainwright. At the conclusion of two days of interviews, Dr. van Delden and Dr. Wainwright were selected as finalists.

He thanked the Committee members for their participation in the process: Dr. Jimmy Clarke, Ms. Lola Dunahoe, Mr. Ethan Estis, Ms. Jo Lethermon, Mr. Al Perkins, Mr. Brad Stevens, Ms. Julie Stokes, Mr. Toby Cortez, Dr. Erin Horzelski, Mr. Louis Nick Joseph, Ms. Stephanie Stafford Kropog, Mr. Wallace Lewis, Ms. Baileigh Picou, Ms. Carla Tate, and Mr. Allen Waddell. Finally, he thanked the Southeastern community for the hospitality in hosting the semifinalists, committee members, and staff during the recent campus interviews.

D. **Overview of Interview Procedures**

After Dr. Clarke asked for public comments, Dr. Erica Calais invited Dr. Daniel McCarthy, Southeastern Louisiana University Dean of the College of Science and Technology, to give his comments.

Dr. McCarthy thanked Mr. Brad Stevens for his interest in the University. He said that he was speaking for himself, and he supported Dr. Sebastian van Delden for the presidency. He was impressed with the vast student support for Dr. van Delden and praised his student enrollment and fund-raising accomplishments.

There were no other public comments.

Dr. Clarke went on to explain 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. Sebastian van Delden

Dr. Sebastian van Delden was introduced, and he made an opening statement. His wife, Beth, accompanied him to the interview. After several questions from the Board, upon motion of Mr. Salter, seconded by Mr. Stevens, at 12:24 p.m., the Board voted to adjourn to Executive Session.

The following affirmative vote was taken: Mr. Busada, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Davison, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Estis, Ms. Lethermon, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Romero, Mr. Salter, Mr. Stevens, and Ms. Stokes. None was in opposition.

At 1:04 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Salter, the members reconvened in Open Session.

Dr. William Wainwright

Dr. William Wainwright was introduced to the Board, and he made his opening statement. After questioning by the Board, upon motion of Mr. Salter and seconded by Mr. Estis, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 1:35 p.m.

The following roll call vote was recorded: Mr. Busada, Dr. Clarke, Mr. Davison, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Estis, Ms. Jo Lethermon, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Romero, Mr. Salter, Mr. Stevens, and Ms. Stokes. None was in opposition.

At 4:17 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Romero, seconded by Ms. Dunahoe, the Board reconvened in Open Session.

F. **Deliberations**

Dr. Clarke asked for comments from the Board. Mr. Stevens noted the value of community members' input and involvement in the search process. Ms. Dunahoe and Dr. Henderson commended Dr. Erica Calais for coordinating an orderly and efficient search process which produced a list of outstanding professionals who became semifinalists and, ultimately, finalists. And, Dr. Henderson praised the Southeastern community – alumni, faculty, staff, and students – for their interest and love for the University.

Upon motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Estis, the Board voted to appoint Dr. William Wainwright as President of Southeastern Louisiana University and to authorize the University of Louisiana System President James Henderson and Board 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, Mr. Davison, Ms. Dunahoe, Mr. Estis, Ms. Jo Lethermon, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Romero, Mr. Stevens, and Ms. Stokes. There was no opposition.

G. **Introduction of President of Southeastern Louisiana University**

Dr. Wainwright received a standing ovation as he was escorted back into the Louisiana Purchase Room, along with his wife and daughter. He said he appreciated the process and looked forward to his tenure at Southeastern Louisiana University. Dr. Wainwright expressed gratitude to his wife and family and particularly to his father.

H. **Other Business**

There was no other business to come before the Board.

I. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Romero, and a unanimous second, at 4:25 p.m., the Board voted to adjourn.