

*Kim Hunter Reed, Chair  
James Ammons  
Gerald Boudreaux  
Joseph Bouie  
Preston Castille  
Ava Dejoie  
Rodney Ellis  
Randal Gaines  
Richard Gallot, Jr.  
James Henderson  
Patrick Jefferson*



*Walter Kimbrough  
Orlando McMeans  
Mandi Mitchell  
John Pierre  
Edward Price  
Larissa Littleton-Steib  
Toya Barnes-Teamer  
Brianna Thomas  
Reynold Verret  
Arlanda Williams  
Stephanie Willis*

## MINUTES

### Historically Black Colleges and Universities Advisory Council Southern University at Shreveport Louisiana

October 1, 2019

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Advisory Council met on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, in Jesse Stone Lecture Hall at Southern University at Shreveport. Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Chair of the council, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

The roll was called, and a quorum was not established.

#### Present at the meeting were:

Kim Hunter Reed  
James Ammons  
Kellie Taylor White  
Lisa Mims-Devezin  
Rodney Ellis  
Richard Gallot  
Walter Kimbrough  
Lurie Thomason

#### Absent from the meeting were:

Wesley Bishop  
Gerald Boudreaux  
Joseph Bouie  
Randal Gaines  
James Henderson  
Patrick Jefferson  
Mandi Mitchell  
John Pierre  
Edward Price  
Larissa Littleton-Steib

Dr. Rodney Ellis, President of Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA), provided greetings and a brief overview of SUSLA's programs and campuses.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Due to a lack of quorum, approval of minutes was deferred to the next meeting.**

### HBCU IPEDS DATA ON STUDENT ENROLLMENT, RETENTION AND COMPLETION

Mrs. Tonnisha Ellis, Program Coordinator, presented the council with the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data for the state's HBCUs in comparison to HBCUs nationally. The data focused on migration (students from out-of-state attending LA HBCUs and students from LA attending out-of-state HBCUs) of first-time freshmen, student enrollment, awards granted, completers by level, tuition and fees, retention rate, and percentages of undergraduates awarded Pell Grants and federal loans. There was a detailed discussion on the decrease of African American males attending HBCUs. Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) has an initiative that encourages and promotes African American male student success.

### UPDATE ON HBCU ACADEMIC WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. James Ammons, Co-Chair of the Academic Workgroup, updated the council on the progress of the recommendations in the HBCU report. Recommendations two, three, five, and seven are being acted upon by Regents.

- Recommendation two: Review and address participation in Dual Enrollment by different segments of the student population.
- Recommendation three: Provide more weights in the funding formula to recognize the contributions of institutions with the largest percentages of Pell Grant recipients.

- Recommendation five: Provide exceptions for HBCUs that seek to create new degree programs in 4-and 5-star disciplines and in disciplines where minorities are underrepresented.
- Recommendation seven: Enhance state support for aging infrastructures at HBCUs and provide funding for needed structures to support universities' academic strengths.

The outstanding recommendations include offering competitive faculty salaries, addressing need-based financial aid, and increasing the number of students in dual enrollment.

### RESEARCH COLLABORATION AMONG HBCUS

Dr. Michael Stubblefield, Vice Chancellor for Research and Strategic Initiatives, presented on an additional recommendation from the report.

- Recommendations four: identify areas of collaboration for possible Research Centers/Institutes among HBCUs and System institutions.

Dr. Stubblefield gave a detailed overview on how to fund recommendations, the status of competing for grants, challenges institutions face and how do we support institutions. Dr. Stubblefield expressed the importance of working together to secure funds, students taking courses between campuses, having a centralized port for tech transport, and working with small businesses to gain funding.

### WHAT WORKS: BEST PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND COMPLETION

Each institution highlighted the practices and policies that are underway to improve student retention and completion rates.

Dr. Walter Kimbrough, President, provided a synopsis of Dillard's retention rates. Before Katrina, Dillard over-performed traditional marks on Pell students and retention. Dr. Kimbrough named three indicators that influence whether students as return in the second semester and explained how Dillard addresses the indicators. The first is unmet financial need. Dillard has created a student aid for emergencies (SAFE) grant funded through fundraising and donations. The second is academic performance; Dillard has added intrusive academic advising for students. The third indicator is the ACT score. In order to increase retention, Dillard encourages students to engage in the life of the institution through campus events, academic success, and financial literacy. These efforts have aided Dillard in reaching a 70% retention rate.

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO)

Mr. C. Maxille Moultrie, Director of Retention and Recruitment, identified five focus areas impacting retention: admissions, financial aid, student records, registration, and the Center for Academic Retention and Education success. SUNO has also created a design lab that allows access to data for new freshmen or new incoming students. The university has expanded its recruitment to international students and branched out to its ten parish area for local students. SUNO has increased its presence at high schools both locally and nationally. The university has developed an advising system that helps students look at their academic trajectory and implemented a student orientation advisement and registration (SOAR) program. Retention at SUNO has fluctuated from Fall 2017 to Spring 2019, but overall, there has been an increase in retention and graduation rates.

### Grambling State University (GSU)

Dr. Rick Gallot, President, credits GSU's retention rates to having a holistic approach to student success. GSU offers extra services, tutoring and peer mentoring. GSU offers a gap scholarship cover that may cover any dollar necessary amount necessary to enroll but not met through traditional financial aid. Funds for the gap scholarships are received through fundraising. Faculty participated in training on the *7 Habits of a Highly Effective Students* to implement in their courses. For second-third year students, GSU offers a program called "Tiger Lift", a bridge program to ensure a holistic approach to serving student needs that leads to stronger graduation rates. The university has shown a steady increase in retention.

### Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA)

Mr. Major Brock, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success, expressed that SUSLA leads the state in student readiness. SUSLA determines the readiness of students using an extensive intake form. Student attendance is tracked through moodle and banner. Faculty are encouraged to contact students with numerous absences and identify the challenges impacting attendance. Teachers use electronic grade books, and students are aware of grades throughout the semester. To ensure students are on a beneficial career pathway, SUSLA has implemented metamajors promoting a guided pathway approach which has improved retention by 6.6%.

Dr. Reed asked that all institutions share their top three retention challenges as well as the student success surveys being used by each campus prior to the next meeting.

### PROJECT SUCCESS

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Education were invited to present to the council. Dr. Marcia Boyd, Director of Minority Serving and Under-Resourced Schools Division (MSURSD) at the U.S. Department of Education, emphasized the importance of institutions remaining eligible to receive Title IV funds. Dr. Boyd provided context on MSURSD and the programs it offers through the Federal Student Aid Office. MSURSD serves as a liaison between institutions and the compliance department.

Mr. Etienna Winzer, Director of School Experience Group, gave a detailed overview of Project Success, a program that can assist institutions in improving their graduation, retention, and default rates. Each institution will receive an invitation to participate in Project Success by November 15<sup>th</sup>. The program comes at no cost to the institutions. Additional information will be provided to all interested institutions. The program will be available through 2022. In addition, Mr. Winzer invited the council to attend the President Leadership Program in Reno.

#### OVERVIEW OF HBCU SEND-OFF IN LAKE CHARLES

Mr. Raymond Fondel, Southern University System Board of Supervisors, provided a detailed overview of the HBCU Student Send-off and program. The program was created to celebrate and support high school students who are enrolling in Louisiana HBCUs. The program is funded through donations and includes a prayer breakfast. The event ensures students are prepared for college. Mr. Fondel hopes to expand the event across the state and to recruit more alumni to participate. The next phase of the program will focus on supporting efforts to increase ACT scores.

#### CLOSING REMARKS~NEXT STEPS, FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be at Dillard University on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Nikki Godfrey, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs, announced that the Public Affairs Workgroup would host a Communications Summit on February 4<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the council meeting. The workgroup will send out a request for target dates for HBCU Day at the Capitol. There is a tentative plan to host the day at the Capitol in coordination with the Legislative Black Caucus Prayer Breakfast. A request was made for each institution to provide a designee to assist with events of the day.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the HBCU Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.