

Kim Hunter Reed, Chair
James Ammons
Vladimir Appeaning
Ray Belton
Joseph Bouie
Gerald Boudreaux
Preston Castille
Ava Dejoie
Ronnie Dyer
Richard Gallot, Jr.
Jimmy Harris
James Henderson
Jason Hughes



Patrick Jefferson
Makesha Judson
Walter Kimbrough
Orlando McMeans
Kelsey Perine
John Pierre
Vincent Pierre
Larissa Littleton-Steib
Toya Barnes-Teamer
Reynold Verret
Arlanda Williams
Stephanie Willis

HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Governor's Press Room
 Tuesday, May 24, 2022
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents
Dr. James Ammons	SUNO
Dr. Vladimir Appeaning	SUSLA
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana
Dr. Ray Belton	Southern University A&M
Sen. Gerald Boudreaux	Senate Education Committee
Dr. Roland Bullard	Proxy, Dillard University
Mr. Rick Gallot	Grambling State University
Mr. Ronnie Dyer	Student Member/SUNO
Dr. Jim Henderson	UL System
Rep. Jason Hughes	Speaker of the House Representative
Ms. Makesha Judson	Department of Economic Development
Dr. Orlando McMeans	Southern Ag Center
Mr. John Pierre	Southern Law Center
Rep. Vincent Pierre	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Mr. Tavares Walker, Proxy	Louisiana Workforce Commission
Mr. Curtis Wright	Xavier University of LA
Members Absent	Affiliation
Sen. Joseph Bouie	Senate President Representative
Mr. Preston Castille	BESE
Sen. Jimmy Harris	LA Legislative Black Caucus
Rep. Patrick Jefferson	House Education Committee
Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib	Delgado Community College
Ms. Kelsey Perine	NAACP

Ms. Arlanda Williams	Southern University System
Ms. Stephanie Willis	ACLU of Louisiana

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2022. The roll was taken, and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting. On motion of Chancellor John Pierre, seconded by President Rick Gallot, the Council approved the minutes.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Commissioner Reed introduced Representative Vincent Pierre, Chair of the Louisiana Black Caucus, to provide an update on the ongoing legislative session. Representative Pierre welcomed the Council on behalf of the Louisiana Black Caucus and expressed his excitement for the opportunity the Council will have to engage with their legislators.

Commissioner Reed thanked Representative Pierre and expressed the Council's gratitude for the best budget for higher education in fifteen years.

Commissioner Reed then recessed the meeting at 1:07 p.m. so that the Council could be introduced and recognized on the House floor.

The Council reconvened at 1:41 p.m. and Commissioner Reed thanked Representative Jason Hughes for the celebration of HBCU Day in the House. She also introduced Representative Barbara Carpenter and invited her to speak to the Council.

Representative Carpenter said that she was delighted to see everyone who serves as a leader of the state's HBCU programs. She commented that if there is anything that she or members of her team can do to help move the Council's agenda forward, all the members need to do is ask.

Commissioner Reed thanked Representative Carpenter for her comments as well as her leadership.

RECOGNITION OF DR. RAY BELTON AND DR. WALTER KIMBROUGH

Commissioner Reed recognized Dr. Ray Belton, President-Chancellor of the Southern University System, on his upcoming retirement and presented him with a gift, thanking him for his phenomenal work and for being an amazing leader among leaders. She also expressed her gratitude for Dr. Belton's commitment to Southern University as well as the students and state of Louisiana.

Commissioner Reed also recognized Dr. Walter Kimbrough, President of Dillard University, on his upcoming retirement and outstanding leadership. She informed the Council that Dr. Kimbrough was in Washington, D.C. being sworn in as a member of the White House HBCU Advisory Council.

FAREWELL FOR STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

Commissioner Reed recognized the Council's outgoing student member, Mr. Emmanuel Ukot. She informed the Council that Mr. Ukot was unable to attend the current meeting as he was hired as a healthcare management consultant before his graduation from Xavier University and the firm wanted him to report to work in Texas this week.

Commissioner Reed then introduced the Council's new student member, Mr. Ronnie Dyer from Southern University. Mr. Dyer then introduced himself to the Council.

Commissioner Reed introduced a new member to the Council, Ms. Makesha Judson from the Department of Economic Development. Ms. Judson introduced herself to the Council.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Commissioner Reed then returned to the topic of legislative reports and invited Representative Hughes to speak on the current session. Representative Hughes referenced the historic investment in higher education and commented that the work around higher education should be guided by Louisiana's Higher Education Master Plan. He recognized the leadership of Governor John Bel Edwards as well as of Commissioner Reed. He referenced his bill in the Senate Education Committee, which would prohibit institutions from withholding transcripts, and explained that it is important to remove any barriers to success. He then thanked Dr. Belton for his leadership in assisting to work through outstanding issues in the bill. He also thanked

Commissioner Reed for her work in Higher Education and her investment in the young people of Louisiana.

PATHWAYS TO 2030 – HBCUs’ ROLE IN REACHING THE GOAL

Commissioner Reed advised the Council that we must continue to focus on the goal of doubling the number of credentials awarded annually by 2030. She indicated that although there have been a number of obstacles and the delivery model changed due to COVID, the Council did not quit and continued to focus on students. She also noted that the HBCU Advisory Council was formed to make sure more people know that the state’s HBCUs are assets and to think of them as a first thought, not an afterthought.

Commissioner Reed then introduced Dr. Tristan Denley, Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs and Innovation, Board of Regents, to speak about the programs in place to help Louisiana reach its 60-by-30 Master Plan Goal.

Dr. Denley presented to the Council the Pathway to 2030 plan and explained that equity gaps that exist across the state need to be closed to accomplish Master Plan goals. In order to increase the number of credentials in the state, we first need to increase the number of students going to college and recognize all credentials, including short-term certificates and professional qualifications awarded by proprietary schools. He described to the Council what he has titled the Meauxmentum Year, which is a plan to increase success rates for students by making sure that every student has a clear pathway from where they are to where they are going. He presented data to the Council showing that students who understood how the courses they are taking

connect to their degree programs have greater success and that students are advantaged by taking a fuller schedule.

Dr. Denley then presented the changes that the Board has made to remediation by creating a co-requisite model rather than the prerequisite model. He also cited data showing student success when using the co-requisite model as well as the results of these changes when they were implemented in Georgia.

Commissioner Reed asked the Council if they had any questions or comments on this new policy. Dr. James Ammons, SUNO, commented on a presentation made at one of the Board of Regents' meetings showing that the co-requisite approach in math has created an increase in passage rates.

Mr. Gallot commented that Grambling reformed its first-year experience curriculum to focus on a seven habits pilot. As a result Grambling has seen a 17% increase in the first to second-year retention rate, which seems to be directly tied to the investment of these basic skills principles.

Dr. Ray Belton commented that Southern A&M focused on providing services from its University College as well as establishing co-requisites. Both strategies have proven to be very productive, with passage rates increasing from 30% to 70%.

Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer commented that institutions know who they are enrolling and the entering classes' academic profiles. She also noted the importance of ensuring students are enrolling in courses such as a first-year seminar. In addition, she spoke about the Bridge Program, which allows students to enroll in programs to help them build soft skills.

Dr. Jim Henderson asked for clarity on the pathways. Dr. Denley responded that creating a pathway to a student's particular goal can enable the student to refine their choices along the way. Dr. Henderson expressed concern that there is pressure to narrow the endpoints. Dr. Denley responded that leaders need to think hard about how the journey unfolds and the importance of the student making progress along the pathway.

Dr. Denley then spoke about enabling the increase in college-going by looking at early college experiences, as students who have early college experience are more likely to go to college. He asked the Council members if they had any insights into the roles of HBCUs in addressing the inequities in creating the early college experience.

Dr. Ammons commented that dual enrollment is a valuable tool, but that it is crucial to produce more teachers of color in public schools.

Dr. Vladimir Appeaning commented that SUSLA recognizes two student marshals at its graduation ceremony: one student has the highest-grade point average within the traditional student population and the other has the highest-grade point average within the dual enrollment student population. He noted that recognizing the dual enrollment student marshal is a highlight

not only for the student's high school and family, but also for the community. He also mentioned that the dual enrollment marshal was added because SUSLA has the highest number of dual enrollment students in the Southern University System.

Dr. Belton commented that SUSLA was the first two-year institution to embrace dual enrollment and that dual enrollment can provide a foundation for students to be successful in college, showing students that they will be competitive and can do the work. He also noted that a challenge, particularly for African Americans, is being eligible to participate in dual enrollment.

Commissioner Reed added, in reference to the dual enrollment eligibility requirements, that due to the pandemic the requirements were changed to allow students to enroll with an eligible grade point average and Counselor letter of recommendation. The Board of Regents has approved that eligibility requirement to continue for the next three years and will use that time to study how students are succeeding.

Governor John Bel Edwards joined the Council meeting and thanked Council members for all their hard work. He recognized the importance of HBCUs in providing opportunities for people and expressed his strong belief in the mission of HBCUs. He then thanked Dr. Belton for his decades of service to Southern University as well as the state of Louisiana, his work, and Southern's progress under his leadership. Governor Edwards also recognized and thanked Dr. Kimbrough for his work, including in raising the level of Dillard's endowment.

Governor Edwards then spoke to the Council on the recently approved higher education budget. He mentioned that while he did not get everything he asked for, it includes dollars for specific initiatives and programs as well as funding to cover mandated cost increases along with deferred maintenance and construction on college campuses.

Dr. Denley continued his presentation on the Pathway to 2030. He informed the Council that students not only have dual enrollment opportunities, but also to Fast Forward programs, recently added to TOPS Tech. These options, combined with the strategies of the Meauxmentum Year, should produce around 70,000 additional credentials over the remainder of the decade.

Commissioner Reed asked Dr. Henderson to speak about the College and Career Commission and the work that is begin done with dual enrollment. Dr. Henderson informed the Council that AP credit is not a viable alternative for the majority of students; dual enrollment is their pathway to college as it allows them to spend less time and money.

PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE – UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Commissioner Reed asked institutional leaders to provide updates on what is going on at their campuses and asked that Southern A&M and Grambling present their updates before the Council visited the Senate.

Mr. Curtis Wright, Xavier University, announced that Xavier is entering the planning phases of establishing a graduate school of health sciences and a medical school. He also advised that Xavier just graduated its inaugural class of Physician Assistants and is looking forward to

breaking ground on a new residence hall. In addition, Xavier has created new partnerships with economic drivers to find ways to advance health equity and economic energy in the New Orleans community. He also informed the Council that Xavier University Cheerleading won the NAIA National Championship.

Dr. Ronald Bullard, Dillard University, announced that Dillard has named its new President, Dr. Ford from Elon University, who will arrive on July 1, 2022. He informed the Council that Dillard's mock trial team made it to the final round of their competition. He reported that 195 students graduated at this year's commencement, including the valedictorian, who is a single mother of four. He mentioned that Dillard has created a Center for Racial Justice, which is now on campus, and will continue to try to partner with other institutions across the state.

Mr. John Pierre, Southern University Law Center, began by thanking both Commissioner Reed and Dr. Belton for their leadership. He recognized SULC's new Student Bar Association President, Ms. Nadia Foster. He informed the Council that SULC graduated 197 students this year and will be recognized nationally as the third-best public institution for access and opportunity among law schools in the country.

Dr. Orlando McMeans, Southern University Ag Center, congratulated Dr. Belton. He informed the Council that during the 2021-2022 academic year, enrollment increased by 42% with a freshman retention rate of 93.5%. He provided information on a new scholarship program, the Jag Stars, which currently has 129 students. In addition, SUAG has included climate-smart

agriculture in their research. He also commented on testifying before Congress and his interview with Forbes magazine.

Dr. James Ammons, Southern University-New Orleans, thanked the Commissioner and Dr. Belton for their leadership and commitment not only to HBCUs, but also to higher education institutions across the state. He then recognized Mr. Ronnie Dyer, President of SUNO's SGA, who is joining the Council as a student member, as well as SUNO's Royal Court, including Miss SUNO, Darelle Mitchell. He informed the Council that SUNO had over 400 graduates this year, including a 67-year-old graduate who was the first person in her family to graduate from college. He also told the Council that this fall SUNO will be accepting the first class of students into its Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Finally, he informed the Council that SUNO has opened a 12,000-square-foot museum of art on its campus.

Dr. Vladimir Appeaning, Southern University at Shreveport, thanked the Commissioner and Dr. Belton for their hard work and dedication. He informed the Council that 56% of credentials produced at SUSLA are in the health fields. This year SUSLA established a 100% online RN-to-BSN program, which will allow students to earn a baccalaureate degree in nursing in one year. He also announced that 286 students graduated at this year's commencement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Reed asked Ms. Kim Langlois to read the public comments.

Ms. Chelsea Cunningham, Xavier University, commented that she supports today's agenda and that K-12 students have a more career-oriented curriculum. She noted that students have not learned enough about industry and specialties to make a permanent decision in college and that they need to be introduced to more professions than teacher, doctor, and lawyer.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURMENT

Commissioner Reed thanked everyone for attending and informed members that they would now be going to the Senate Chamber to be recognized.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.