



HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Dillard University

10:00 AM - Noon

Members Present	Affiliation
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Board of Regents
Dr. Bree E. Cook	Proxy, Southern University at New Orleans
Dr. Monique Guillory	Dillard University
Mr. John Pierre	Southern University A&M
Mr. Dennis Shields	Southern University A&M, SU System
Dr. Marla Dickerson	Proxy, Southern University Law Center
Mr. Ronald Carrere	Proxy, Xavier University of Louisiana
Dr. Calvin Walker	Proxy, Southern University Ag Center
Mr. Richard “Rick” Gallot	University of Louisiana System
Dr. Martin Lemelle	Grambling State University
Rep. Ken Brass	House Education Committee
Ms. Stephanie Willis	ACLU
Ms. Lakeisha Ricks	Proxy, NAACP
Rep. Jason Hughes	Designee, Speaker of the House
Sen. Royce Duplesis	Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus
Rep. Edmond Jordan	Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus
Mr. Chris Toombs	Proxy, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	Urban League of Louisiana
Members Absent	Affiliation
Sen. Ed Price	Designee, Senate President
Ms. Abbey-Lynn Gonzalez	Student Member, Dillard University
Dr. Larissa Littleton Steib	Delgado Community College
Sec. Susana Schowen	Louisiana Workforce Commission
Ms. Jasmine Brown DeRouselle	Designee, Louisiana Economic Development
Sen. Katrina Jackson Andrews	Designee, Senate Education Committee
Dr. Aubra Gantt	Southern University Shreveport



CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2024. The roll was taken and a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (OCTOBER 2024)

Dr. Reed asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024, meeting.

On motion of Rep. Edmond Jordan, seconded by Mr. Rick Gallot, the Council approved the minutes of the March 19, 2024, meeting.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed welcomed the new members on the Advisory Council and opened the floor to Dr. Monique Guillory, Interim President of Dillard University. President Guillory extended a welcome and expressed her gratitude for hosting the October meeting. Dr. Reed shared that the Council meeting was a small part of a robust agenda for the day, to be followed by the first-ever HBCU Utilities Summit hosted by Public Service Commissioner Devante Lewis. Dr. Reed thanked Commissioner Lewis and invited him to provide brief comments regarding the work his office is doing to foster partnerships and collaboration between HBCUs and corporate utility companies.

Commissioner Lewis thanked Dr. Reed and indicated that he is hosting the Utility Summit with the goal of building a strong workforce pipeline in Louisiana for the utility industry and facilitating relationships between HBCUs and utility companies through mentorships. More than 25 companies are participating in the Summit, and student representatives from each of Louisiana's HBCUs are expected to be in attendance. He provided additional information on the work he is doing within his district and shared that he is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dr. Reed invited legislative members of the Council to share any legislative updates.

Representative Jason Hughes shared information on Act 790, which authorizes public postsecondary education management boards to establish and increase student tuition and mandatory fees, expressing his gratitude towards Commissioner Reed and President Gallot for their support of the bill. He also shared information on the anticipating budget shortfall facing the state as well as additional insight on the upcoming special session to address tax reform.

Representative Edmond Jordan also provided thoughts on the special tax session.

Senator Royce Duplessis shared that for more than six years he has been a member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, which is a strong advocate for HBCUs. Senator Duplessis recognized the importance of the HBCU Utility Summit and noted that his first job was with Entergy, initially as an intern then, upon graduating from college, as an employee.



Dr. Reed acknowledged the legislators for supporting Act 751, which addressed deferred maintenance on college campuses. She also informed the Council of a constitutional amendment proposal regarding the Board of Regents Support Fund, which supports public and private institutions through endowment matching, match for federal grants, research funding, equipment purchases, and other activities.

HBCU SCHOLARS RECOGNITION

Commissioner Reed introduced the 2024 White House HBCU Scholar Recipients:

- Kennedy Orr: Southern University A&M
- Dana Bailey: Southern University at New Orleans
- William Gaspard, Jr.: Southern University Law Center
- DeAndrew Thomas: Dillard University
- Osoniya Wodi: Xavier University of Louisiana
- Madisyn Hicks: Dillard University

Each student received a certificate presented by their campus President or Chancellor.

CAMPUS UPDATES

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

President Martin Lemelle shared that Grambling celebrated a fall enrollment of 5,150 students, with an increase in first year students.

Academically, for the past three years the BS in Nursing Program has maintained a 100% passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The School of Nursing continues to see interest in its programs as nursing is one of the largest identified majors for first-year students. Grambling is also seeing significant growth in its Cybersecurity program, as well as Cloud Computing, and Computer Science and Digital Technologies.

Dr. Lemelle shared that the institution is preparing to launch a master's-level program in sustainability and quantitative computing as Grambling continues to build out its STEM footprint. The Master's in Communication program is going 100% online in the spring semester, for professionals who want to pursue the degree but do not have the ability to come to North Louisiana.

The College of Education was awarded a grant of \$2.1M to engage in multilingual education and teacher preparation. Additionally, Grambling was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to expand research capacity in the graduate-level education program.

Grambling's digital library is officially active and open. Additionally, the initial budget specifications have been completed for the new Student Success Center, which will house the offices of admissions, financial aid, registrar, and other support functions to ensure Grambling is delivering the best customer service.



XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

Mr. Ronald Carrere, Associate Vice President of Government & Community Relations, shared that Xavier's anticipated medical school is currently going through the accreditation process, which is expected to take two to three years. Representatives of the institution recently served on a national committee along with the Department of Defense focused on increasing the research capacity of HBCUs. Xavier is hosting events for the Super Bowl. The institution has also brought back one of its dormitories and hosted a ride-along with the Mayor of New Orleans to identify challenges the school is facing. The HBCU Legacy Bowl is returning, and last year the HBCU Bowl had 32 NFL teams present to recruit for hiring.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY A&M

Chancellor John Pierre shared that SUBR, in collaboration with Grambling State University and Southern University New Orleans, was awarded a \$2.5M grant as a "Center for Academic Excellence in Intelligence." SUBR has successfully emerged into the field of Advanced Manufacturing with an industrial 3D printing machine as it seeks to develop opportunities to teach students advanced manufacturing and collaborate with Exxon Mobil, Shell and other entities. Chancellor Pierre noted that SUBR continues to see increases in enrollment, with nearly 7,500 enrolled students. Southern's fashion program within the College of Agriculture was selected for McDonald's Corporation's "Change in Fashion" tour. The institution recently hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the amphitheater and later in the month, SUBR will hold the groundbreaking ceremony for a new welcome center. There are several new academic programs: computer engineering, risk management and insurance, construction management, digital music and music technology. Southern hosted the Prime Minister of St. Kitts to engage in a partnership to bring students from St. Kitts to Southern. Additionally, the Southern University School of Nursing is being celebrated as the largest producer of black male nurses.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

Dr. Calvin Walker, Executive Vice Chancellor, shared that there are 595 students enrolled in the College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences (SuAg), with a retention rate of 71.8%. During his visit, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts stated that the island imports 100% of its grapes and noted that SuAg has committed to help St. Kitts with a grape program starting next year. SuAg has made upgrades to the livestock arena and multipurpose building.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS

Dr. Bree E. Cook, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, stated that enrollment has increased along with dual enrollment participation as the institution services 21 schools, with 1,109 dual enrollment students in Fall 2025. Dr. Cook also shared that the third cohort of nursing students, which includes three black males, started the institution's new nursing program. SUNO had the site visit from the Board of Nursing and is awaiting formal approval as an accredited nursing program. The first nursing cohort will graduate in May.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Dr. Marla Dickerson, Vice Chancellor Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives, shared that SULC plans to send several students to Las Vegas to participate in a mass tort conference. Congressman Troy Carter is sponsoring the Bayou Classic CLE, which will focus on mass tort issues. SULC has plans to offer two certificate programs: esports law and management and heirs' property and was provided funding by the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville to develop the heirs' property program. The Department of Justice awarded a grant to SULC to focus on culturally sensitive domestic violence victims. Additionally, SULC received appropriations from Senator Cassidy's office to continue construction on the Shreveport campus. SULC also continues to work on expungement initiatives and was awarded funding towards the expungement initiative in St. John Parish.

DILLARD UNIVERSITY

Dr. Guillory shared that Dillard University was awarded a \$20 million dollar grant that will focus on clean energy, solar panels, workforce development, solar panel installation, a blue bikes program, and electric vehicle charging stations to be installed on campus. Dillard has partnered with several entities in New Orleans, including the Arthur School, an all-boys charter school, to focus on dual enrollment and other pipeline opportunities. Dr. Guillory noted that the university has experienced infrastructure challenges and hopes to use funding mechanisms to address HVAC issues and other needs on campus. Dillard also has plans to convert its library resources into a digital library.

HBCU UTILITIES SUMMIT

Commissioner Lewis informed Council members that conversations around the Summit will be moved to a different meeting location to accommodate guests.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Reed provided additional instructions to Council members regarding the Summit and lunch.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Representative Hughes, seconded by Chancellor Pierre, the meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.