Recap of Official Business of the Board of Supervisors

Board Elects New Officers

Today the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System selected new leadership for 2010. Winfred F. Sibille of Sunset will serve as Chair and D. Wayne Parker of Choudrant will serve as Vice Chair.

Sibille is a longtime educator who has been on the Board since 1995 and served the last two years as Board Vice Chair.

“I am very happy and humbled by the decision of the Board. We have one of the finest boards in this state, and I look forward to continuing our work to educate Louisiana’s citizens,” said Sibille.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a Master’s degree in education from Louisiana State University and over 30 additional credit hours from LSU, UL Lafayette and Nicholls State University.

Retired since 1986, Sibille has worked as a teacher, principal, supervisor, assistant superintendent, legislative consultant and lobbyist. His many honors include being named State Educator of the Year in 1989 by the Louisiana Association of School Executives.

Parker is a retired executive and human resources manager from Williamette Industries, Inc. He was appointed to the Board in 2003 and has served the last two years as Board Parliamentarian. He holds a degree in Business Administration for Louisiana Tech University.

The new officers will officially assume duties when they are sworn-in on January 8, 2010.

For more information about these and other members of the Board of Supervisors, visit the UL System website at www.ulsystem.edu at click on “Board of Supervisors.”

Presidental Search Committee Appointed for GSU

The following Board Members were appointed to serve on the Grambling State University Presidential Search Committee:

- Elsie Burkhalter of Slidell
- Edward Crawford of Shreveport
- Mildred Gallot of Grambling
- Steven Jackson, Student Board Member and Grambling SGA President
- Jeffrey Jenkins of Baton Rouge
- Jimmy Long, Sr. of Natchitoches
- D. Wayne Parker of Choudrant
- Winfred Sibille of Sunset

According to Board Rules, the Grambling faculty will select a representative to serve on the committee and University of Louisiana System President Randy Moffett will serve as the non-voting chair.

The first meeting of the committee has not yet been scheduled but will take place in the new year.

After five years of service, Horace A. Judson resigned as President of Grambling in October. Last month, the Board appointed Frank G. Pogue to serve as Interim President until a new president is named.
Board Thanks Outgoing Chair Elsie Burkhalter

UL System President Randy Moffett presented outgoing Board Chair Elsie P. Burkhalter with a plaque and roses. Burkhalter’s two-year term as Board Chair will end in January.

“You’ve provided tremendous leadership for our Board during very tumultuous times and always kept us focused on the students,” said Moffett.

Board Member Andre Coudrain thanked Burkhalter on behalf of the Nominating Committee. “You handled your position with grace, compassion and fair-mindedness,” said Coudrain.

Burkhalter has served on the Board for 16 years. She was the first African-American and first female to be appointed Chair. A former teacher, she currently serves as President of the St. Tammany Federation of Teachers and School Employees, is a vice president of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers and serves on the Board of the American Federation of Teachers.

UL Lafayette Thinking Outside the Box for Access and Success

Giving top academic scholars the same attention as high school athletic recruits, providing incentives for outstanding student advising and involving community leaders to attract underrepresented minority students are just some of the many ways the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is thinking outside the box to improve student access and success.

UL Lafayette today was the last of the eight universities to present efforts to the Board’s Special Committee on Access and Success. Committee Chair Wayne Parker commended their work.

“Your enthusiasm, vision and commitment are all evident in your first-class program. You are doing a great job,” said Parker.

UL Lafayette implemented an Academic Signing program where top high school students sign a commitment to attend and receive a scholarship. It’s modeled after the awarding of athletic scholarships.

“We pay so much attention to athletes. It’s time we pay equal attention to exceptional students,” said Vice President for Enrollment Services DeWayne Bowie.

Additional programs highlighted were the Black Community Leaders Advisory Group, the McNair Program to assist gifted yet financially-challenged students, supplemental instruction for at-risk students, an award system for advisors whose students excel, and the Academic Success Course that matches students with a faculty or staff mentor.

UL Lafayette staff reinforced the need for these programs.

“A full 50 percent of incoming freshmen are first generation college students,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Steve Landry.

“Data shows that a quarter of dropouts across the country have a GPA of over 3.0,” said Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Carolyn Bruder, reinforcing that barriers to access and success are not strictly finances or low academic achievement.

UL Lafayette senior Megan Butler (right) is pictured with her academic advisor, Dr. Bruce Falgenhauer, who has earned the university’s Outstanding Advising Award five times. The annual award, established in 1995, includes a stipend: senior faculty receive $1,000, junior faculty receive $500.
The Board recognized Team BeauSoleil of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for their success at the 2009 U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon. The team, composed of students in architecture, engineering, communications, the arts and other disciplines, designed and built an energy-efficient home. The only university team from Louisiana to compete, Team BeauSoleil won the Market Viability and People’s Choice awards.

“We are honored to be here today. Because we made this home for Louisiana, it means more to us to be honored here today than any national honor,” said student Scott Chappuis.

Faculty advisor Geoff Gjertson said the team’s two-year journey is not complete. They are continuing to refine the home and prepare it for production.

“This brought national attention to the need for affordable housing and using renewable resources. It is good for the students, UL Lafayette, Acadiana and Louisiana as a whole,” said Gjertson.

For more information visit www.beausoleilhome.org.