

MINUTES

BOARD OF REGENTS

Special Meeting

February 8, 2011

The Board of Regents met in session at 9:10 a.m., Tuesday, February 8, 2011, in the Louisiana Purchase Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chairman Robert Levy called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Executive Assistant Carolyn Blanchard called the roll and a quorum was established.

Present for the meeting were:

Robert Levy, Chairman
Mary Ellen Roy, Vice Chair
Charlotte Bollinger, Secretary
J. Scott Ballard
Robert Bruno
Maurice Durbin
Chris Gorman
Donna Klein
Victor Stelly
Harold Stokes
Roland Toups
Joseph Wiley
Demetrius Sumner

Absent from the meeting were:

Ed Antie
Joseph Farr
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Robert Levy welcomed everyone to the special meeting regarding the delivery of postsecondary education in the New Orleans area. He stated the purpose of the meeting is meant to: (1) receive initial information about the study currently being conducted by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) and (2) provide an opportunity to hear from interested individuals and stakeholders. Regent Levy also informed everyone that the meeting was being streamed over the Internet to allow citizens across the state to view the meeting.

Regent Levy noted a number of speakers had been invited to address the board including State Senators Conrad Appel and Ann Duplessis, the authors of Senate Resolution 123 (SR 123), directed the Regents to study the delivery of higher education in New Orleans. After introducing Senator Appel, he reviewed some statistics of the New Orleans region.

- ▶ Twenty-two percent decrease in the population of the city of New Orleans from 627,000 in 1960-1970 to 484,000 in 2000 while the city of Houston showed a major increase from 938,000 to 2,116,000;
- ▶ Economy has declined due to lack of jobs;
- ▶ Current census shows an additional loss in population of 140,000 since Katrina;
- ▶ Second largest hub for oil and gas exploration during 1960-1970;
- ▶ One of the largest international trade hubs during 1960-1970;
- ▶ Currently concentrating on tourism which does not offer high paying jobs;
- ▶ Avondale Shipyard is leaving New Orleans and this means a loss of many jobs; and
- ▶ *Forbes Magazine* in the February 2011 issue listed New Orleans as one of the top 3 cities which economic failure.

Senator Appel stated that despite many problems, there were positives in the New Orleans area.

- ▶ A prime location for oil and gas explorations;
- ▶ Largest port complex in the Western Hemisphere;
- ▶ Large manufacturing and water resources and agriculture base; and
- ▶ Increasing number of young entrepreneurs starting new businesses in the area.

He said that New Orleans is in competition with national as well as world markets; therefore, it was necessary to set goals to *recreate* New Orleans – recreate economy, recreate opportunities. Senator Appel said it was also important to identify the obstacles in attracting large firms to the New Orleans area such as (1) proving confidence in hurricane protection system, (2) reforming civil justice system, (3) creating a business friendly government and tax structure, and (4) establishing a highly trained workforce.

He said a key element to New Orleans' academic recovery is the training of its workforce. Senator Appel said there must be a world class urban public higher education system in New Orleans to attract and train the brightest minds. He commented that there were more than 40,000 applicants for 1,100 openings at Tulane University last year.

Senator Appel said it was the intent of Senate Resolution 123 to challenge the Board to take a bold leadership position. He suggested that the outcome of this study have two tracks: (1) one for high level academic students who are ready to attain a high quality education (concentration of math, science and engineering graduates), and (2) one for the students that were not well prepared, but deserve an opportunity for a good education. He encouraged the need to provide a strong remedial element that will allow underrepresented students to learn and graduate with a degree that means something. Senate Resolution 123 is a mechanism to build a new system of education in the New Orleans region. He said that Albert Einstein's definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different outcome." Senator Appel said Louisiana has done this for years, but he said it has not and will not work. We must *recreate* higher education as well as the economy if Louisiana is to be successful.

OVERVIEW OF STUDY BY PRESIDENT DENNIS JONES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Regent Levy introduced Mr. Dennis Jones, President of NCHEMS, who gave an overview of the study of postsecondary educational needs in the New Orleans area. Mr. Jones presented a Power Point entitled "Serving the Needs of New Orleans" which discussed the following: (1) Louisiana's total population by parish, by age group, and by race for 2010-2030, (2) percent of adults with an associate degree or higher by age and race, (3) parish, state and national ACT scores for 2006-2010, (4) Fall 2009 enrollments in New Orleans' public institutions, (5) percentage of first-time freshmen enrolled in developmental education, (6) transfer students, (7) graduation rates, and (8) percentage of faculty by institution and race.

Mr. Jones commented that there are significant educational needs for New Orleans' African-American population, and the pipeline leaks at every point. He continued by stating that it is not just a University of New Orleans (UNO) and Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) issue, Delgado Community College must be included in the conversation.

Mr. Jones then introduced Mr. Aims McGuinness, Senior Consultant for NCHEMS, who discussed the institutions' mission differentiation by student clientele and service capacity. He also presented a draft list of nine criteria for assessing organizational alternatives for the New Orleans region. The nine criteria are as follows:

1. Aligns academic programs and support services with the needs of New Orleans students, employers and the city.
2. Provides services that recognize the needs of students with different backgrounds, levels of academic preparation, and interest.
3. Supports and promotes good practice in promoting student learning.
4. Aligns institutional processes with successfully meeting the priority needs of clients.
5. Promotes strong relationships with key external constituents.
6. Makes efficient use of facilities and technology.
7. Makes efficient use of support services that are not "mission specific."
8. Provides a clear pathway of student progression to point of program completion regardless of point of entry.
9. Serves, as a minimum, the differing needs of academically well prepared recent high school graduates, recent high school graduates with academic deficiencies, and adults with some college, adults with high school but no college, and adults with less than high school education.

Mr. Jones said next steps would include refining the criteria and laying out alternatives (strengths and weaknesses) for the higher education needs of the New Orleans region. He said the individuals listed below would assist with these next steps.

1. **Dr. Alvin Schexsnider**, graduate from Grambling State University; President, Thomas Nelson Community College (Virginia); Former Chancellor, Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina; and faculty and administrative positions at Southern University, Syracuse University, the Federal Executive Institute, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Wake Forest University.

2. **Dr. Marybeth Gasman**, Professor, University of Pennsylvania and historian of higher education, has done research on historically black colleges and has been cited in various media venues including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Diverse Issues in Higher Education, National Public Radio, Inside Higher Education, U.S. News and World Report, and CNN.
3. **Dr. Shirley Raines**, President, Memphis State University, an urban university, and former Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Dean of the College of Education at the University of Kentucky.
4. **Dr. Richard Rhoda**, Executive Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commissioner (THEC); former senior official at Tennessee Board of Regents and Tennessee State University; and served at time of merger of UT-Nashville with Tennessee State University.
5. **Dr. Blenda Wilson**, former President, California State University, Northridge, where she lead the University in the enormous task of leading California State University, Northridge's recovery from the devastating 1994 Northridge earthquake; former Chancellor, University of Michigan's Dearborn Campus; former Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education; and former President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

A question and answer period followed.

Regent Klein asked if improvements in student preparation in the coming years could be expected since strides have been made in the New Orleans area in the K-12 schools after Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Jones indicated that improvements can be expected, but he also thought it would take considerable time.

Regent Bruno inquired if other states had similar issues with institutions under different management boards in close proximity and if this would cause non-cooperation.

LEGISLATIVE COMMENTS

Regent Levy welcomed several members of the Legislature who indicated that they would like to offer comments.

Representative Patricia Smith of District 67, represented the Louisiana Black Caucus. She said that SUNO has been struggling since Hurricane Katrina. She stated that a statewide solution for postsecondary education was needed, not one that is focused on just two campuses in one region of the State. She said she is against a solution that forces students into community colleges. Representative Smith said that this is a dead end for most Black students who aspire to a four-year degree. She was concerned that there was no dialogue with anyone concerning this issue before the merger announcement was made. Representative Smith mentioned the 2006 study by the Board of Regents in response to House Resolution No. 16 of the First Extraordinary

Session of 2005 regarding a possible merger of UNO/SUNO. She noted that the mission, campus culture and the student bodies are different at UNO/SUNO. She said merging UNO/SUNO is a recipe for chaos. She said it has not even been a year since the implementation of the GRAD Act, so no results are forthcoming yet. Change does not happen overnight. She stated that the Louisiana Black Caucus is against a merger of UNO/SUNO.

Representative Jared Brossett of District 97 stated he was representing the Gentilly area. He stated that this process should not be consumed into politics but should be about protecting students, their access to higher education, and the ability to increase human capital in the greater New Orleans area. He noted that he is not proud of graduation rates of many universities in the state, but focusing on graduation rates can be misleading and misplaced. He said that today a larger number of college students are older, part-time student who manage academic responsibilities in addition to working full-time and have family responsibilities. Representative Brossett said if there was a dollar amount saved from the merger of UNO/SUNO, it would leave questions to be answered such as: (1) where will the savings go and (2) how will the faculty and administration be affected. Representative Brossett also asked about the specifics of how Governor Jindal's proposed "single" board of higher education would play into the study. He agreed that the "single" board concept would look to create a more efficient higher education system, downsizing universities and eliminating duplicative programs. As Vice-Chair of the newly created House and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee, he felt it is important to strive for diversity in all aspects of government. Representative Brossett requested that the Board of Regents should hold public meetings in the New Orleans area in order to hear from the students of both UNO and SUNO.

Representative Joe Harrison of District 51 and a member of the Subcommittee for Higher Education Appropriations said he is passionate about education. He said for the last three years, the matter of educational needs has been reviewed. He said the community and the universities (UNO/SUNO/Delgado) must have input into this matter. Representative Harrison said accountability will help solve a budget deficient of \$1.6 billion in the upcoming fiscal session. He mentioned that higher education and health care are the two areas that are not constitutionally protected when it comes to budget cuts. He spoke about the need to track students to see the success of the university. Representative Harrison said it was important for high school counselors to work with students and parents every year of high school so students can be guided, based on their academic skills, to enroll in the proper higher education institution after high school. He said it was frustrating to see students with degrees, but with no ability to look for a career. He said education is the cure for the cost of poverty and prison, and everyone must work together to build a successful system for Louisiana.

Representative Austin Badon of District 100, a graduate of UNO and a staff member at SUNO, said the Black Caucus had recently met with the Governor and was not informed of this issue. He continued by stating that reform is needed of all higher education, not just UNO/SUNO. Representative Badon mentioned that the 2006 study done by the Board of Regents said the schools should not be merged and wondered what has changed since then. He said what has not changed is that SUNO still does not have a library, many buildings have not reopened, the first floor of many buildings are gutted, and students must use trailers for class. He said the merger would result in the demise of a Historically Black College and University

(HBCU) and loss of identity for UNO. Representative Badon noted that both institutions must work on improving graduation rates, but a merger was not the way to do this. He said that students cannot afford Xavier or Dillard, but SUNO makes it affordable for the non-traditional student. He continued by saying that two issues were at hand: (1) UNO wants to be under a different management board and (2) both LSU and Southern Systems take care of the flagship institution first. Representative Badon asked the Board to reject the merger and also informed the Board that the New Orleans City Council had unanimously voted against the proposal.

Senator Jean-Paul Morrell of District 3 noted that UNO/SUNO have different missions and student bodies. Both schools are very different with very different missions. He said that both were damaged and/or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and funding levels changed with the population shift after the storm. He further stated that despite the problems that may exist, both UNO/SUNO are still producing outcomes. He said there have been discussions for years between UNO/SUNO/Delgado regarding consolidating resources to save money. These universities are struggling with dwindling budgets. Representative Morrell agreed that higher education in the state is abysmal, but said there are several four-year institutions whose graduation rate falls between that of SUNO at 6% and UNO at 23%, but no one is talking about those institutions. It will take bold leadership to take a look at all universities in the state.

Chairman Levy acknowledged Representatives John Schroeder of District 77, and Kevin Pearson of District 65, in the audience.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Regent Levy recognized Mr. Darren Mire, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System. He stated that the Southern University System is in favor of a thoughtful examination of a possible means to better serve the students of Louisiana and the New Orleans region. He continued by noting that the recommendations of the Louisiana Postsecondary Education Review Commission (PERC) offered a road map for higher education improvement. He said PERC recommended strengthening HBCUs. He expressed that the Southern University System is against the merger of UNO and SUNO.

Mr. Mire also noted that the 2009 study conducted by the Public Affairs Research Council (PAR) on higher education governance stated:

Any restructuring or reorganization should be fully vetted in a series of public meeting and approached deliberately over the course of a year. A hurried and haphazard process could yield negative consequences for students and communities around the state.

Mr. Mire suggested that in addition to the preservation and strengthening of HBCUs, the Board of Regents should convene regional panels of higher education institutional representatives as part of a statewide examination of ways to improve higher education in Louisiana. He also suggested that “mergers and consolidations” are not the sole means of structural improvement to higher education. Mr. Mire noted that cooperative or consortia arrangements are also viable options.

Mr. Mire stated in order to achieve the vision of PERC certain principles should be agreed upon prior to the commencement of a statewide planning process as follows:

- ▶ The Louisiana system of higher learning should be student centered;
- ▶ The Louisiana system of higher learning should support the unique heritages of Louisiana;
- ▶ The institutional integrity of all institutions of higher learning should be preserved; and
- ▶ Regionally clustered institutions of higher learning should cooperate for the benefit of the student.

Dr. Joseph Bouie, former Chancellor of SUNO, stated that institutional discrimination exists in the state. He said that since Hurricane Katrina, SUNO has been treated differently from other institutions in New Orleans. He said that 22 programs were reduced or eliminated while five new programs were added to SUNO. FEMA provided \$92 million after the hurricane, but not one building has been completed at SUNO. Dr. Bouie asked the Board to do what is in the best interests of the State and do what is fair to the higher education system.

Ms. Julie Andrews, representing SUNO and the NAACP, noted she is a mother and student at SUNO. She spoke of the opportunities that SUNO has allowed her to have. She said it was important to earn a degree and be a more viable person in the community. She said the people in New Orleans have been deprived for decades and especially when it comes to equality. She stated that she trusted the Board will do the right thing for New Orleans by not merging UNO/SUNO.

Ms. Bessie Bynum, chaplain for SUNO Alumni Association Executive Board, noted that she attended SUNO at the age of 42. She noted there are three major areas that trouble her: (1) students having the right to choose to attend a HBCU; (2) families that are unable to send their children to a private university; and (3) the culture and heritage that SUNO provides. She said she is against the merger. She said "SUNO then, SUNO now, SUNO forever, merger never."

Mr. Ellis Brent, Jr., Vice President of SUNO Student Government Association (SGA), informed the Board that the students were unanimously against the merger of UNO/SUNO. Mr. Brent continued by stating that he had transferred from LSU to SUNO. He said SUNO has helped him achieve his goals. Mr. Brent also stated that he would be graduating in May and the education he received from SUNO has allowed him to obtain a job from a top Fortune 500 company. He urged the Board to allow SUNO to continue to exist so other success stories can be told.

Mr. Demetrius Sumner, student member of the Board of Regents, noted that the most important function of the Board is to listen to the concerns of stakeholders across the state. He stated that it is an honor to represent more than 200,000 students across the state. He said it was premature for him to speak for or against the actual merger as a member of the Board of Regents. He reminded everyone that at times, the State is so focused on numbers and statistics that the men, women, single parents and retired veterans behind the numbers are forgotten. Mr. Sumner

said Louisiana must look at the quality of education and access to opportunity and look beyond the numbers.

Regent Levy announced that the Board would recess until 12:45 p.m.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Dr. Joe King, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at University of New Orleans, said UNO opened its doors 52 years ago as an integrated institution and has the highest diversity index of any university in Louisiana. Dr. King spoke about the diversity of undergraduate curricula and postgraduate degrees. He further noted that UNO is second only to LSU A&M in the number of doctorates awarded in Louisiana. He next reviewed some of the 15 nationally accredited programs at UNO. He said UNO has centers/institutes that enhance the educational and research opportunities for students. Dr. King said, regardless of the outcome of this study, UNO is dedicated to providing top notch education to the students.

Dr. Susan Krantz, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at UNO, outlined the core academic values and vision of UNO and its commitment to implementation. She spoke on UNO's numerous academic strengths, international faculty members, student retention, research and scholarships. She asked the Board to note UNO's commitment to quality academic programming during these deliberations and UNO's commitment to reach efficiencies and reduce lag time between proposals and practice.

Mr. Neal Maroney, Faculty Senate President at UNO, said that UNO serves as a backbone to the New Orleans economy. He noted that a 2007 Bureau of Census study estimated that a four-year college degree adds more than \$25,000 a year to an individual's income over a high school diploma. He mentioned that by 2016, 30% of the jobs created will need a four-year degree. He further stated the need to attract and retain professional faculty and staff and, with any change, tenure must be respected. He said there is not a lack of productivity at UNO as portrayed.

Mr. Barry LeBlanc, UNO alumni and a member of the higher education subcommittee of GNO, Inc., told the Board that he was the first member of his family to earn a degree. He said that higher education is big business, while the product is the degree, the student is the direct customer for the product. Mr. LeBlanc noted that a more efficient product can be created by utilizing resources at UNO/SUNO/Delgado. He said there needs to be an economic discussion, comparison and analysis of the New Orleans public higher education institutions. He encouraged the Regents to look at low completer programs at UNO/SUNO. He asked that all involved in the study be professional and honest and strive for a model that produces an efficient and effective product to address the demands of students of all races.

Mr. John Mineo, SGA President for UNO, stated that the decision made by the Board would not affect him but would impact the people that come after him. We must be prepared to let these students have a bright future. He said the State must work together and be willing to give up things it may want, and focus on what is necessary for tomorrow. He said we must all work in unity to overcome the problems in the State.

Mr. Thomas Kitchen, Chair of the UNO Foundation and CFO of Stewart Enterprise, told the Board that he is a first generation college graduate of UNO. He said the goal today is to ensure and improve the quality of education for students in the New Orleans area. He commended the Governor for his announcement to include in the study the issue of governance for UNO. Mr. Kitchen said the *U.S. News and World Report* said that UNO was noted as the most diverse university in Louisiana. He feels that UNO would better be served if placed in the University of Louisiana System and would be able to grow competitively. Mr. Kitchen stressed the goal is to improve higher education, not only in the New Orleans area, but in the entire state.

LOUISIANA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (LCTCS)

Regent Levy introduced Dr. Monty Sullivan, Executive Vice President for the LCTCS. Dr. Sullivan noted that the economic viability of the greater New Orleans area is critical to the State. He said that Delgado Community College has partnered with UNO/SUNO for decades. He discussed several facts:

- ▶ Delgado Community Colleges serves 19,000 students as of fall 2010;
- ▶ 12% enrollment growth in fall 2009-2010 and has a large minority population;
- ▶ Since 2005-2006, awards conferred have doubled; and
- ▶ 80 instructional programs are offered along with non-credit workforce development operation (associate degree RN nursing program and a fire/radar/industrial training program).

Dr. Sullivan said many facility challenges have existed since Hurricane Katrina. He noted that Delgado has served the New Orleans area for 80 years and will continue to serve the students of the region and work with businesses.

A question and answer session followed.

Regent Klein asked what is Delgado's greatest need regarding facilities. Dr. Sullivan said he thought there would be additional classroom space due to the tremendous growth of Delgado.

Regent Wiley asked how Delgado has handled the growth with the facilities that the institution has at this time. Dr. Sullivan said Delgado has expanded times that classes are offered to the evening. Regent Wiley asked if Delgado shares space, faculty or staff with UNO or SUNO. Dr. Sullivan said he does not know of any arrangements at this time.

Regent Bruno asked why Delgado is experiencing such growth. Dr. Sullivan said that two-year institutions experience enrollment growth during poor economic times.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Nykeisha Bryer, NAACP Southern Chapter and SGA representative, said she is a minority student from a low income family. She was taught that she must go to college if she

was going to be successful. She said the Southern University System offered her that opportunity. She did not feel that merging UNO and SUNO will save state dollars.

Mr. Randolph Scott, President, SUNO Alumni Association, said he is a graduate of SUNO. The opportunity for higher education has always been a challenge for Blacks in America and especially in Louisiana. He said SUNO serves the nontraditional students, working class students, single parents, the part-time students, and the evening division students. SUNO has a legacy that must be protected. FEMA awarded the campus of SUNO for recovery projects after Hurricane Katrina. As of today, SUNO still does not have a library and buildings have not been repaired. He said the Governor wants to merge UNO/SUNO and balance the state's budget or give the money to UNO. He said SUNO should be maintained as a four-year institution.

Mr. Admon McCastle is a concerned citizen and a product of Southern University. He is concerned that the merger will be the demise of Southern University. He said if the university is closed there will be an uprising that has never been seen before. Mr. McCastle requested that the Board of Regents convey to Governor Bobby Jindal that he should carry his hammer to build up and not tear down.

Mr. Akeem Lewis, freshman at Southern University and A&M College (SU and A&M), said he was raised in the lower Ninth Ward but moved to Atlanta after Hurricane Katrina. He took the ACT three times and the highest score he made was 19. He said Southern offered him an opportunity to be educated. He is a proud freshman at Southern University and A&M College. If SUNO and UNO are merged, he said, a generation will be lost.

Mr. Dadrius Lanus, a student of Southern University and spokesman for Southern NAACP, said what Southern University provides to its students cannot be replaced by any other university. He said SOS does not just stand for "Saving Our Southern University" but "Saving Ourselves." He said the citizens of the state must not go backwards and must save ourselves from merger. He said everyone was insulted with the possible merger and encouraged Southern University then, Southern University now and Southern University forever.

Ms. Venese Morgan, a concerned student of Southern University, said that no system presidents and no student leaders were informed properly of the possible merger. She said that all possibilities of remedies have not been assessed and the majority of solutions have been ignored.

Ms. Denise Holden, a graduate of UNO and SUNO, opposes the merger. She said there is a vast difference of opportunities afforded at the two universities. She felt that she had no nurturing at UNO, but as a student at SUNO, the professors were dedicated to the students' learning. She asked that the Board not consider this merger.

Mr. John Johnson, New Orleans City Council and former State Representative, said the New Orleans City Council has gone on record opposing the merger. He said UNO/SUNO have different missions/goals/objectives/populations they serve. He had the experience of going to both universities as an undergraduate student. Mr. Johnson said that if UNO/SUNO is merged,

there will be many students who will not get a degree. Many students that go to SUNO are non-traditional students. He asked that the Board does not destroy SUNO's mission.

A question and answer period followed.

Regent Bruno asked if UNO/SUNO can share its resources such as libraries and cafeterias since the campuses are next door to each other. He said each campus must collaborate. City Councilman Johnson said there has been communication between UNO/SUNO and there should be more. Mr. Johnson reiterated that he is opposed to UNO/SUNO being merged since the institutions have different missions.

Dr. Diola Bagayoko, SU and A&M faculty representative, said Louisiana does not have enough community colleges in the state nor does it have money to build new colleges. New Orleans has a large population of students who cannot enter four-year universities. He felt that Louisiana has a tragedy in the making if this merger is completed.

Mr. Johnny Anderson, former chair of the Board of Supervisors for the Southern University System, said he was against the merger and the single board concept. He is concerned that SUNO will not be served in the best manner under the University of Louisiana System. He stated that 30% of the state is African-American and expressed concern that the Board of Regents has very little diversity on its board. Mr. Anderson said SUNO has a different mission than UNO. He said they will not sit by idly and let this merger happen.

Ms. Lindsey Jakiel, UNO doctoral student, said Senator Appel talked about attracting talent and young professionals to the State. She said she moved from New York to New Orleans because she wanted to be a part of New Orleans. Ms. Jakiel said the city is a magnet for talent. She did not have an opinion on the merger itself, but she said the value of graduate education needs to be kept in mind when decisions are made.

Ms. Maggie Woodruff, said she went to UNO and has two degrees. She has had a successful career and has been a productive citizen. She was disturbed to see that the study only used statistics for Orleans Parish, and this is only one-third of the population of the metro area according to the 2010 Census numbers. She encouraged the study to look at the broader picture. She said there is a need to focus on finding adequate funding for all institutions.

Ms. Rachel Kincaid, Vice Chancellor for External Affairs at UNO, spoke on the sharing of resources. She said the UNO library has been open to Dillard, SUNO, Nunez and Xavier since Hurricane Katrina. She discussed student concerns regarding resources for common needs such as keeping the library open later at night or providing some place on campus for study 24 hours a day. She said it is frustrating to universities that not all graduates are counted, but the GRAD Act may help with this issue.

Ms. Julie Andrews spoke for Nikkisha Napoleon. She said that a merger is hard to accept. Ms. Andrews said that when she walks on the campus of UNO, she does not feel welcome. She commented, if you merge the universities, there will be "issues." Ms. Andrews said SUNO does not have the best cafeteria, and students continue to meet in portable buildings,

but they have adjusted. She said it is unfair for someone to tell a person they cannot go to a certain university because they did not make a certain ACT score.

Chairman Levy noted that written comments were submitted by Tyshica Rodgers from SU A&M College, Larry Ferdinand, President of Larry Ferdinand and Associates, Inc. in Shreveport, and Tina Teague of Tina Teague Insurance Agency in Cooper City, Florida. These individuals are opposed to the merger of UNO/SUNO.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chairman Levy said everyone's comments were most appreciated during this review process. He mentioned that the Regents will continue its work in examining the best way to serve students in the New Orleans region.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.