

## **General Chapter Meeting**

**October 3, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Mitchell Harris, Candice Elliott, Jeremy Sanford, Mable Austin, LaKrystal Foster, Rose Austin, Michelle Myers, Regina Myers, Lee Elder and Darryl Pilate. There were 33 other members present via video and phone.

Meeting was called to order by Darryl Pilate at 10:35 AM.

### **Prayer by Mable Austin**

### **Approval of the Agenda**

**Action:** The chair asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Austin requested to move the Director of Development's report to after the President's report. A motion to approve the agenda with this revision was made by Mitchell Harris and second by Yolanda Owens. Motion Carried.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

**Action:** The chair asked for a motion to approve the May 2, 2020, General Chapter Meeting Minutes: A Motion was made by André Hite, Jr. and second by Mitch Harris. Motion Carried.

**Action:** The chair asked for a motion to approve the June 6, 2020, General Chapter Meeting Minutes: A Motion was made by André Hite, Jr. and second by Yolanda Owens. Motion Carried.

**Action:** The chair asked for a motion to approve the August 1, 2020, General Chapter Meeting Minutes: A Motion was made by André Hite, Jr. and second by Yolanda Owens. Motion Carried.

**Action:** The chair asked for a motion to approve the September 12, 2020, General Chapter Meeting Minutes: A Motion was made by André Hite, Jr. and second by Yolanda Owens. Motion Carried.

**President's Report by Darryl Pilate.** Darryl thanked everyone for their attendance and introduced the special guest, JSU's Interim President, Thomas Hudson. President Hudson joined us for the meeting to update on the happenings at the University. He highlighted that the University has experienced a great few weeks of positive publicity. An article is coming out in Sports Illustrated. All of the positive publicity is a testament not only to Coach Prime but to the overall brand of JSU. The impact has gone beyond football. There has been an increase in enrollment inquiries and donors reaching out to be a Sponsor. The President highlighted three areas in his update:

1. **Reaffirmation:** The school is going through the reaffirmation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the 10 – year accrediting body that allows the University to receive federal loans. There are 14 standards that cover each entity of the University. The entire process takes about two (2) years. Compliance certification has been submitted which addresses all 14 standards, which is the beginning of the process. The offsite committee will review this in the first week of November then send their findings and any areas of concern they noted. Then the University will do a focus report to address the findings and the steps taken to address those findings. After this, the next step is the onsite visit where they can talk to anyone and review any documents. This will occur virtually in March 2021 over three days. In December 2021 the results will be presented. For the last two (2) years the University has been under financial monitoring. Each year reports were sent in and there was a monitoring visit. The last report was submitted in April and last week the University was removed from the financial monitoring.
2. **Campus Finances and Operations:** The University is waiting on the final audits to determine the cash on hand. The University ended the fiscal year with over 20 million cash on hand which is equivalent to about 43 days of cash. Full numbers will be reported after the audits are completed in October. The University still needs to reach 90-days of cash on hand. Michael Bolden has been hired to be over Operations – a new position created by the President. Lack of grounds upkeep complaints will be addressed, maintenance of buildings, a safety and lighting project, and overall upkeep of the campus will be the focus of the Operations team. Health and safety are the utmost concern.
3. **Enrollment:** The initial purge of students for nonpayment just occurred. The University is trending just below the numbers for this time last year which was 7,020. The University budgeted for a 5% decrease. Currently, the University is trending 1-2% down from last year. The Covid-19 environment has hurt the University as many Freshmen delayed their enrollment or chose institutions closer to home. We are at half capacity in the resident halls. However, on a positive note, there has been a 15% increase in the Graduate School enrollment.

During the question and answer period, President Hudson noted the following information:

1. There have been seven Covid-19 cases since the start of the semester. Most classes are online. There are rapid tests kits available on campus. Most of the dorm rooms are single occupancy.
2. The President is working on an annual report to be put out in time for the Virtual Fall Council which will be highlighted during the President's Address.
3. The best way that alums can help in addition to financially is through recruitment and by highlighting the greatness of the University.

**Director of Development – Dr Rose Austin.** Dr. Austin provided updates on the 2021 Blue and White Gala. The Gala's committee has implemented their 3-month communication plan developed by Yolanda. The website has been updated to reflect the various Gala sponsorships. Facebook posts have also been made advertising for the Gala. Previous galas will be posted on Facebook. The emphasis for the Gala is now on matching gifts. Chapter members whose company offers matching gifts should take advantage. Chapter members are encouraged members to make their Gala commitments and start making installment payments.

**Treasurer/Financial Secretary – Mitchell Harris/Thaddeus Reed.** For the period of September 1 to September 30, 2020. Mitch Harris submitted the Treasurer's report indicating a Beginning Balance of \$9,217.56 and an ending bank Balance of \$8,127.56. Mitch reported an operating Balance as of September 30, 2020 of \$3,340.061. The treasurer's report was accepted for future audits.

**Membership – Kimberly Blasingame.** Kim reported that the Chapter currently has 66 local dues paid members towards the goal of 100. Members who have not paid their dues will be sent invoices. Those who have already paid their dues will receive a thank you note. There will be a raffle for game tickets for those who pay dues before October 15. A goggle form will be sent out to capture the demographic info for the members. Members who are authors will be highlighted in October.

**Student Recruitment – Jeremy Sanford.** On this past Tuesday JSU held a virtual college fair. Jeremy has sent an email to all Houston area high school counselors, approximately 994, to get information to them about JSU and to discuss upcoming virtual college fairs which can highlight JSU. He will work with the JSU recruiter to see if the Chapter can get a Houston area college fair or Texas College Fair.

**Community Service – LaKrystal Foster.** The Chapter will be supporting the Suburban Sugarland Women and their "Purses with a Purchase" initiative. The Chapter is asked to donate new and old purses. The purses will be filled with toiletries and encouraging cards for women in shelters and the homeless. October 17 is the deadline. The Chapter will continue with the Annual Toy Drive and donate to alums who need assistance due to Covid-19. The Chapter will also donate to a charter school.

**Athletics – Thaddeus Reed.** Thanks to the Day of Giving, the school launched the first phase of the campus sport facilities upgrades which include the coaches’ offices, the locker rooms, athletes’ lounges, and practice fields. Twenty-four hundred (2400) football tickets were sold on the first day of sales for the Spring season. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be a limit to the number of individuals who can attend each game. On September 21, the new head coach was announced, Deion “Coach Prime” Sanders.

**Unfinished Business – None.**

**New Business –** At 4 PM today a Virtual Homecoming – Stomp Wars will be held at [stompwars.com](http://stompwars.com). Chapter members are encouraged to support the 1400 podcast.

### **JSUNAA Officer Remarks**

**Tarita Davis – JSUNAA First Vice President.** The virtual Fall council will be held on October 24, 2020. Please register and attend. The True Blue Winter Box is on sale and 120 boxes have been purchased.

**Je’Juan Gray – JSUNAA Regional Vice President.** Amazon Prime Day will be held on October 13, 2020 - make sure JSUNAA is added as a partner so we can get a percentage back to the University for Scholarships. On December 3 the JSU Tags will be back.

**Good of the Order.** The Fall Council will be held on October 24, 2020. The next General Body meeting will be held on November 7, 2020. The women’s basketball team will play at the University of Houston on November 18, 2020.

The Group took a Zoom Picture.

Meeting Adjourned – 12:07 PM.