

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE
MASCOT COMMITTEE MEETING
March 8, 2006

The University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) Mascot Committee met at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, in the Conference Center on the 7th floor of the Library. Committee members present: Chairman George Luffey, Keith Brown, Wayne Brumfield, Skeet Creekmore, Dave Norris, Sue Edmonds, Kyle Gallman, Eveta Gambrah, Laura Harris, Richard Hood, John Knesel, Stacy Lamb, Scott McDonald, Mary Ann Newton, John Rettenmayer, Dorothy Schween, Don Skelton, Joey Trappey, Elee Trichel, Amy Weems, Don Weems, Chris Wilson, Amanda Wing, and James Wright. Committee Members absent: Joe Farr, Stuart Keyes, Bobby Staub, and Rod Washington. Others attending by invitation were: Kevin Stuart, Lindsey Wilkerson, Lillian Brown, and Mazie Williams. The media personnel attending were Jordan Blum – News-Star and Cody Futrell – Pow Wow.

The meeting was called to order promptly at 3:30 p.m. by Chairman Luffey. Following a review of the minutes of March 1, 2006, on a motion by Dorothy Schween to make a correction, and a motion by Amy Weems to make a correction, second by Wayne Brumfield on both motions and a vote of the committee, the minutes were approved as corrected.

Don Skelton stated that several committee members had expressed concern to him about the article that was published in The News-Star last week. Skelton reminded the committee that this process began as an open-transparent process, and the University's position supports that it continues to be an open-transparent process. Dr. Creekmore commented that he felt this process had been very open, and Chairman Luffey also reiterated that this committee had operated as openly and honestly as any committee that he has ever chaired or served on. The committee members discussed that some of the information in The News-Star article was not accurate or factual as it was misrepresented. They stressed the significance of the media reporting truthful and precise information to the public, as this mascot selection process is so open to the media and the public. The media personnel that were present at the meeting were recognized and asked to introduce themselves.

Chairman Luffey called on the designated spokespersons of the four Subcommittees to give the Committee a report of their semifinalists. A total of 19 semifinalists were nominated to include: Aviators, Bayou Bandits, Bayou Bruins, Bayou Buccaneers, Bayou Gators, Bayou Hawks, Bayou Raiders, Bayou Storm, Bayou Thunder, Black Bears, Falcons, Gators, Gladiators, Hawks, Maroon Fury, Maroon Platoon, Red Hawks, Storm, and Warhawks.

The Committee then began discussion of each semifinalist. The use of the word "bayou" as a part of the mascot name was also discussed, and the Committee noted both the positive and the negative influences it could possibly have if it is used as part of the mascot name.

After discussing the most effective method of narrowing down the list further, the Committee agreed to take a poll of all 19 semifinalists. Another discussion ensued on how many mascot semifinalists should be presented to the public for polling. As the five (5) top semifinalists consisted of variations of "Hawks" and "Storm", Dorothy Schween, Stacy Lamb, and Chairman Luffey suggested that the public would have a limited choice during the final polling process if more than nine (9) or ten (10) suggestions were eliminated. Dorothy Schween made a motion to accept the top nine (9)

semifinalists to present to the public for polling; Don Weems seconded it, and with a vote of the Committee, the motion was approved. The nine semifinalists to be presented to the public include: Bayou Bandits, Bayou Bruins, Bayou Gators, Bayou Hawks, Bayou Raiders, Bayou Storm, Hawks, Storm, and Warhawks.

Don Skelton asked that the Committee review the polling process. Lindsey Wilkerson informed the Committee the date to begin polling had to be revised from 8:00 a.m., on March 15 to 8:00 a.m., on March 20, because of a scheduled power outage due to campus construction. The polling process will end on March 31, at 8:00 a.m., as originally scheduled. The security of the polling process was discussed, and a database to identify the four categories of voters (to include: students, faculty/staff, alumni/donor, and general public) and frequency counts will be in place. The Committee agreed that a description should be placed by each of the semifinalist names, and John Knesel, Laura Harris, Dorothy Schween, and Skeet Creekmore agreed to compile this information and supply it to Lindsey Wilkerson. Each participant in the polling process will be allowed to go online once and indicate preference for up to three (3) of the nine (9) mascot choices.

As the Committee felt they had sufficiently narrowed the semifinalists to be presented to the public for polling, it was recommended that the next Mascot Committee meeting be held Monday, April 3, at 3:30 p.m., in the Administrative Conference Room #622 on the 6th floor of the ULM Library. The Committee requested that President Cofer and the marketing firm representative be in attendance at this meeting.

Don Skelton asked the Committee to be considering an appropriate date to schedule a ceremony for the official retiring of the "Indian" and the unveiling of the new mascot. He noted that the Mascot Committee membership would have a major responsibility in the planning of this unveiling ceremony.

Richard Hood was recognized and thanked the public for all their viable suggestions and to all the alumni, donors, and friends of the University that participated in this polling process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.