

## Southern's New President Has Contract Trouble

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### New board chairman wants to enforce "at-will" status

Southern University's newly elected Board of Supervisors chairman and certain board members are unsure if current Baton Rouge campus chancellor, Kofi Lomotey, should have a guaranteed contract. Board chairman Tony Clayton, a Port Allen resident, along with Johnny Anderson and Dale Atkins, claim that Southern System President Ralph Slaughter failed to bring a written contract to the board, after it approved a \$295,000 pay package for Lomotey.

The chairman-elect said the board could find another chancellor if Lomotey refuses to accept an "at-will" status.

As an "at-will" state, Louisiana employees or employers can break employment status without liability. Should Lomotey decide not to accept the status, the board may vote next month on his employment status. Clayton, a West Baton Rouge Parish prosecutor, plans to collaborate with the state legislature and the Louisiana Board of Regents to ensure Southern's representation within the state budget.

Clayton was unopposed for the position of chairman after immediate past chairman Myron Lawson decided not to seek re-election. Lawson likened Clayton to president-elect Barack Obama, a compliment Clayton said was "pushing it."

He said he wants to decrease out-of-state student fees in order to "compete globally, not just locally," while getting more private funding for the schools, something he thinks is "imperative" to Southern's future.

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This article was originally published in The Southern Digest, the Southern University Baton Rouge student newspaper.