

Dr. Jim Henderson  
President, University of Louisiana System  
1201 North Third Street  
Suite 7-300  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

December 7, 2021

CC: ULS Board of Supervisors, Board of Regents of Louisiana, Senator Katrina Jackson,  
Representative Patrick Jefferson

Dear Dr. Henderson and Board Members:

**Re: No Vote of Confidence for Richard “Rick” Gallot, President of Grambling State University**

WE, the 2021 G-Men of Grambling State University Football, have written this letter to bring attention to and file a formal complaint of mistreatment, lack of institutional control, possible misappropriation of funds, and the lack of financial support for GSU Athletics, with an emphasis on Football. This has undermined the integrity and reputation of our programs, harmed the growth and development of current student-athletes, deterred recruitment of future student-athletes, and led to the termination of our former Head Football Coach Broderick Fobbs.

University President Richard Gallot is the main contributor to the decline of Grambling State University Football that used to be the “Black Notre Dame” and ICON of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the state of Louisiana and the nation.

The decline over the years includes, but are not limited to, the list below:

**Misappropriation and diversion of funds for the Football Program**

- Over the years, the University received several thousands in fundraising through the “Bring It Home Campaign”. Some of those funds were earmarked to help strengthen and enhance the Football Program. Instead of using the funds for intended purposes, funds were diverted using a misleading affiliation agreement giving President Gallot the ability to divert funds as he sees fit without communicating to donors.
- Budgets for meals and travel accommodations have been in constant decline during President Gallot’s tenure. For example, below are the meal budgets for Bayou Classic in New Orleans:

2018: \$64,175

2019: \$55,000  
2020: N/A due to Covid  
2021: \$41,925

### **Failure to provide a safe environment**

- Grambling has had at least one shooting per year since 2017. Four people have been killed and 15 wounded during eight shootings on campus. One of the individuals killed by gunfire was a student. Three other shooting victims weren't associated with campus. Five out of the 15 people wounded were students, a police officer, and Grambling Softball Coach. President Gallot has had ample time to devise and execute a safety plan following the two shootings in October 2021; and has yet to submit an overall strategic plan during his tenure.
- Our weight room has inadequate equipment and could be a safety hazard to student-athletes due to broken weights and outdated equipment.
- The Eddie G. Robinson Stadium Support facility is not only outdated but is dilapidated. There is no meeting space for the entire team. Stadium Support and the adjacent individual meeting spaces lack adequate heating and cooling accommodations that cause the floors to sweat and collect moisture. During a heavy rain, the ceiling leaks which has caused mold. The regular solution to the soiled ceiling tiles is to replace them regularly instead of addresses the issue.

### **Failure to provide, promote and support proper Athletic Staff**

- Under President Gallot's leadership, GSU Athletics has had four Athletic Directors, which has caused inconsistency with staffing. That led to inconsistent practices and procedures. These turnovers have caused the following: a decline in APR, ineligible student-athletes, posting of scholarships which led to student-athletes incurring late fees and/or class schedule issues. All these issues have contributed to student-athletes transferring and leaving the program.
- The Sports Medicine Department provides poor service and an unclean environment. Student-athletes are often misdiagnosed that have led to further injury. This has also caused a lack of trust of the staff with student-athletes who seek medical attention elsewhere. The Director and her staff have refused to provide adequate water during practice, tape individuals, or provide timely medical attention.

We have experienced increased level of disrespect for the Athletic Program since Richard Gallot became President in 2016. When Coach Fobbs was hired in 2014, our SWAC rank progressed from last place in 2013 to 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2014. In 2015, we were undefeated in conference play and West

Division champions. In 2016 and 2017, we were SWAC Champions. In 2016, we were Celebration Bowl champions. In 2017, we had our highest APR of 975 since 2014. 30 of us graduated with a 3.0 or higher in 2018 and 34 in 2019 with an APR of 933.

During the 2020 Covid year, Coach Fobbs established the WIN League, a formal way to address gaps in the football program and provided workshops/series to enhance our learning environment and provide exposure to experts in the fields of mental health, financial responsibility, and career advancement. The thing we love about Coach Fobbs is that he has always been concerned about the whole person, not just us as athletes.

Collectively, the G-Men are respectfully requesting an investigation into the Athletic Program, specifically our program, to include a review of the overall budget, staffing, and facilities. It is our honor to represent Grambling as G-Men and we deserve better from our University.

Regards,

The 2021 Grambling State University G-Men