

**Statement by Louisiana State University Head Football Coach Ed Orgeron
for the Senate Select Committee on Women & Children**

April 6, 2021 | STATEMENT

I am writing this statement in response to the invitation by the Senate Select Committee on Women & Children on March 31, 2021¹, to provide information regarding an incident involving Mr. Derrius Guice and Ms. Gloria Scott. I thank the Committee and its Chair, the Honorable Regina A. Barrow, for the request to appear in person or to submit my statement in writing. In lieu of appearing in person, I very much appreciate the opportunity to provide this statement in writing, and to further this Committee's important work in protecting the safety and welfare of the greater Louisiana State University community.

First and foremost, it is important for me to continue to state that what was said to Ms. Scott by Mr. Guice in 2017 is utterly unacceptable. Further, I was deeply upset when I watched the video of Ms. Scott's testimony, as it was the first time that I heard all of the details of her encounter with Mr. Guice. I am devastated that she was talked to in such a vulgar and inappropriate manner, and I applaud her courage to provide her statements to the Committee.

As I stated, I want Ms. Scott, her family, and others to know that I completely cooperated with the Husch Blackwell investigation, and that I will continue to cooperate with LSU's internal review.

The below is my direct knowledge and recollection of the incident involving Ms. Scott and Mr. Guice in 2017.

¹ Exhibit A | Letter to Appear or Provide Statement

Sometime in December 2017, an athletic department representative told me that Mr. Guice had disrespected an older woman and the representative wanted him to apologize. I was not given the details. I trusted our staff, and like them, believed that if Mr. Guice was disrespectful, he should apologize. The representative brought Mr. Guice to my office after our practice. I was given a number to call, I dialed, and a gentleman answered. I do not recall the gentleman giving me his name. I told the gentleman who I was, and that I was calling with Mr. Guice present, so that Mr. Guice could apologize to Ms. Scott. I do not remember my exact words or the entire conversation.

The gentleman said something to the effect that Ms. Scott did not want an apology, and that instead she requested that Mr. Guice not be able to play in the Citrus Bowl. The gentleman refused to put Ms. Scott on the phone unless I agreed to the terms upfront. I told the gentleman that I would have to get back to him. The conversation ended, as I was not prepared to suspend a student-athlete for a game without a discussion with the University and obtaining more thorough information.

The following week, I vaguely remember hearing a couple of references about what Mr. Guice said to Ms. Scott from Verge Ausberry. Additionally, I roughly remember hearing that a man who claimed to represent Ms. Scott had called the University to demand monetary compensation from LSU and that the University's lawyers were now handling the situation. I do not know how it was eventually resolved.

This past week, I learned that the man who claimed to represent Ms. Scott had indeed demanded monetary compensation for Ms. Scott from LSU. The allegations were validated with multiple audio recordings and electronic correspondence.

As discussed in my Husch Blackwell interview, I did not speak directly to Ms. Scott. That is my remembrance from three years ago of a telephone call that I do not believe lasted much longer than two minutes, if that, and is admittedly vague. At the same time it is important to say, that me speaking to Ms. Scott directly or not, does not change the fact that what happened to Ms. Scott in 2017 is unequivocally wrong.

This is the extent of my direct knowledge and recollection on this subject.

As a leader, and as a father, son, and grandson, I want to emphasize that it is heartbreaking Ms. Scott was subjected to such crude remarks by Mr. Guice, and she should be respected for her bravery and resolve to provide her statements to the Committee. She, along with this Committee, has my word that I will continue to be vigilant in ensuring that the LSU football program maintains a culture of integrity and compliance.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide this statement.



Senate Select Committee on Women & Children

Senator Regina A. Barrow, Chair
LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

March 31, 2021

Edward J. Orgeron Jr.
Head Coach, Football
LSU Athletics Administration Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Via Email To: eorgeron@lsu.edu

Dear Coach Orgeron:

In March of 2021, the Husch Blackwell law firm conducted an independent review and issued a report which includes an in-depth assessment of Louisiana State University's handling of sexual misconduct allegations as well as Title IX-related incidents, formerly entitled "Louisiana State University Title IX Review". Many of these allegations included complaints against students, including top athletes, and even the head football coach during that time period.

The Louisiana Senate Select Committee on Women and Children has held hearings to discuss and find policy recommendations to address sexual misconduct allegations and incidents at Louisiana's colleges and universities. During these meetings, survivors have had the opportunity to give their accounts of sexual assault and harassment. We plan on holding subsequent meetings to further explore the breakdowns in leadership that lead to these horrific incidents and to find preventative solutions and policies that create a culture of safety on Louisiana's college campuses.

This committee is requesting your response to allegations regarding a series of incidents regarding Derris Guice and Gloria Scott. As the leader of the LSU football team, it is critically important that your office take these matters into serious consideration and act accordingly to ensure the safety and well-being of the students of which it serves. Please submit your response in writing by **April 6, 2021** so that your statement can be submitted to the committee prior to the next hearing. You are invited and welcome to attend the meeting to address the committee should that work better for you.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Regina A. Barrow".

Regina A. Barrow
Chair, Senate Select Committee on Women and Children
Senator, District 15