



# MINUTES

## LSUA Chancellor Cabinet

3/24/2021 3:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

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### In Attendance

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Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. John Rowan, Dr. Abbey Bain, Deron Thaxton, Dr. Eamon Halpin, Dr. Haywood Joiner, Melinda Anderson, Shelly Gill, Adam Jonson, Elizabeth Jonson, Chancey Slider

Guests: Melissa LaBorde, Kevin Vercher,

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### Chancellor Coreil called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

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#### **Chancellor's Updates:**

- The recent survey for department chairs was sent out using the old survey tool.....The newly revised survey developed and approved by the Faculty Senate was not sent out due to an unintentional breakdown in communication and misunderstanding of proper approval process for policy changes. Any newly revised policy/survey should have also been reviewed by the Chancellor's Cabinet before final approval and this step was also not taken. The new survey tool is now under additional review by SLT and, once approved, will move forward to Cabinet for final approval. We do hope that we will be set to use the new survey instrument going forward once these steps are taken. I take full responsibility for this approval process flaw and would like to thank the Faculty Senate for working so diligently on the revised department chair survey tool.
- The Rapides Parish School Board is planning on hosting a job fair at the State MEGA Shelter on May 5<sup>th</sup>. COVID-19 protocol will be in place, but they are working on plans so that it can be a well-attended and successful event.
- The Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled to take place on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. We will have some items on agenda such as the addition of the LSUA Student Success Center to the state capital outlay request. These items were recently submitted to the Division of Administration by the LSU System, with the support of the Interim President, however, BOS approval is now required. Once approved by the BOS, legislative approval will then be required. We have been reaching out to legislators to get their support as well.
- We will continue to be very proactive about Title IX training. We are sending letters to athletic employees as suggested by LSU, regarding reporting any Title IX complaints or issues to Daniel Manuel as soon as they are brought to anyone's attention. It is encouraged that all employee trainings be done before the end of the calendar year. We also need to be sure that ethics trainings and annual reviews are being completed timely. We are working on a new policy that states if an employee does not have all trainings and an annual evaluation completed that they and their supervisor are not eligible for pay raises that year.

- Thanks to Dr. Dupont and the College of Business for assuming responsibilities for overseeing Continuing Education. I am requesting that our foundation encourage members to sponsor individuals for the upcoming Leadership CENLA class being sponsored by the College of Business this year. We encourage strong community and business development advocates to recommend individuals that would benefit from this leadership development opportunity.
- Hearing a lot of great feedback regarding the LSUA Student Health Center and want to send special thanks to Michelle Rozas and her team for working hard and doing an excellent job.
- Please continue to keep Chief Donald Collins in your thoughts and prayers. He is at home and continuing to recover. He sends thanks for all of the prayers and to everyone who has reached out, visited, and for the care packages that he has received.
- The next Cabinet Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

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## Reports

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### **John Rowan**

- Will have some items on the agenda for the April 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting.
- Eamon is talking with LSU about some potential study abroad opportunities.
- The search for Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been going well and we should have an announcement out next week about a candidate accepting an offer. Thanks to Daniel Manuel for chairing the search and the entire committee including Dr. Bain for working so hard on this initiative.
- Under the direction of Sandy Gilliland, next month we will be opening the Center for Opportunity, Research and Experiential Learning in the library. This is a result of the growth of Scholar Day which will be taking place for the third year in a row on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The center is going to have a large presence on campus and in the community and will emphasize learning that takes place outside of the classroom, which is as important as in-class learning.
- New Academic Structure Updates:
  - The new structure will officially be in place on July 1<sup>st</sup>. There are many things to do including back-office technology adjustments and website updates. I will be communicating with several members of campus to support these and other efforts regarding restructuring needs. The deans have been selected and will serve in the following positions: Dr. Haywood Joiner will serve as Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, Dr. Nathan Ponder will serve as Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Dr. Mary Treuting will serve as Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Dr. Elizabeth Beard will serve as the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Randall Dupont will continue to serve as the Dean of the College of Business. With the five deans, we will also have six full time academic administrators which will include the Director of the School of Nursing, Dr. Catherine Cormier. The process for selecting Department Chair positions will be ongoing for another two/three weeks. Although the titles remain department chair, these positions will have different responsibilities and be different positions compared to what they were previously.

- Endowed Professorship presentations have taken place. Thanks to Melinda and Foundation for all of their support. Fourteen faculty members applied for eight professorships and the results will be announced at Employee Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Continuing Education has had some structural changes. It is no longer housed under Academic Affairs under the Vice Provost. It has been moved to the College of Business and Dean Dupont. Lakeshia Williams who served as the Director of Continuing Education is no longer with the university and we are currently in a state of transition. In April, we will be starting up a new Leadership Cenla program under the direction of Dr. Dupont. We will update campus as progress is made.
- Dr. Gerard Dumancas will be receiving a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to recruit, prepare and retain STEM faculty members. This is a huge achievement that we commend him for and it will bring a lot of opportunity to our campus. Thanks to Lynne Eddlemon for her support and hard work on the grant process.
- Program development continues including agricultural science, computer science, and professional aviation.
- Met with the Chancellor and Roy O Martin last week regarding the Cenla Nurses for the Future campaign.
- Continuing to meet with the leadership of University Academy/Country Day and we are looking at some dual enrollment offerings that we can provide their high schoolers.
- Shelly and I preparing for the ACT prep event taking place tomorrow evening.
- Eamon, Daniel Manuel and I were part of a SPERO planning session on Monday evening. Everything is on track.
- Eamon is working on some MOU's with some international partners.
- There are a lot of great things going on and we will continue to update campus as much as possible.

### **Eamon Halpin**

- Just got off the phone with Dr. Harold Leader, LSU's Director of Study Abroad Programs. I learned a little bit more about how to develop MOU's with universities in other countries. Over the course of the conversation, he suggested that perhaps LSU and LSUA could cooperate on developing some additional study abroad opportunities. They have a lot of faculty led programs and there may be a way for our students to participate in these programs. We will continue to develop our own programs, but a partnership with LSU could offer many great opportunities to our students as well. Nina and I will be meeting with Dr. Leader again soon.
- The proposed Bachelor of Science in Computer Science program will be on next Board of Supervisors meeting agenda on April 10<sup>th</sup>. A request for a change of title of our "World Religions" degree program to "Religious Studies" will also be on the agenda due to feedback from LSU Online that suggests this will increase enrollment in the program.
- Had a SPERO planning meeting that focused on additional strategies that we can use to raise funding for the program. I submitted the full grant proposal to Blue Cross Blue Shield this morning. Thanks to Deron and Melinda for their help. This is the second stage of the process

after having the letter of intent approved a few weeks ago. Hopeful that it will come to fruition.

### Abbey Bain

- The Miss LSUA Pageant will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup> in the ballroom with limited attendance.
- SGA is promoting a campus beautification project that will take place on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Finished a very successful homecoming week last week. The events were very well executed and I would like to thank all who participated.
- Our LA VetCorps representative, Marty Motes, will be presenting some trainings on veteran support in the college setting in Coughlin Auditorium in April. I encourage everyone to support this effort. The dates and times will be promoted next week for two separate sessions.
- More information regarding the health center will be coming out soon regarding costs for faculty and staff usage and costs for various student and employee testing.
- Working with the Louisiana Department of Health on vaccination distribution and we did utilize all of the first round of vaccines that we received and hope to receive our next round sometime next week. We will first prioritize the doses for faculty and staff on campus and then we will be permitted to distribute to individuals from the community.
- Pushing hard with registration. New freshman are now eligible to register and we are working to support them. Orientation registration is open and they will take place in person this summer.
- We are planning for some exciting intramurals in the fall and may be reaching out for support.
- [On behalf of Daniel Manuel who can't be here](#): All interviews for the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion position were completed last week. The search committee is in the final stages of making a decision and an announcement will be made soon.

### Deron Thaxton

- We have received our second round of Cares Act dollars and the third round is pending. The student portion of the second round will go out next week. We are finalizing the website so that students have the option to apply their Cares dollars to their outstanding balances if they have one. Emails will go out to students as soon as the website is finalized. The formula is very similar to the one that we used for the first round other than the base level is \$350 for both online (were not included in the first round) and traditional on campus students with an additional amount based on Pell dollars up to \$500. The maximum that any student can receive is \$850 for this round instead of around \$1200 like for the first round. We dropped that number down since we included online students for this round. The third round is expected to be around \$3.5 million.
- We received our initial allocations proposal from the state for the FY22 budget. The numbers are subject to change since they still have to be approved, but as of now the proposed state appropriations dollars are up \$798,000 compared to last year. While the amount is much

more than we have received in the last decade, we are last out of all other four-year universities in terms of funding amounts. We are having conversations with the Board of Regents to see how we can better position ourselves in the formula.

- We are still waiting on the last two pieces of the environmental study to be completed before the Drainage Project can begin. We are projected to begin in May.
- We are working with LSU to get the Student Success Center fund matching piece added to the April 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting agenda with hopes of receiving \$5 million in state funds to support the project.
- Sent out a couple of emails to faculty and staff regarding LaCarte Card, spend authorization and expense report procedures. We want to ensure that we are following all policies in procedures in line with LSU.
- We began new employee orientation before COVID-19 pandemic began for employees to learn campus procedures and protocol, but had to temporarily stop those sessions. We were able to hold one in February. Supervisors, please encourage new employees to attend orientation.
- Thanks to Kevin and facilities for the great work done to the old Wesse house that has been converted into a facility for both the men and women soccer teams. It holds locker rooms, a meeting room, and a kitchen. It is an amazing transformation and they did an outstanding job. Tomorrow, it will be revealed to the soccer players for their senior day.
- Chartwells is doing a soft opening of a small store area for convenience items such as pre-made sandwiches, drinks, and some household items this week.

#### **Kevin Vercher**

- Thanks for the comments on the soccer house. We are very proud of it, but we still have some work to do on the outside of the house.
- The fitness center, Chambers, and library boiler project is on going and we hope to have completed within the next three weeks.
- The touchless lavatory fixtures are being added at our main and downtown campus buildings.
- Still waiting on the last two pieces of the environmental study to be completed before we can begin the Drainage Project as Deron mentioned.

#### **Elizabeth Jonson**

- Met with Dr. Dupont regarding the Leadership Cenla release that will go out tomorrow. He will be interviewed by KALB on Tuesday regarding the program.
- Working with Melinda on planning a presentation for CLECO on Wednesday.
- We are working campaigns for enrollment and nursing.
- Spend the Day at A was great last weekend. We had a geofence set up and were able to gain a lot of traction and get a lot of new followers on social media.
- Met with Kristen Lemoine from Aspen Bleu to discuss some ideas for LSUA gear and unique merchandise.

- Dr. Dupont will be featured in an upcoming Cenla Focus Magazine cover story for the economic dashboard.
- Nathan and the media team are doing a great job with many projects.

### Shelly Gill

- Had a great Spend the Day at A last Saturday and had about 120 guests on campus. Thanks to Kaitlyn Norton for all of her help with planning a very successful day. The Chancellor also sends thanks and kudos.
- The Mulder Scholar Dinner two Saturdays ago went very well and I want to thank everyone who participated. The Mulder Scholars for next year have been selected and we are making plans to do presentation acknowledgement for the freshman student at their high school and our continuing student.
- The application report shows that we are down by about 3.3% which is the best number that we have seen. We are trending more than 10% upward compared to fall 2019. We are continuing to work hard on applications and pushes. We expect to get a lot more applications between now and July.
- We are going to be flexible with test scores for fall 2021. For students who do not have ACT scores, we will be looking at their GPAs in math and English to determine if they are eligible to be admitted into corequisite courses.
- Working with Dr. Rowan and the city of Alexandria for an ACT skills seminar tomorrow night. Thanks to Dr. Rowan! We are receiving a lot of communications and questions so we expect to have a great turn out.
- Trenton Brownlee will begin his recruiting position on Monday. Also on Monday, Whitney Jacobs will begin her permanent full-time position as an online admissions counselor. We are excited to have them both on board.
- We are working closely with Gerard Dumancas on identifying minority STEM applicants for the NSF Lamp Scholarship.
- Met with the Rapides Parish School Board this week regarding the upcoming job fair. They presented a recommendation for the fast forward initiative and how LSUA can work with them on outlying schools. Dr. Rowan and I will continue meeting with them to determine how we can assist these high school students obtain associate degrees.
- The Abrams lobby updates starting to get some traction and measurements were being taken this morning.

### Haywood Joiner

- Plans to house a satellite of the LSUA Surgical Technology program in the A.C. Buchanan, III, Allied Health Education Building are moving forward. Renovation plans are complete and renovation costs are now being determined.
- Plans to revitalize the LSUA/LSUE Respiratory Care agreement are being discussed with Doty McDonald, Dean, Division of Health Sciences and Business Technology, Kathleen Warner, Program Director, LSUE Respiratory Therapy Program. A meeting with the Directors of the Departments of Respiratory Therapy at Christus St. Frances Cabrini

Hospital, and Rapides Regional Medical Center is being planned. Chad Bynog, Industry Sector Program manager, Office of Workforce Development will also be included in the meeting.

- I received a call on March 23 from the COO of Rapides Regional Medical Center regarding possible interest of LSUA students in applying for part-time positions in the Food Service and Environmental Service departments of the hospital. Due to COVID the hospital is experiencing shortages of employees in these departments and in need of part-time assistance.
- We are awaiting word from the LSU School of Dentistry regarding decision to locate satellite Dental Hygiene program in Alexandria/LSUA.

### **Melinda Anderson**

- We held Endowed Professorship interviews last week and saw some outstanding presentations. Thanks to everyone who served on the committee and to Glenda Stock and Nell Shehee for their participation.
- The Mulder Dinner and interviews went very well. Thank you to Dr. Robert Freedman and Eddie Ponce for being a part of the entire day process. Also, special thanks to the committee for all of their hard work and participation.
- Thanks to Dr. Coreil, Liz, and funding from AFA for helping us to be successful with sending out our first ever quarterly Chancellor's Report. It's truly an outstanding informational piece that can be used for recruiting and it landed in over 3000 homes in Rapides, Avoyelles, and Grant parishes. We also plan to send out an electronic version soon.
- Had a great meeting with Dr. Coreil and Representative Lance Harris.
- We were able to transfer the grant that Adam obtained from the Rapides Foundation to the university for the tennis court, swimming pool, and walking trail renovations, as well as some other initiatives.
- Dr. Coreil and I will be having lunch with Representative Daryl Deshotel and Aloysia Ducote this Friday to give some LSUA updates before Representative Deshotel heads into legislature.
- The CLECO check presentation for the Student Success Center will take place next Wednesday at 9:30am in front of Abrams or in the Live Oaks/the ballroom in case of inclement weather.
- Shout out to Dr. Lueder for her work with the robotics team. We will be sending out information for the upcoming state robotics competition that will take place on our campus.
- Working on setting up a meeting with community partners regarding the accounting partnerships.
- Thanks to Lynne Eddlemon for her work with the grant for Dr. Dumancas. She put in many hours of work on a different time schedule since he is out of the country and has begun to work with him on his next grant opportunity.

### **Adam Jonson**

- We are very excited about the grant that we are receiving from the Rapides Foundation. We are working with them on a few small changes that will help the flow of things.

- The new soccer house outdid my expectations. Kevin and his team did a phenomenal job and we are very grateful and excited to have this new building for our soccer program. We are working on the move-in piece for the teams on Friday before Senior Day this weekend. We will do a big ribbon cutting once the outside is completed.
- Schedule changes for this weekend for softball and soccer has been sent out, but are subject to change due to inclement weather.
- The NAIA Tournament was a great showcase for LSUA and our community. We received a lot of compliments and good feedback from participants and attendees. We also got several shout outs to our health center for providing COVID-19 testing.
- We will host the conference tournament for softball on May 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.
- Had some calls with our conference basketball and softball coaches to discuss the makeup of scheduling for our league. We will dive into divisions and scheduling on an Athletic Director's call.

### **Melissa LaBorde**

- Nothing of concern or major interest from the Faculty Senate. The next meeting is on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for moving forward with the policy statements. Asked for communication to faculty and students regarding Moodle restoration ETA. Deron mentioned that they hope to have it up and running sometime later today and discussed communication options.
- Mentioned that it would be great if continuing education could look into the CAPS program and Dr. Halpin mentioned that it has been looked into and will bring it up to Dr. Dupont.

### **Chancey Slider**

- The SLT recently met to review and make edits to PS 210, 213, 246, and 269 after receiving suggestions from the Faculty Senate. These policies were submitted to the Cabinet for approval. All were approved other than 210 for future discussion. The approved updated policies will be published on the website and an email will be sent to faculty and staff to make them aware of the updates.
- We are working on plans for commencement to be held at the Rapides Parish Coliseum on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and will get more information out to campus and posted on our website as soon as possible.
- The Employee Recognition Dinner will take place on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> in the Brumfield Caffey Ballroom starting at 5:00pm. Tickets can be picked up at the accounting/auxiliary window before noon on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Spring All-Campus Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm in Coughlin Auditorium. Masks are required for attendees and there will be a virtual zoom link for those who cannot attend in person.



Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider

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The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

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