



MINUTES

LSUA Chancellor Cabinet

6/24/2020 9:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

In Attendance

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

Guests: Jerri Weston, Chief Donald Collins, Daniel Manuel

Chancellor Coreil called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Chancellor's Updates:

- Friday, June 19th, the LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) met, and the governor joined in on the meeting to make comments and suggestions to the board. A major topic discussed was the removal of former LSU President Troy Middleton's name from the LSU library. The Troy Middleton family made an appeal to keep the name on the building, but many LSU students, BOS members and community leaders made statement asking that it be removed. After discussions, the board voted unanimously in favor of removing the name. Here at LSUA we have Middleton Drive as one of our campus streets. After some research, we learned that this street is named for former LSU President Troy Middleton and Colonel Willard Rufus Middleton. Colonel Middleton was a faculty member at LSUA in the 1960's when the university was created and was also the first Director of Student Services. The Middleton Award is also named in honor of Colonel Willard Middleton. To be consistent with the wishes of the BOS, we discussed what actions we should consider related to Middleton Drive on our campus being the street is named for two people. The Cabinet unanimously decided to retain the name of Colonel William Middleton for the street going forward and that it would continue to be Middleton Drive. Chancellor Coreil will be participating in an LSU Leadership Zoom meeting today to discuss system-wide diversity and inclusion planning and training. Administration has been brainstorming for ideas to enhance diversity measures at LSUA and have made the decision to create a Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee that will focus on ways we can improve recruitment and hiring of African American faculty, get feedback from students/faculty/staff on ways we can be more inclusive, evaluate programs and policies that need updating to be more inclusive, access for people with disabilities, updating student code of conduct, and develop an employee handbook. We also recently met with students who are members of the BOLD on our campus, asking them how we can improve our campus as it relates to racial equality, opportunity and overall campus atmosphere. The meeting went very well and our students feel well supported on our campus. We want to stand against social inequality and injustice. We are also planning discussions regarding free speech and hate speech and make any changes to our student, faculty, and employee handbooks that may be appropriate. We are working with Lynette Burlew in human resources to create an employee handbook and we also plan on enhancing the new employee orientation process. The Cabinet discussed creating a designated

free speech area on campus and will have further discussions in the near future. We have also been discussing the gap in adding new employees to our website directory.... Deron and Liz are working to create a system that will assure that our website is regularly updated so that new employees are added immediately after hiring and all title changes and information are accurate, especially if titles are changed after employment.

- Our student health center will have extended hours for the fall (Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.), and with support from the State Department of Health, we hope the Center will also be able to offer COVID-19 testing for students with symptoms and/or athletes needing more frequent testing. The Health Center will also be where voluntary LSU System study related testing will take place as well.
- The Chancellors Fellows (Rob Wright and Rafael Romero) have developed a draft plan for the revitalization of our child care center.... They are conducting surveys and will be reporting progress in the future.
- We sent out an update on our current hiring freeze to communicate changes in hiring policy since March. Even though we have relaxed the freeze somewhat, our budget situation is subject to change again depending on COVID-19 impacts, overall enrollment numbers, and the final state budget approved by the legislature. Our state budget will be cut but one-time federal funds will be allocated to largely replace these cuts.
- We are continuing to negotiate with CLTCC regarding a marketing plan targeting our inadmissible students. Liz Jonson will meet with them soon to find out what they are proposing in terms of marketing content and where information will be posted. A concern that we have is that this group of students who need developmental courses will be very small this year due to Board of Regents (BOR) approved relaxing of admission requirements due to COVID-19 impacts. This may lead to a much smaller marketing campaign. We don't want to anything to negatively impact our current and ongoing enrollment / marketing strategies.
- Abbey will send out a communication to LSUA students about staying safe and safety protocol since there has been a significant number of increased cases of COVID-19 among young adults and college students.
- The Cabinet will meet again on Wednesday, July 1st at 9:00a.m.

Reports

Elizabeth Jonson

- KALB was on campus this morning to do some interviews with Dr. Coreil and Dr. Bain. They also did an additional recording of Dr. DuPont in regards to the economic dashboard. Please send any good ideas for news stories over to me so that we can try to get coverage.
- Proceeding with multimedia coordinator interviews. We are excited to get someone on campus and hope to have the position filled in the next two weeks.
- Met with Board of Regents communications directors this morning. A topic of discussion was that Louisiana cases of COVID-19 are steadily on the rise. We also discussed how beneficial it may be to create some public service announcements about safety. I talked to a KALB reporter about a community wide initiative public service announcement and plan to follow up again later.

Daniel Manual

- Our governor announced that the state will continue to operate under phase 2 conditions for 28 more days with a review in 14 days. Yesterday's number of cases in Louisiana dramatically increased. It is vitally important that we continue to urge safety protocol such as social distancing, wearing masks, sanitizing properly, and staying home if you are sick.
- Will be on the Board of Regents call at 9:30am to get more information regarding the spike among college students and young adults and how we should move forward.

Abbey Bain

- Working on planning for fall including WOW events, student life, and move-in day on August 15th.
- Sending an update to students to let them know that we are planning to be back on campus for fall, but with smaller class sizes, social distancing, enhanced cleaning, etc. We will send the email to Cabinet as well as our students and we are happy to work with parents and students to best accommodate their needs.
- Administration met with some students who belong to the BOLD group on Friday afternoon for about two hours. It was a very positive meeting and we enjoyed hearing about their experiences and engaging in discussions with everyone who participated. We listened closely to their comments and suggestions, but overall they felt very comfortable on our campus.
- Working on finalizing a committee that will focus on diversity and inclusion and it will be made up of faculty, staff, administration, and students in order to take a holistic look at what we can do to enhance experiences for all students.
- Enrollment has slowed, especially for first-time freshmen and we are concerned. Numbers are up for online enrollment, but significantly down for on-campus enrollment. We are working hard to get admitted students to make schedules. We are texting, calling, emailing and multiple departments are reaching out. We will continue to be aggressive as we strive for higher enrollment numbers. The Enrollment Taskforce group meets again this Friday.
- Will have a new counseling intern this fall which will be a great addition to the DOESE team.

Deron Thaxton

- Most activities in my area are focused on year-end closeout. I recently sent out reminders to many individuals and departments on campus regarding wrapping up expense reports, etc.
- I plan to send out a year-end message outlining this fiscal year regarding finance and will include some highlights. Thanks to everyone for being prudent with budgets. Overall, campus did a great job with spending and managing budgets and expenses.
- State cares CRF dollars that are planned to be used to offset reductions in next year's appropriations have had some changes made regarding guidelines on how things will be processed. I will know more tomorrow.
- Renovations to The Oaks and the Clubhouse are underway. Renovations to the Chambers nursing space will begin soon.

John Rowan

- For phase 2 continuance, faculty will continue to primarily work remotely. Department offices will be mostly open, but staffing will rotate. Individuals will need to get in touch with departments to find out their schedules for appointments, etc.

- Thanks to Jerri, Daniel, Deron, and Kevin for looking at classrooms and spaces across the campus to figure out spacing and capacities for fall.
- We will have a straight kinesiology option up and going as early as spring.
- Developing tools for academic integrity awareness that aligns with new student handbook. Thanks the Catherine Kent, Katie Cooley, and Eamon for helping with this.
- At the United Way Board meeting this morning, David Britt announced his retirement at the end of the calendar year.

Jerri Weston

- Daniel Manuel and I have been going through classrooms to make plans for spacing for the fall and we are planning to finish tomorrow. The science lecture hall that normally seats 210 individuals will only hold 49 due to spacing and social distancing. This number can be increased to 105 if we do not have to socially distance by six feet. We will have a report to submit to administration soon for all rooms.
- Enrollment is down and we are working hard on reaching out to students. Departments have been calling students to encourage registration and we have seen about 54 more students register since they started calling sophomores-seniors.
- A session ends this Friday and Summer 2 ends on Sunday. Summer 3 starts on Monday.

Eamon Halpin

- Met yesterday with Sandra McQuain and her colleagues at England Airpark regarding our proposed program in Aviation Science and CLTCC's proposed program in Aviation Maintenance. The Airpark is developing a grant to secure CARES dollars for both programs. If successful, the grant would provide two flight simulators for LSUA's program and thus substantially reduce costs for students taking flight instruction. The issue is how the program needs to be structured and if it can be done in-house or whether we can outsource some parts of program such as flight instruction to Acadian Aviation. The meeting went very well and we are excited about the potential development of this program.
- Continuing to work on the SACSCOC report and we are confident that we are where we need to be at this point. We appreciate all of the help and support from everyone.
- Jerri Weston, Kathy Wimmert and I met yesterday to discuss the current probation and suspension policy. We are working to try to modify the policy so that it is clearer and more usable. When completed, the document will be presented to Cabinet.

Haywood Joiner

- The summer program MASH (Medical Application of Science in Health) is going well, and will end on Friday, June 26, with students taking final examinations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic MASH is being conducted via Zoom. With the move to Zoom we were hopeful to have 20 students in this year's class, but because many of the students selected were in rural parishes and did not have computers and reliable access to internet services, we ended up with eight students this year. Normally 15 students are accepted into the on-campus program each year. Central Louisiana Area Health Education Center recruits students for the program and pays the tuition for each student enrolled. MASH completers receive credit for HESC 1003: Introduction to the Health Care System (1 credit hour), and HESC 1004: Client Care Interactions (2 credit hours).

Shelly Gill

- The most recent application report is trending ahead, but this is due mostly to online enrollment. On-campus enrollment is up by about 50 applications and FAFSA applications are trending upward. 488 freshmen have been admitted, but don't have schedules and we are calling to encourage them register. We are working on getting students to register for courses. Parents and students want to know what fall will look like and this could be impacting why students aren't registering. We need to get information out soon and we hope to see a turn in enrollment.
- Hired Whitney Jacobs as transient worker to help with processing applications and she started yesterday. We are so glad to have her on board.
- Reaching out to department chairs to see if they want to do a Zoom or Facebook Live session to advertise their departments.
- Liz and Jaycee are looking at software for social media livestreaming and I will follow up with them soon.
- Working hard to complete applications and I am very proud of our staff for working so hard.

Adam Jonson

- The Red River Athletic Conference and NAIA updates noted that the college in our league in Austin, TX will not return for classes in the fall and will not play sports. We are expecting some changes for universities in our league in Dallas and Tyler, but we are still unsure. All of this could greatly change our soccer schedule.
- Ordered bottle filler fountains for The Fort and they will be installed soon.
- Monday we plan on opening the weight room with restrictions.
- Tomorrow, the GAA board meeting/retreat will take place and we will dive into strategies on fundraising opportunities and planning for the year.

Melinda Anderson

- Had a long meeting with Adam regarding getting things set up for GAA. We plan to be more involved and help with their fundraising.
- Have a Zoom meeting with the LSU Foundation regarding the UAA agreement and next steps.
- Working on HUD funding letters to go to board members and legislators to encourage them to help us to get the funds for the flood mitigation.
- Working with the City of Alexandria on a drive-in movie that we would like to host on our campus on August 7th in the science building parking lot.
- Mary B's last day is June 30th and I would like to plan for an announcement to go out on July 1 regarding Lynn joining our team.
- Helping with the interview process for the multimedia coordinator position.
- Foundation plans to meet in early July and late August to plan for the next steps for our Fierce campaign and fundraising.
- A foundation audit will begin in August or September.
- Lynn is closing out the year-end and it is great having her on board.
- The Epps House project renovations have started and funding has been received.

Chancey Slider

- Relay for Life is going virtual this year and we have raised almost \$700 so far. Please share on social media to support this good cause.
- Tank's Café has been very well received and we have gotten many nice comments from campus. Thanks to the foundation for supporting this initiative.
- Good feedback is coming in from graduates receiving their mailed diplomas and graduation goodies.
- Working with Melissa Whitley to mail out honors program medallions which should go out today.

Donald Collins

Campus is safe and secure. There is nothing significant to report since the last meeting.

Kevin Vercher

- Started renovations to the back of Chambers this morning with a contractor. We received a completion date of mid-August before the fall semester starts.
- The renovations at The Oaks are ongoing.

Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 1st.
