



MINUTES

LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

09/22/2021 10:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

In Attendance

Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. John Rowan, Dr. Abbey Bain, Deron Thaxton, Melinda Anderson, Connie Cooper, Chad Gauthier, Missy LaBorde, Nathaniel Parish, Tyler Unsicker, Kevin Vercher, Chancey Slider

Chancellor Coreil called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Chancellor's Updates:

- Welcome to our two new members of Cabinet who were elected by our faculty to serve on cabinet - Jennifer Innerarity and Melissa Parks. We are excited to have both of you join the Cabinet and thank you for your willingness to serve. We now have three full-time, tenured faculty members on our Cabinet. We know you will all make positive contributions serving on Cabinet!
- Thanks to Connie Cooper for organizing the recent LSU System DEI meeting on our campus and for inviting me to attend. It is impressive to see all LSU System DEI leaders working together as a team.
- President Tate presented a summary of the vaccination rates for each of the system campuses. We were listed as the second lowest system university at 26%. We found out that there are a variety of different techniques being used to determine vaccination rates and if we would have used the same technique that LSUE used, we would have been at 68% vaccinated. We were much more conservative with our measuring technique and based numbers on our entire student body instead of basing numbers strictly on the percentage respondents vaccinated. I reached out to LSU to be sure that they knew that the different techniques used impacted the differences in rates.
- COVID-19 vaccinations will be added to the list of required vaccines for enrolled students at LSUA. LSU is un-enrolling students who do not meet the vaccination requirement or agree to get tested if they opt out. LSUA will begin to enforce a similar requirement for Spring 2022. We are working to develop the needed protocol and reporting system now.
- Carol Corbat has been assisting with policy statement revisions and has been doing a great job of keeping things moving forward. This has been and will continue to be a high priority for administration.
- The Mega Shelter is still housing evacuees from Hurricane Ida and we are still seeing some heavier foot traffic near campus. Thanks to UPD for keeping campus safe and for assisting with the needs at the shelter.
- I was pleased to hear Jay Dardenne recently say that the budget report looks good with a possible surplus of \$700 million this fiscal year. He mentioned the consideration of another pay

raise for faculty. Additionally, this is definitely good news for our capital outlay projects and deferred maintenance needs using these one-time surplus funds.

- Rafael Romero's appointment as Chancellor's Fellow will end at the end of September and Rob Wright's appointment will continue through June. We appreciate all of the work that they have been doing and continue to do for the revitalization of the Child Care Center and assist in supporting LSUA athletic program operations as needed. We will begin advertising for new Chancellor Fellow applicants in June 2022 and encourage faculty to consider applying for this unique administrative experience within the Chancellor's Office.
- We are looking forward to the jambalaya lunch that we are hosting for campus next week on September 28th. We encourage everyone to come out for a great time.
- Continuing to work on many projects downtown. We will be demolishing the old building next to allied health and we hope to have the opportunity to grow our allied health facility there in order to accommodate the growing number of programs and students.
- Shout out for everyone involved in helping us to achieve another record enrollment this fall. This is quite an accomplishment achieved in the middle of a pandemic. We plan to send out a press release soon.
- More information regarding the Campus Edge Project and the possibility of getting more retail places on/near campus will be coming soon.
- The next meeting will take place at 9:00 a.m. on October 6th.

Reports

John Rowan

- Thanks to everyone for continued patience with the Office of Academic Affairs regarding getting the new academic structure in place along with Mona and Eamon being out recently. Mona is back in office and I ask that everyone please continue to copy her on emails and communications. Eamon will be back in office later today.
- The Director of Career Development search is continuing. Randall Dupont, who is chairing the committee, and Connie Cooper, who is serving on the committee, decided to leave the application window open for a little bit longer in order to be sure that we have an excellent candidate pool.
- We are looking at potentially expanding the nursing program again in terms of capacity. We recently expanded thanks to Cenla Nurses for the Future and now RoyOMartin who engineered this partnership with us is wanting us to take on more nursing students. We are working with many folks including the Board of Regents, Rapides Foundation, and Blue Cross Blue Shield to explore opportunities. Dr. Cormier and I had a great discussion yesterday and I will be updating the Senior Leadership Team for further discussions soon.
- We are hiring for the position of Director of the Honors Experience. Dr. Dumancas, the first and current director, will be leaving LSUA at the end of this fall semester. We have had several applicants apply and will be conducting some interviews this week. My hope is that we can name someone next week so that the new director can attend the national conference next month.
- Sasha Thackaberry with LSU Online is leaving LSU. Dr. Coreil and I had a great talk with Matt Lee and there is no reason to think that our long-term plans will deviate in any way. We will continue to rely on LSU Online to help us market and build our online programs and enrollment.

Kappie Mumphrey is taking over as interim and they still have an extremely strong development and marketing team.

- The SACSCOC review has begun. Please respond in a timely manner if you are contacted for information.
- I am delighted to have our two new faculty Cabinet members join us and after working with them for the past few years, I know that they will do an excellent job. Kudos to the faculty for electing two excellent representatives.

Deron Thaxton

- Salary increase letters were mailed out last week and should have been received by now. Employees can speak with their direct supervisors or appropriate Vice Chancellor if they have any questions or concerns.
- As of September 30th last year, our revenue was at \$10,507,000 and we are currently at \$12,717,000 for this year. A large portion of that is due to the difference in state appropriations. We are well under where we were at this time last year in regards to expenses. We are directly on track with where we should be for our budget this year. Thanks to all budget unit heads, directors, supervisors, and department chairs who are doing a great job with managing their budgets.
- The Drainage Project is beginning to move more toward the center of campus down both Middleton and Grady Britt. They are expected to reach the area near the Student Center and Abrams Hall on Middleton soon. Please be patient as we are expecting some possible utility outages as work takes place in those areas. We will make some announcements regarding upcoming road closures for that area.
- Early indications for the state budget are looking very good for the end of the year. The state could have a possible surplus of \$700 million at year end. There will not be any budget changes for this fiscal year, but this news does greatly increase the probability that we will be able to complete the new Student Success Center. We are on the agenda for the architect selection committee in November and the tentative plan is to begin work in early spring.

Abbey Bain

- Reach went live last week! This is our new system that houses our student application process and retention pieces. We are continuing to work closely with IET and the company to fix hiccups and smooth over any issues. If faculty notices anything strange with spring and summer admitted students, please let us know and continue to be patient.
- Our first report for Title IX reporting is due on October 10th and this will be our first published number of faculty and staff who have completed Title IX training. We want this number to be as high as possible and Daniel is working through a list of those who have not completed the training in order to send targeted messages out.
- An item was passed at the last Board of Supervisors meeting that impacts our admissions process regarding test score flexibility. We are diving into our data and records with Scott in order to guide our future policy that will be brought to Cabinet for approval.
- Continuing to focus on enrollment for next year and we hope to have an enrollment retreat later in October to enhance our efforts.
- The advising dashboard that Deran Schilling is working on is in its final stages. The dashboard will make the advising distribution easier to see and manage. Our deans have been involved in the process and have provided some good ideas and suggestions. We are pushing to get the

dashboard up and running before the advising period opens in the first week of October. The new process for students will be to get advised before registration opens and we also hope to include a way for students to provide their vaccination status or opt out status before registration.

- We are working on a Beyond College grant with Career Compass and the Rapides Foundation. This will allow us to work with at-risk high school students who are about to graduate, but are not seeking college opportunities. LSUA, CLTCC and Northwestern will have part-time employees to work with students individually in order to give them the best advantages at getting enrolled. We will be hiring for a full-time position housed under FYE that the grant and our orientation budget (student fees) will partially fund since FYE needs the extra support.
- We have a lot of great events coming up and encourage everyone to participate. TankFest is tomorrow night from 5-8pm on the Quad. Next Tuesday, Dr. Coreil is providing a campus wide jambalaya lunch while the voter registration event and volunteer fair take place before Total U that evening. Last night, we held our first intramural program with team events and we had over 50 students at the Fort to play and spectate.
- We held our first Black Girl Magic event last week and it was wonderful. Thanks to Connie for helping to get our keynote and community mentors to come out. It was a great way for our black female students to connect with the community.
- Dr. Parks asked if the advising center is still conducting group advising for student athletes. We did not last spring due to COVID, but we can circle back with Tyler to discuss bringing it back.
- Shelly is out this week, but our recruiters have been on the road. Many fairs in south Louisiana have been cancelled due to the impacts of Hurricane Ida, but they have been going to schools and college fairs in north Louisiana.
- Our first Preview Day will take place on November 12th and more information will be going out soon.

Missy LaBorde

- The Faculty Senate recently recognized our recruiting team with some sweet treats to thank them for the hard work that they have been doing in the difficult conditions that COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida have created.
- The Faculty Senate is currently working on the bylaws re-write.
- We are monitoring what is going on with the LSU Board of Supervisors regarding faculty governance and faculty council. They tabled a resolution that was presented recently and we are waiting to hear more.
- Rolling through the policy statements that are in rotation to be reviewed and possible revises, particularly PS 202.
- Will be glad to pass along information about parking issues and closures due to the Drainage Project construction.

Connie Cooper

- Thanks to everyone for doing a phenomenal job of embracing me and this new office as I get acclimated to campus and go about the work of the OODEI. It means so much to have all of your support.
- One of the objectives that I have been working on is bring DEI training to campus and I am pleased to announce that we will have trainings this fall. Diversity 101 training will take place on November 18th and it will be facilitated by Dr. Dereck Rovaris, the Vice Provost for Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer at LSU. We may cap this training to 50 for full time employees and then

host some additional trainings in the spring and summer. We also plan to incorporate some safe space trainings in the future.

- Continuing to have campus conversations and have nine more scheduled to take place over the next couple of weeks. So far, all of the conversations have been going over very well. The surveys have revealed that participants feel more comfortable with the topic of DEI at the end of the conversations than they did prior to.
- We finalized our new DEI Leadership Team and it has been approved by administration. I look forward to announcing the members soon and getting with the team for regularly scheduled meetings. Our key focus for now will be the roadmap and assessment.
- Our office recently partnered with Evergreen Life Services, a local nonprofit that provides services for our developmentally challenged community. We were able to donate 161 containers of disinfectant wipes and 62 cans of disinfectant spray with a total value of \$867.
- LSUA recently hosted the very first LSU System DEI meeting in the Live Oaks Conference Room. It was a great meeting and we will continue to meet regularly.

Melinda Anderson

- Shrimp Jam was a great success! Huge shout out to Lynne and Shere' for the work that they did in preparation for the event and the work that they are continuing to do to close everything out. Special thanks to Laura Fowler, Facility Services, the media team, our athletes and Tyler Unsicker.
- I am excited that we secured an additional \$100,000 donation for the accounting program expansion. We also had a gift of \$91,300 from an estate for the Department of Nursing on this week. We are very honored, humbled and appreciative of these gifts.
- We are undergoing an audit and appreciate all that Lynne is doing to help the process go smoothly.
- We had a capital campaign committee meeting earlier this week to discuss getting Fierce back in action. We are in the last stages of the campaign thanks to the legislation's match and our foundation's commitment. We plan to host an event on campus soon to make some great announcements.

Tyler Unsicker

- Thanks to Melinda and everyone who helped to facilitate Shrimp Jam! It was an awesome event and I was so glad to be a part of it.
- I participated in an athletic director conference meeting last week and we were able to secure the men and women's basketball tournaments again this year that will take place at the Rapides Parish Coliseum. We are working on finalizing some dates. There are potentially four local teams that may be participating in the tournaments and we are excited to be the host again.
- Men's and women's soccer teams begin conference play tomorrow in Houston and San Antonio.
- The soccer house is almost complete and it has been well received by our student athletes. We are also beginning to plan for renovations to the tennis and softball locker room. Thanks to Kevin and facilities for making this happen.
- Looking forward to the GAA meeting tonight.

Chad Gauthier

- Welcome to our two new faculty members!

- The Vax That A incentive program is going well and we have given away four prizes so far. The next prize that we will give out is the iMac desktop computer that will be announced on Friday. We will also be announcing the winner of the faculty and staff iPad giveaway on Friday.
- Michelle and the health center are doing a great job of keeping up with our numbers and vaccinations.
- Rapides Regional Medical Center posted that they currently have 32 individuals hospitalized with COVID. 26 of those individuals are unvaccinated. Hospitalization numbers are dropping statewide right now, but we still need to be proactive and preventative.
- Since the opening of the fall, we have had only four positive COVID cases amongst employees that were not related.
- Continuing to keep an eye on the tropics, but there are not currently any developments that we are concerned about.
- Please contact me or the health center for any questions about COVID vaccinations.

Nathan Parish

- Working on plans for TankFest. We will have a big Media Team presence there and some local news coverage as well.
- Arranging a press conference for Tyler Unsicker for next week.
- We are excited that the new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications, Adam Lord, will be joining us on October 1st.
- We have been getting some great feedback and social media footage from the Vax That A campaign.
- We have close to 40 members on the Media Team. Please reach out to us if there is anything that we can do to assist campus.

Kevin Vercher

- Working on around 26 projects right now.
- The feedback that I am getting from faculty, staff and administration is welcomed so that we can address issues and make corrections
- Recently appointed Robert Miles as the new custodial supervisor. He's making some positive changes and we are excited about having him in this position.
- We have one custodial opening that we will be filling in the next few weeks so that we are fully staffed.
- Our grounds department lead by James Mitchell is doing a great job. We have two new hires and one position we are looking to hire for so that we will be fully staffed.
- Looking forward to the opportunities for change that the Drainage Project will present as construction continues to take place.
- Parking lot information will be conveyed as quickly as we can. The library parking lot will be closed in the next few months for a short period of time while the new roof project takes place.
- We have a demolition project downtown that is moving a little slower than we would like, but we should be able to begin the bid process soon.
- We have some COVID-19 Cares related projects that we are working on such as installing hepa air filter units in each classroom on campus. We also have a UV lighting project that will go to bid in the next few weeks. This will include the installation of UV lighting in the ceilings of rooms and in the air handling units.
- Very excited about the boiler project going on at many buildings on campus and we have now gotten approval to install a new boiler at the science building. We are meeting to discuss plans

for the project on Thursday and there is a possibility that Oakland Hall and Abrams Hall may also be included in this project.

- Finishing up the honors room by putting down carpet today.
- Finishing up the painting project at the police station.
- For any questions or campus needs, please let us know.

Chancey Slider

- Presented the draft revision of PS 230 regarding disability services, responsibilities, and compliance that was previously sent to the Cabinet for a review. The Cabinet had a very brief discussion and approved the revision unanimously.
- Working on plans for the Jambalaya lunch that our office is hosting next Tuesday.
- Working on fall commencement planning. The website is up to date with information and we are looking at reformatting it.
- Have been attending some workshops and meetings regarding grants and sponsored programs.

Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 6th.
