



# MINUTES

## LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

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11/17/2021 1:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

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### In Attendance

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Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. Eamon Halpin, Dr. John Rowan, Dr. Abbey Bain, Deron Thaxton, Connie Cooper, Melinda Anderson, Adam Lord, Tyler Unsicker, Chad Gauthier, Shelly Gill, Kevin Vercher, Chancey Slider, Jennifer Parish, Laura Fowler, Missy Laborde, Jennifer Innerarity

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### Chancellor Coreil called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

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#### Chancellor Coreil's Update:

- We will host a Farmers' Market on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the Quad. The event will be open to students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community. This will be our first formal effort to bring the Market here.
- The Central Louisiana Legislative Luncheon will be January 20, 2022, at the Alexandria Museum of Art in downtown Alexandria. We will update them on the Student Success Center project and how important their continued support is to LSUA.
- We are working with LSU Online regarding AP settlement and the financial arrangement changes that may be needed as part of the settlement. I will meet with President Tate about all of this on Monday, December 22.
- Fall 2021 Commencement will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Rapides Parish Coliseum. We will have lunch for faculty at the Coliseum immediately following the ceremony. We are presenting Glenda Stock Smith with the LSUA Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding support of LSUA and the Fierce Capital Campaign.
- State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Cade Brumley, presented Rapides Parish School Board the Models of Excellence Award this week. RPSB was given the award to recognize its Pre-Educator Pathway Program, which is a partnership with LSUA offering high school students who want to become teachers the opportunity to earn dual credits.
- We are getting interest in implementing our Cenla Accountants for the Future, Cenla Nurses for the Future, and many other initiatives related to workforce shortages. Dr. Rowan, Dr. Cormier and Dr. Dupont are working hard to address these critical needs. We need to be innovative and take risks in our response to these shortages in more ways than ever before.
- Dr Coreil asks that Cabinet Members remind faculty and staff about contributing to the Fierce for LSUA Campaign. The most impactful way in which to approach potential donors is to be able to say that our LSUA family is in support of the expansion and modernization of

our campus. This is the last week for employees to request payroll deductions for internal fundraising. However, it is not too late to commit to a one-time gift or a short-term gift. Unfortunately, the current percentage of employee contributions is fairly low. Dr Coreil will put out a memo to emphasize the one-time gift option to employees. All donor's names and the amount contributed will remain confidential.

- We have had issues with compliance for mandatory trainings in the past. It is part of your employment responsibilities. There may be financial consequences for employees that have not completed and submitted documentation covering required trainings by end of the year.
- *Spend the Day at A* was a great success. We had good reports from families and students.
- Our athletic programs have had a great presence on social media. Mr. Neil Klock, an LSUA donor, supports LSUA in large part because of the quality of our athletics programs.
- Tremendous impact can be made by our faculty/staff taking pictures, writing a text, and posting good things about campus on social media. I encourage everyone to become an informal influencer for LSUA.
- Chief Collins and the police department did an outstanding job assisting legislators and guests at the Legislative Redistricting meeting last week. Thanks to all who supported this event. LSUA shined that night in spite of the construction distractions.

#### **Dr. Eamon Halpin:**

- We have posted an ad for the position of Director of the SPERO program. It was posted last week on Workday and Higheredjobs.com. We have received 4 applications so far. We have formed a search committee. Rob Wright is the Chair of the committee. Dr. Halpin serves on the committee, as well as two parents: Penny Smith and Melva Villard.
- Dr. Halpin submitted the grant application with Coughlin Saunders for SPERO.
- The Professional Aviation program hosted an Open House after Spend the Day at A on November 13. This week, Dr. Halpin was able to promote it on Good Day Cenla. Sixteen students have formally declared Professional Aviation as their major. Fourteen of those have registered for Spring courses, including the first flight course. Shari Drerup was instrumental in building the introductory aviation class in the Fall which was beneficial for establishing a cohort. We are taking those students to lunch Friday at Million Air. Dr. Halpin is working with Joe Brocato to finalize tuition assistance for LSUA students who are employed by Million Air.

#### **Dr. John Rowan:**

- The Spend the Day at A preview day event Saturday was excellent. There was great feedback about the timing and pacing, as well as the ability to engage with students and parents. The Aviation Open House was held after Spend the Day at A. Thanks to Jeff Massey for helping out with the Open House. We even had a family who came up from New Orleans to attend the Open House.
- We have been getting positive remarks in public venues throughout the community. LSUA is emerging as a hub for Educators Rising, which is a group for high school students who aspire to become teachers. We are working with multiple local high school groups.

- Our Accounting and Professional Aviation programs were recognized at the latest NRBIA luncheon.
- Compliments to our Campus Health Center. They are wonderful, caring individuals who provide a great service to the faculty, staff, and students at LSUA.
- Tomorrow there will be two Diversity 101 sessions. This is a new training required of all full-time employees for 2022. Attendees tomorrow will be able to count this for their 2022 requirement.
- Student Government has been active this semester. They have established an Academic Affairs committee. They are looking at putting together their own collection of evaluations of courses and faculty. They are also considering making a recommendation for a few extra days off between the end of classes and the beginning of finals. Additionally, they are working on flexibility with the testing center.
- The Honors Experience Program continues to grow; we have freshmen and sophomores now. Jerri Weston, Dr. Rowan, and a few students attended a national conference and got lots of information about curricula, student support, and opportunities for collaboration. Jerri Weston will be the new Director of the Honor's Program in January 2022.

**Dr. Abbey Bain:**

- As far as the number of students registered for Spring, we are pretty equal with the numbers from last year at this time. Also, we currently have 600 students who still need to lift the COVID hold by either opting out or submitting proof of vaccination. About 50% of the student population have either uploaded the proof of vaccine or opted out. Students are being reminded bi-weekly by email.
- There has been a big push for Intramurals and wellness programs. We had about 35 people playing volleyball last week. We are competing in a flag football tournament in north Louisiana this week. They will continue to travel and compete with other universities.
- Brittany Young is no longer working for LSUA as an Advisor/ Retention Specialist. We are filling 2 positions. One will start on this Monday and the other will start on December 1st. We will be back at full capacity after Thanksgiving. There have been no issues or complaints regarding advising from students that we know of, so please email me with any concerns.
- Regarding housing, we have looked at our budget and the increased cost of materials, supplies, and food. Unfortunately, in order to defray these costs, we will need to increase the cost of apartments and meal plans for next year. We hope to have these numbers to Cabinet next meeting.
- There are several campus events coming up before the semester's end. The last Total U for this semester is tonight. Christmas on the Quad will be on November 30th. The Chancellor's Finals Breakfast will be on December 2nd. Also, the Farmers Market will be on the Quad on December 2nd, 10:30 AM -3:30 PM.

**Deron Thaxton:**

- Ashe, Broussard and Weinzettle are the architects selected for the Student Success Center project.
- Deron sent out an email regarding mandatory trainings for this year. The state and LSU are going to penalize institutions who do not have 100% completion, specifically Ethics and Title IX. There will be a better system for managing these in the Spring so supervisors and employees can see the training completion status easier. Please encourage your staff to complete these mandatory trainings prior to December 31. We currently have a low percentage of employees who have reached completion. All Title IX certificates should be sent to Daniel Manuel, and Ethics certificates should be sent to Lynette and June in HRM.
- B and D contractors are working on the Edge project. They have talked with a long list of developers; we have two that are moderately interested. There is also some Residential interest in building public or private apartments. There is also one interested in a small retail establishment. They want to expand that list to improve our chances of getting a lot of feedback. We are currently limited with just one retail prospect. We will be moving into the early part of January 2022 before this section of the project is completed.
- The Drainage Project continues to move forward. The next closure will be the main entrance at Hwy. 71 and Middleton. Work on the first roundabout will begin late December 2021 and early January 2022. Over the Christmas Holidays, we will install drains in the internal areas of campus like the Quad. Work will continue until students return for Spring classes.
- Although Kevin has worked with the contractor to minimize disruptions, we have had some gas leaks and water outages. Overall, it is going well for a project of this size.
- We will replace three of our fleet vehicles. It will be early December before we can put in the order for vehicles. It may take 6 months before they are delivered due to nationwide shortages.
- The new mail delivery service is going well. There were a few hiccups the first week. But, overall, it has gone well.
- Grab and Go Market in Magnolia Café is doing well. Deron says that their usage is higher than what they originally expected.
- December Graduates who have not opted out or submitted proof of vaccination will have a hold. However, it will not negatively affect anything.
- The sign by the pond that was damaged will be repaired soon. We will use the same frame but with improvements and new graphics. Tyler is working with Chad on new designs. We need more information on the message board that is on the sign.

**Melinda Anderson:**

- Thanks to everyone who attended the celebration of Mr. Charlie Weems under the Weems Oak tree. Mr. Weems made a contribution of \$100,000 for the Fierce for LSUA campaign.
- Glenda Stock Smith spoke on behalf of the Foundation.
- We have been working with Mr. Neil Klock and his family and have secured a \$25000 endowed scholarship.

- The Fierce for LSUA campaign is ongoing with contributions. We are not requiring it to be a long-term gift; it can be a one-time gift. We just appreciate the support from our LSUA faculty and staff. In response to concerns about donor privacy, we only publish the amount of a contribution if the donor requests it. We will do whatever the donor chooses. We can explicitly state on the Foundation website that the dollar amount of contributions will not be made public unless donor requests. Melinda is available for questions and concerns.
- Graduate Dinner is on December 14th. Preliminary invitations have been sent out to all the graduates, department heads and deans. Sandra McQuain is the guest speaker.
- The Foundation Board Meeting is upcoming. Thanks to Deron for work on the Board of Supervisors agenda items, specifically the property adjacent to Allied Health Building downtown that is being donated to LSUA. This property will help with our expansion in the downtown area.
- We are moving forward with two renaming opportunities in the nursing building from the two hospitals in the area, Christus St. Francis Cabrini and Rapides Regional Hospital. The hospitals made commitments to the Fierce for LSUA campaign and requested that two of the teaching rooms in the Nursing building be renamed after them.

**Connie Cooper:**

- Thanks to everyone for promoting the Diversity 101 Workshop. Currently 112 full-time faculty/staff are registered which is 46.47% of all full-time faculty/staff. Attendees will get a certificate of completion at the end of the training.
- The DEILT officially launched yesterday. The team resolved that a bias reporting tool was needed; something separate and apart from LSUA CARES and Title IX reporting. Instead of inventing something new, the team will utilize LSU's reporting tool at LSUA and on the LSUA website. LSU's tool is used for Title IX complaints and fraud and can be used for our purpose. For LSUA, it will be used to capture instances of bias and/or perceived bias. It has five components, including but not limited to diversity and discrimination. We can use that system at no cost and route the information received to Connie or her designee for review. In this system, we can make notes and communicate with the reporter even in anonymity. We should have it set up by next week.
- Daniel and Connie will collaborate to offer employees Safe Space Training. It will be implemented in different phases rather than one 4-hour training. We will also be partnering with Sandra Gilliland to develop a diversity badge.

**Chad Gauthier:**

- The National Guard, along with LDH, is here to give vaccinations today in Mulder. 1,714 students in total have completed the process by either opting out or uploading proof of vaccine. COVID hospitalizations are at an all-time low. However, this does not mean that we won't see COVID in the Spring. For faculty and staff, the deadline to complete the opt-out or upload proof of vaccine is January 1, 2022. We currently have 134 faculty/ staff members who have completed the process. COVID case count for campus has been 0 since last cabinet meeting. Probably half of faculty are requiring it in their classrooms and/or offices.

- Hurricane Season ends on November 30.
- As far as insurance claims, we are hoping to repair/ replace the sign on Hwy 3170 soon. Also, we have two buses that need to be repaired. Those claims have been filed.

**Shelly Gill:**

- Spend the Day at A was successful this past Saturday. We had 150 visitors on campus as well as a great showing of faculty, staff, and student organizations. Thanks to everyone for their participation. For Fall 2022 we are up 15% in applications, 51% in admits. This week is the last week of the grueling recruiting season; we can now shift our focus to our local schools. Josie Carmouche is a new admissions counselor and we are happy to have her on board. Megan Ducote, Dual Enrollment coordinator, is in Baton Rouge at a Dual Enrollment Task Force meeting.
- The Board of Regents audit report is due to come in today at 2:30.
- City of Alexandria College Expo has been cancelled. We will reschedule for Spring.

**Adam Lord:**

- We have posted content of Mr. Charlie Weems' contribution and the celebration held today on all channels of social media as well as the website. Please share it, like it, etc. to increase visibility.
- Strategic Communications team want people to let them know what is going on so we can cover it. Request forms are available on our website page to request coverage of photography, video, design work, consultation. A request for coverage is subject to availability of our team and whether the request fits into our priority. There may be events we cannot cover because we have other projects to work on internally. We are working on providing training, templates and other means of helping with coverage. For example, everyone on campus has technology in their pockets. Feel free to take a picture, write a text message, and send it to us.

**Melissa Laborde:**

- Faculty members are working hard to finish the semester. Faculty Senate committees are working. The Ad hoc Committee on policies and processes is working and having good discussions. The Bylaws Committee is working and getting feedback from all levels. There is still some discussion about verification of graduate grades so we can get Latin honors and Chancellor's Award ready for commencement. Dr. Coreil said that the Chancellor's Award will be presented at Commencement. Faculty Senate will meet on Tuesday, November 23.

**Tyler Unsicker:**

- Men's soccer team finished the season going in to overtime, with a loss of 3-2.
- Men's and Women's Basketball teams are on the road over Thanksgiving break for tournaments. They will be back home for Men's basketball game on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Women's Head Soccer Coach position is open and we hope to have someone hired by January.

**Kevin Vercher:**

- Thanks for your patience with the drainage project. Weather will continue to be a challenge the next few months.
- The boiler upgrade project was expanded to include Abrams, Coughlin Hall, and Oakland Hall for mid-winter.
- There are concerns about trees on campus. We currently use Bob's Tree Preservation on campus to guide us in the right direction to preserve our trees. LSU also uses Bob's Tree Preservation on their campus.
- Kevin has been in contact with Haylee Malone regarding bringing back our Arbor Day celebration. We will have an Arbor Day event on campus during which we will plant a tree. Anyone who wants to volunteer, please see Kevin or Haylee.
- There are concerns about water outages during plumbing upgrades for Mulder. Kevin will check on details but will give updates about downtime for faculty in Mulder ahead of time.

**Jennifer Innerarity:**

- Concerns about hesitancy regarding employee contributions to the Fierce for LSUA Capital Campaign may be due to confusion about whether donation amounts will be made public.

**Chief Collins:**

- No updates at this time.

**Jennifer Parish:**

- The Chancellor's Office is in the midst of planning several campus events.
- Tuesday, November 30th is Christmas on the Quad; we are working with Haylee on getting ready for that event.
- Next will be The Chancellor's Finals Breakfast on December 2nd.
- Finally, we will be working with Melinda on the Graduate Dinner on December 14th.
- Commencement plans are underway. The Chancellor's Office is working closely with Chancy and others to finalize details.

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Parish.*

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**The next meeting will take place at 9:00 am. on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.**

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