



MINUTES

LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

10/7/2022 10:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

In Attendance

Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. John Rowan, Dr. Eamon Halpin, Deron Thaxton, Melinda Anderson, Adam Lord, Don Collins, Shelly Gill, Connie Cooper, Julie Gill, Bernard Gallagher, Beth Whittington, Olivia Chatman

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

Dr. Coreil

- I want to thank our leadership team for the great work recruiting a new flight school for our professional aviation program. Golf Coast Aviation appears to want to partner with LSUA and we believe this school will be a better match for the university and the students. The England Airpark is also very excited about this new partner.
- We had a Legislative Luncheon yesterday with several legislators and healthcare leaders within Central Louisiana to discuss the workforce shortage in health care professions. It is our hope and goal to construct a new Health Education Campus in downtown Alexandria on a city block we own the majority of on Jackson Street. The Buchanan Building on this lot is owned by Rapides Regional Hospital but we are hopeful it will soon be donated to us for the Health Education Campus expansion. This project is moving along quickly and rightfully so because there is a healthcare workforce crisis. As members of this community, this is a crisis that we cannot afford to ignore. The legislators' response was extremely positive, and they immediately started to strategize on what could be done to get this project moving. More discussion regarding this project will take place at the Board of Regents Capital Outlay meeting on Wednesday, October 12. Kimberly Lewis, Vice President of Finance for the LSU System, has ranked it as a high priority for LSU because it is healthcare workforce related. With this project, there will be significant opportunities for private fundraising, partnering, and working with the LSUA Foundation and Dr. Haywood Joiner will be leading this effort. At the luncheon yesterday, Dr. Joiner did a great job highlighting fundraising opportunities and helped motivate the guests on why this is important. This project will cost about \$35 million and the Foundation already has about 1.5 million dedicated towards this effort. The city of Alexandria is also very supportive due to its location in downtown Alexandria. The hospitals are spending a tremendous amount hiring contract nurses so we anticipate they will be strong supporters as well.
- Kelly Pepper is out of the office, but she wanted me to make a few remarks on her behalf. One being that the AMoA will be having their second annual, Farm to Forest Plein Air Festival on October 13-16, 2022. (<https://farmtoforestpleinair.com/>). Secondly, she wanted to let you all know that there will

be a meeting with the Avoyelles Parish Alumni and Friends to develop support on Thursday, January 12. Lastly, the Foundation Audit Team is currently on campus doing their annual audits.

- The next meeting will be on October 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Dr. John Rowan

- The Rapides Foundation is funding two of the grant proposals coming out of the school of nursing. One is for \$1.1 million and the other is \$266,000. These grants will allow us to address the shortage of nurses in the area by doing a number of things, particularly outreach to middle school and high school. Chancey Slider and Dr. Cathy Cormier deserve much of the credit for obtaining these grants.
- We had a great Legislative Luncheon yesterday at the Alexandria Museum of Art (AMoA) discussing the new Health Education Campus that will be downtown. This campus will house the School of Nursing and Department of Allied Health which will allow them to integrate their academic offerings.
- In regards to the membership of our SACSCOC re-accreditation team, we now have 2 QEP co-chairs identified. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Wright from the Psychology Department and Dr. Cheryl Bardales from the Biology Department will be filling those roles. They will be getting started with some background work this semester and there will be a big kickoff event at some point to initiate all of the open discussions and campus collaborations that go into identifying our next quality enhancement program.
- For the last year or so we have had an Interim Director of Library Services, Michelle Riggs Waller, she has done an excellent job getting the library more visible and getting connections. We are now in a position to do a search for a permanent director and we will be advertising that search soon.
- The Alexandria Museum of Art (AMoA) will be undergoing its accreditation this year. The AMoA will also be having its second annual Farm to Forest Plein Air Festival, happening October 13-16, 2022. This is one of its two main fundraising events for the year. For more information, please read about the festival here: <https://farmtoforestpleinair.com/>.
- We are continuing to work on our website for Academic Affairs which is somewhat out of date in a few areas. Dr. Nate Sammons in his role as Assistant Vice Chancellor is helping to coordinate that effort with his team of faculty and staff from across Academic Affairs. Content is being supplied by Dr. Nate Sammons and he will be implementing some of those content changes as time goes on.
- In regards to the Aviation Program, Deron and Eamon have been excellent ambassadors for LSUA and did a wonderful job helping to get the foundation of a successful collaboration in place.

Dr. Eamon Halpin

- In regards to the Aviation Program, we have some good updates. Our original flight school partner voluntarily withdrew earlier this semester so we have been working diligently to identify another partner. We had an excellent meeting at the England Airpark earlier this week with the flight school we are hoping to start a partnership with. Currently, there is no contract written up or signed yet, but things are looking good and we feel as though it is a good match for LSUA. As a result of this new potential partnership, I am confident that the program will be much stronger.

- Also, the England Airpark recently purchased a state-of-the-art simulator that was installed earlier this week. It is a very sophisticated and customizable device that will enhance the program greatly. We are currently sending our aviation students to Flightline Air Service in Pineville until we do sign with a new partner. With our full-time aviation instructor, Bill Blackburn, quite a few of the students have been able to do their first flight.
- The SPERO Program is continuing to do great, so much so that I received a phone call from LSU asking for our advice. They are hoping to start a similar program there at LSU and heard how well ours was going. It was a lengthy phone call about what they are doing and what we have done here to make the program a success.
- On the SACS front, I believe everyone is booked and registered for the conference in early December. I would like to acknowledge Mona Wallace for being very helpful in securing and accommodating flights, hotels and more.

Deron Thaxton

- Tyler wanted to let everyone know that they are working with GAEDA on some grant funding for the Red River Conference – basketball tournament, tennis tournament, and softball tournament. This would enable us to house LSUA in conjunction with Alexandria and host the tournament much like we have done in the past. Also, it is good recognition of LSUA and the City of Alexandria as well when we are able to host this conference.
- As far as COVID updates go, local cases continue to lessen and the severity level of those cases lessen as well. On campus last week, we had one known case and it was a student. For this week, we have one known case and it is a student as well.
- There is only one tropical depression that we are keeping an eye on, but it does not seem to be a threat to the Gulf.
- The drainage project is complete in terms of all major aspects, but there is still a large punch list of items that the contractor is working through over the next couple of weeks. One of the major items is the brick wall around the north roundabout. They will have to remove the brick cap and relay those bricks again. There is still some sidewalk work to be done in some areas of campus.
- As of this morning, the new roundabout and front entrance is open for use. The ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the entrance is Wednesday, October 12 at 10:00 a.m.
- The plaza is strictly for walking, it is not to drive on. Currently, there are traffic bollards blocking what looks to be an entrance. However, there is a space big enough for an ambulance and firetruck to fit if needed. It is strictly for the use of emergencies, no one else is to use the plaza as a driveway. We are working on ways to block that area better so that people do not attempt to use it as a driveway.
- The Bolton Library roof project is scheduled to be completed on Monday, October 10. Following that completion, the parking lot by the library should be available by the end of next week.
- We had a fantastic meeting for the Aviation Program with the new flight school that we hope to establish a partnership with. Currently, we are working through a temporary contract, but a formal contract will be worked on through the course of the year. The new flight school is Gulf Coast Aviation based out of Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Mississippi. They have partnered with a few institutions already and have been looking to expand, particularly in the northern region to avoid

hurricane damage. It is not finalized yet, but they did tentatively and verbally agree that at least two of their planes that would be used for training would be branded with the LSUA colors and logo.

- There is a meeting later today in regards to Tech Fee Grants with the review committee. Currently, there are 26 applications for these grants totaling almost \$130,000 and we were given \$20,000. At this point, we must narrow these applications down, but this is a great start at bringing this program back to LSUA. Our hope is to have the awards out within the next 3 weeks so that those who received the funding can begin ordering their desired technology.
- Yesterday, we had a great meeting with our legislators and many of the local healthcare leaders at the Legislative Luncheon. For about 18 months or so, we have been working on a plan to get our downtown facility updated and put to good use. We have partnered with the City of Alexandria to demolish the building that we have owned for a number of years that is now a green space next to the Allied Health building. Originally, our plan was to expand the Allied Health offerings downtown and have a building similar in size to the one that we had demolished. As we have had more conversations with local healthcare leaders, they have expressed the need for healthcare education expansion in Alexandria. The demand for healthcare will not slow down, it is only going to continue to increase. We have made a commitment to be the leader in addressing healthcare needs within Central Louisiana. The intent is to construct a new Health Education campus that will house the School of Nursing and Department of Allied Health for continuation of growth in that field. There was a healthcare summit back in February of this year with all of the local healthcare leaders and other educational entities present. We looked at ways of how to address the healthcare shortage within Central Louisiana and how we can improve our healthcare educational facilities. We have not engaged with an architect on how we would like to design this new building, but we have put together some concepts of what an LSUA owned city block could potentially look like. Currently, we are working with Rapides Regional Hospital on acquiring A.C. Buchanan, III Allied Health Education Building that is owned and maintained by them. Eventually, it is our goal to take full ownership of the city block building. There is also some discussion about getting another lot for parking space that the state currently owns. We have already spoken to Acadian Ambulance and MedExpress Ambulance Service on having training facilities at the new building. An all-in-one training facility is one of our goals with this new building.

Melinda Anderson

- In regards to the 2022 Shrimp Jam, we cleared nearly \$50,000 from the event. Thank you to everyone who helped and participated in making the event such a huge success. Our guest speaker for the evening, D-D Breaux, did a lovely job as well.
- Dr. Coreil and I have been meeting with three of the mayoral candidates for the upcoming election. In our meetings, we update them on LSUA projects and goals that we hope to gain support on should they get elected.
- Yesterday, we had a wonderful Legislative Luncheon where Deron, Dr. Coreil, and Dr. Joiner presented the healthcare expansion initiative to the CENLA legislators. It was extremely well received, which is a great start.
- I hope to see everyone at the ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the Grand Opening of the entrance gate happening on Wednesday, October 12 at 10:00 a.m. There will be guests from the Board of Supervisors and the Governor's Office in attendance. On behalf of the students, Sophie

Borhi will be speaking at the ribbon cutting. After the cutting, we will walk down Middleton breezeway and there will be refreshments under the oak trees.

- Following the ribbon cutting, there will be a Board of Regents Regional Meeting on Wednesday, October 12, at 11:00 a.m. in the Live Oaks Room.
- We have the Women in Business Conference coming up next week. For more information on that, please go to the link provided.
(<https://www.cityofalexandriala.com/events/2021/january/women-business-conference>)
- I will be at the City Council with Dr. Coreil and Deron regarding the City of Alexandria and the sewer line donation on October 18.

Adam Lord

- We have been finalizing the Chancellor's Report and hope to get that out as soon as possible.
- In regards to Canva, people have started creating accounts for their offices and departments. With that in mind, Chase has just finished creating a Canva tutorial for those new users. Our first step was giving access to each office and department and our second step is making sure everyone knows how to properly use it. Eventually, we hope to have a training session where questions can be answered and people can learn firsthand how to use and navigate Canva.
- I have been working on the Crisis Communication Plan along with Dr. Coreil and the Strat Comm office at LSU. The goal is to craft a list of responses that are ready and available to send out in the event of an emergency – ranging from text messages, emails, and media advisory for press releases. There will be a chain of command regarding who needs to know what information in order to keep communication properly flowing.

Shelly Gill

- From the Department of Student Engagement, we want to thank everyone for participating in Pink Week. With the activities on campus, we were able to raise \$222 for cancer research.
- Next week we will be having Fall Fest on Wednesday, October 12 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please remember to stop by and participate with our students during this event.
- For the position of Director of Housing, we have started receiving applications. If you know someone who would be a good fit for that position, please encourage them to apply.
- For enrollment, I will add a link to the website that shows all of the enrollment for the state of Louisiana that you can look at and see. It shows you the percentage of increase in enrollment and LSUA has the highest on the list. I want to thank you all for the hard work to get us here, it takes cooperation and dedication from every one of us to get these big numbers.
<https://apps.regents.state.la.us/Reports/Report.aspx?reportPath=/Penrl/FPENRLRPT>
- Today for enrollment we are at 4,228 which is exciting because it is helping us get closer to our goal of 5,000.
- With Spring semester approaching, the Advising Center is busy meeting with students. They will start seeing new admins for registration on October 31, 2022. Also, they will be hosting a Veteran Group Registration event on October 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bo Nipper. For more information on that event, please contact Haley Bryant (hhalford@lsua.edu).
- Just so everyone is aware, dual enrollment registration will begin on November 15.

- We started sending the new admit lists for Spring to the colleges and schools this past Monday so they can start corresponding with them.
- On September 1, the Fall 2023 application opened up and we got notifications of our first applicants on October 1. As of now, we have received 78 applications and these are all on-campus students. Our online Fall 2023 application will not open until January which was a request from LSU online.
- On November 12, we are having our “Spend the Day at A” event which should be great. Josh Perrodin is sending out assignments and requests to different departments and schools.
- Our Enrollment Retreat is scheduled for October 28 and I want to thank Jessica Thacker for agreeing to be our facilitator for the day.
- Thank you all for participating in the Together Tuesday event this week. It was a success and there will be pictures to come from the event.

Julie Gill

- Applications for the Chancellor’s Travel Research and Field Trips funds closed last Monday. We hope to have the subcommittee (Senate) to start meeting about this next week. Once we have some choices narrowed down, we can present those to Dr. Coreil and SLT for finalized decisions.
- Meetings for Curriculog are continuing as well as demonstration meetings with the C&C, deans, departments, faculty chairs, and Faculty Senate committees.

Bernard Gallagher

- Kudos to those involved in addressing the healthcare shortage through this anticipated project; it is very much a need in Central Louisiana.
- I have had two faculty members address me about Curriculog. One faculty member was concerned about the ability to edit non-substantial things and the other faculty member asked that we try a pilot if that would be possible.
- Dr. Nathan Sammons has updated the bios for the people on the English faculty.
- Dr. Jerry Sanson, Professor Emeritus of History, will be giving a Cavanaugh Lecture at the Westside Library on Thursday, October 27. He will be discussing the impact of World War II on college sports, football in particular.
- There was a flash fiction contest with over 180 contestants from around the U.S. Awards were based on blind judging. Out of the 180 contestants, Eric Alai, Instructor of English, won first prize.
- A couple of our graduates and Robert Harper, Instructor of Theater & Music, will be in the play *Murder on the Orient Express* in downtown Alexandria on the Hearn Stage. The Theater Department from the College of Liberal Arts will be presenting *Arsenic and Old Lace*. It will be running from November 10-13 and again on November 17-20, but this time, directed by one of our graduates.
- On Moodle, Beth and I have put together a website where faculty members can register and make a comment in case they are not able to meet with us regarding their concerns. It is called the Faculty Message Board for the Chancellor’s Cabinet, so we want to make sure all faculty members are aware of the message board.

Beth Whittington

- There is continued concern among other faculty members that have been attending the Curriculog meetings. Many changes have been made and will continue to be made, but we want to make sure nothing is done prematurely.
- Yesterday, Nina Cox, Coordinator of International Programs, and Dr. Randall DuPont, Dean of the College of Business, took our five students from Japan to meet with the Louisiana Lieutenant Governor, Billy Nungesser. They asked for his continued and expanded support of their international program, which he is on board with. Also, they asked him to connect our program with the Japanese owned companies in our state. The Lieutenant Governor is arranging a swamp tour for our international students to take, which is exciting.
- Dr. Prakash Ghimire, Chair of Mathematics & Computer Science & Associate Professor of Mathematics, stated that they started offering a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science this fall. They have already recruited 35 computer science majors.
- Dr. Cathy Cormier, Student Success Coordinator & Director for Nursing Grants, was recently awarded grant funding to conduct an emotional intelligence workshop for incoming clinical nursing students. This workshop will allow students to identify their strengths as well as areas needing improvement in decision making, time management, stress management, and communication skills.
- Dr. Nathan Sammons, Chair of Biological Sciences & Associate Professor, reported that Dr. Cheryl Bardales, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, is developing the first virtual reality instructional program on campus. They are ordering 25 virtual reality headsets to expand the program to several of their courses including: Introduction to Biology, Genetics, and Cell Biography.
- The Criminal Justice Department was contacted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Department regarding the implementation of an internship. In the past, we have not been able to get our foot in the door to this opportunity, so this is very exciting news.

Don Collins

- Yesterday, I spoke to people at Country Day University Academy in regards to moving all of the faculty, staff, and students parking over to the southwest lot -- referred to as Lot 3. They have been given instructions on how to enter campus and that blocking the roundabout is prohibited.
- Facility Services has answered most of the questions from our faculty on curb stops for faculty and staff parking.
- This week the Rapides Parish Fair will be taking place adjacent to our campus starting on Wednesday through Sunday. With that in mind, the University Police will be patrolling and monitoring more than we typically do. This fair brings in a variety of people from all over the state(s). We want to remind everyone to be more cautious and to say something if you see something.

Connie Cooper

- I just want to encourage everyone to have a conversation with faculty and staff in your respective offices and departments in terms of how we are communicating with students. We must remember

that students are students, even if they are a student worker. Be mindful of what you say to students. There is a distinct difference between faculty and staff and students which makes it easy to potentially cross a line. This can lead to discrimination and harassment very easily. I think it would be time well spent having that conversation with your office and department. If you are not comfortable having that conversation, please reach out to me and I will be happy to help. We cannot afford to be relaxed in this area.

Olivia Chatman

- Fall 2022 Commencement will be on Thursday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rapides Parish Coliseum.
- Friendly reminder to please keep your calendars updated at all times.

Respectfully submitted by Olivia Chatman

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.
