



# MINUTES

## LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

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9/7/2022 1:00 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, Dr. Eamon Halpin, Deron Thaxton, Melinda Anderson, Adam Lord, Tyler Unsicker, Shelly Gill, Chad Gauthier, Connie Cooper, Kelly Pepper, Bernard Gallagher, Beth Whittington, Olivia Chatman

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

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#### Dr. Paul Coreil:

- Dr. Bain will be taking maternity leave shortly. With that in mind, Shelly Gill will be acting Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Student Engagement while Abbey is out. If you have anything that would need Dr. Bain's attention while she is out, we ask that you go to Shelly. We want to welcome Shelly and thank her for helping us out while Dr. Bain is on maternity leave.
- We are going to have a retreat on October 28, 2022 with representatives from the Chancellor's cabinet along with other representatives from faculty and staff. The focus will be aimed at on-campus enrollment. We've experienced significant growth in online enrollment. On-campus, we are holding relatively steady but with a slow decline since 2015. On-campus enrollment has been a challenge throughout the United States, most college campuses are losing enrollment both on campus and online. However, LSUA has seen tremendous growth online which has helped us with our overall enrollment and overall campus growth. We hope to develop a report from that retreat along with the names of those who attended and we will share it with everyone on campus. Anyone who has recommendations, ideas, or innovations that we should consider will be able to share them with those who are attending the retreat.
- In regards to merit raises, we wish the letters would have gone out prior to people getting their raises in August. We are going to get those letters to you so that you will know exactly what individual merit raises were for each member of the faculty and staff. The average was 4% in terms of what the Legislative provided, and funds were only provided for faculty only. Unfortunately, we did not receive money for staff raises. However, we were still able to fund staff merit raises due to enrollment growth. That is why we previously asked that

everyone to complete performance evaluations because merit raises are based on performance. The raises went into effect August 1, 2022.

- The mandatory state employee training – that is required by the Legislature – must be completed by September 30, 2022. If you fail to do so, you will not be eligible for a raise next year. There were people last year who did not complete the training and in turn did not get the raises this year. To prevent this from happening again, I would like to remind you all to make sure and get that done as soon as possible. If you are not sure that all of your training has been completed, there are ways to check. We are putting in another round of raise requests for faculty and staff for the current (new) fiscal year. Deron and I will be attending meetings tomorrow morning with the LSU System staff who are responsible for finance and budget. We will be discussing new facilities for Allied Health and Nursing – our newly proposed Health Education Complex in Downtown Alexandria. Also, funding for deferred maintenance for many of the buildings on campus is sorely needed. Lastly, we will be discussing the need for salary increases for everyone. Most of these priorities have already been submitted, but we will be able to present them tomorrow. I will also be going to Baton Rouge for the Board of Supervisors meeting.
- It is very important that we celebrate the LSUA 4100+ enrollment milestone early this fall. This university is only one of three that have increased in enrollment throughout COVID over the last 3 years. Throughout the nation, there are very few universities that have grown in enrollment as well. We are in a small group of universities that have grown with over 9% enrollment growth during fall 2022. This will be our 8th semester in a row that we have broken records which is an amazing accomplishment. The outstanding growth on campus has been possible because of the hard work of all faculty and staff. I want to congratulate and thank everyone all for the hard work. On October 18, 2022, we plan to have an All-Campus meeting with a celebration of enrollment growth to follow immediately after.
- One goal of ours is to create and maintain a closer relationship with Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center in Leesville. Due to our talented faculty, STEM efforts, and robotics programming, an opportunity has been presented for us to get a Starbase grant from the Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct elementary STEM educational programs in Vernon Parish and the surrounding Fort Polk region. We are excited and feel this grant will open doors and allow for additional opportunities for us to work with Fort Polk and JRTC in additional areas of interest. Considering this, we have hired Becca Foltz who will be leading the LSUA Starbase program on the base. I was able to meet with her today and she was also recently introduced to the school board and the Superintendent in Vernon Parish. They are all very excited about LSUA leading the STARBASE Program. For many years Northwestern State University (NSU) received this grant and coordinate this program.... now LSUA have been given the opportunity to take the lead. We are proud that our university was able to earn their trust and establish an education partnership with Fort Polk. The Commanding General, David Gardner, is really thrilled about LSUA coming on board. This will be a major step forward for our campus.

- We are also planning a fall 23 start of a surgical technology partnership through LSU Eunice where they have an accredited surgical technology program. Working with LSUE, we can offer a partnership opportunity to train central Louisiana students in surgery technology which is currently a critical workforce need in all area hospitals. Thanks to Dr. Joiner for his leadership in getting both the Surg Tech and Dental Hygiene Program partnerships up and running in CENLA.
- The next meeting will be September 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

**Dr. John Rowan:**

- Course schedules for the upcoming Spring semester have been submitted. We are on schedule for the opening of advising and also registration for Spring.
- There will be a meeting with the deans and directors to discuss faculty positions that we would like to fill by next August. Faculty searches typically take place almost a year in advance. We are in the process of identifying priorities and gaps that need to be filled.
- A meeting with the Academic Leadership Team and the Leadership of the Faculty Senate took place on September 6, 2022. Together, they discussed the use of the new platform, Curriculog, which is used for the curricular approval process. Originally, there was some disagreement within the faculty, but the meeting was productive conversation and they seem to have found some common ground. There is still some needed feedback, but everything with Curriculog is slowly lining up.
- A draft of the LSU System Strategic Plan has been distributed across campus for feedback.
- The Senior breakfast took place on September 7, 2022 in the Bolton Library. Sponsors for this event were the Office of Career Development and CORE. This breakfast was for those who are getting ready to graduate and step into a professional role.
- As of September 1, 2022, Dr. Sarita James is officially now the Director of the School of Nursing. Previously, Dr. Catherine Cormier was in this role. She is still on the faculty in a full-time role.

**Dr. Abbey Bain:**

- We are continuing to focus on enrollment, there are a few more days until the Census. With that being said, students have been admitted for the second sessions and/or elearn 2 and we are working hard to get them a schedule.
- Kudos to everyone on the LSUA team maintaining high enrollment for our campus. This is something to be extremely proud of, especially seeing other big universities publish that their numbers have dropped significantly. I think people are starting to recognize what LSUA stands for and why we stand out.
- A new event that we started last year called, Tank's Traditions' will be taking place tomorrow on the quad. We realized the majority of our students do not know why we are called the Generals or that we have an Alma Mater. Our mission is to inform them and

instill a pride within each student. At the event, we will have cupcakes, giveaways, the Alma Mater will be sung, cheerleaders will do a couple of cheers, and there will be a brief history lesson about LSUA.

- There will be a transition with the director of residential life, Caleb Funderburk will be starting as Interim taking the place of Michael Courson. More information to follow on this change is coming soon. Overall, there has been great progress with efficiency at the Oaks and certainly with the occupancy. We would like to thank Michael for the hard work he has put in and wish him well on his next venture. There is much excitement about the future of the Oaks and the positive things that will come with the leadership change.
- We are still working closely with LSU and others discussing potential changes to admissions standards from the Board of Regents coming down. However, data is being gathered to demonstrate why we do not seek to change our admissions process due to the student success we have had in the past.
- Retention is looking very high as of now. Last year at the Census we were at 61%-62%, but this year we are at 65%, which is great. The vibrancy happening on campus is greatly impacting the students and making them more connected to the university.

**Dr. Eamon Halpin:**

- The students within the SPERO program are thriving and participating in social integration on campus. The president of Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), Michael Tipton, came to campus on September 1, 2022 to visit and see how the program is going. While Mr. Tipton was here, he had lunch with Brittany, the four SPERO students, and myself. He was very pleased with the program and how it is progressing.
- In regards to the aviation program, there was a successful meeting at the airport last week. We met with six ATP officials for about an hour and a half to tour the facilities and discuss a new contract that would allow continuation of the program.
- John and I have been meeting each week since the beginning of the semester to discuss the SACS conference. At each meeting, we review the responses that I have written to the nearly sixty SACS founders. Typically, we get through one or two of the responses each week where they give me feedback and I go and revise. We are hoping to get that completed by the end of this semester. The annual SACS meeting this year is especially important for LSUA because we will attend a reaffirmation orientation – our reaffirmation year is 2025. Attending this year's meeting will be Dr. Coreil, John, myself, and several others. There will be a meeting today with the three of us to discuss and plan for that event specifically. Another important aspect of reaffirmation is the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which will be a benefit to the campus. For the QEP, we will have to identify a project, develop a proposal, and present it as part of our reaffirmation materials. Implementation of this project is not required; we just have to put a plan in place. It is implemented after the reaffirmation visit and then reviewed during the interim year. Considering this, John and I have been in discussion about it, but there will be more information to come in the future.

**Deron Thaxton:**

- The last few weeks have been the typical beginning of the semester. In my department, the biggest thing is the drop for non-payment which I am happy to say is down to only 41 students. We are thrilled about this because in past semesters, the number would range from 50-70. Current enrollment stands at 4,126 so we have broken the 4,000 mark which is a huge accomplishment. Regardless, we are still aiming to get that number down even lower.
- In regards to budget, there is no true update here.
- As for a revenue update, we are ahead of schedule of where we need to be for this budget year. With enrollment being 200-300 over what we had budgeted for, that is the reason for being ahead.
- The drainage project is still in progress, but with consistent rain happening it has slowed down some. They were planning to stamp the asphalt and stain it this week, but the rain held them back so that will take place soon. The brick pavers will be on site shortly to fill the octagons in the crossways on the plaza. This coming Friday, the engineer, Chad, and myself will have the final walk through. During this time, we will walk through the project and look at all of the areas – completed and not completed – which shows that we are getting near to the final stage of completion.
- The raises went into effect on Workday in August, but the actual hardcopy letters did not go out just yet. However, after a conversation yesterday, we are sending those out immediately. Everything has gone through Workday and been approved meaning that there were no issues.

**Melinda Anderson:**

- There will be a press conference in response to the new dental hygiene program on September 29, 2022 at Dr. Gupta's dental office. According to Dr. Joiner, Dr. Gupta was instrumental in the development of this program. This will be a very exciting announcement for LSUA to make official and we are looking forward to the positive outcomes from it.
- On October 6, 2022, we will be hosting Central LA Legislative Delegation at the Museum of Art to update them on all things LSUA.
- The grand opening at the main entrance of LSUA will take place at 10:00 a.m. on October 12, 2022. Thanks to the Strat Comm team, there will be invitations and graphics for this event. Representatives from the Governor's office and LSU will also be in attendance that morning.
- An all-campus meeting will take place on October 18, 2022, at 3:30 in the ballroom for faculty and staff to celebrate enrollment among other things as well. There will be more information to follow as that meeting gets closer.

- Currently, I am working with Teresa Seymour to host a computer safety program for seniors that will be happening on November 10, 2022. This safety program mimics the Cyber Security Training program we had to complete as faculty and staff of LSUA. We will be presenting that training in a different format complementary to the community on how to avoid getting hacked, etc. Keep in mind any of your senior or younger friends who might be interested in attending this event.
- The Shrimp Jam is quickly approaching so you need to purchase your tickets as soon as possible.

**Adam Lord:**

- Our Canva teams account is up and running with about 18 members as of now. The goal for this is to provide templates for all of the things that academic or staffing units might need ranging from invitations to posters. We have a robust library of templates that already include our colors and fonts along with pictures. The hope is to grant access to at least one person from each unit. It is a paid for user system that is currently coming out of our account so not everyone will be able to access it. However, there should be at least one person in each unit that you can go to in order to get what you need from Canva. With this method, everyone should be able to create something that is on brand and use it without having to go through the process of asking the media team to create it. If you are unsure of your point person, ask us and we can fill you in.
- After conversing with Senior Leadership and Dr. Rowan, we would like to make sure that requests for assets, coverage, press releases, and marketing follow the chain of command. If faculty are interested in pursuing something, we want to make sure that they go up to department heads and deans to help them filter requests to see if it can be serviced or not. If it can be serviced, follow the chain of command, fill out the form, and ask us. If it cannot, perhaps we can mitigate some of the requests that we do not have time to do or hopefully it can be dealt with in Canva. This goes in reverse as well for Strat Comm, we will go through the chain of command to communicate. Overall, we are trying to streamline the process.
- We need to get updated headshots of faculty and staff. The studio is open on Mondays from 3-4:30 or by special appointment if needed. If your picture is older than 3 years, you need to update it.

**Tyler Unsicker:**

- Last week was our first full week of implementing the Student Academic Success Center. Currently, there are 125 students signed up and over 100 students logged in 3 hours last week. This is very great news and we are receiving great feedback as well. With this implementation, there have been more students hanging out around the center and

interacting with one another. We are excited to see the positive outcomes that will continue to grow in allowing our student athletes to have more resources available to them.

- If the weather allows it, our first soccer home game will be this Friday with the women playing at 1:00 p.m. and the men at 3:00 p.m. The men's game will be broadcasted, but the women's will not because it is just a scrimmage.
- Keep in mind that the Shrimp Jam is on September 22, 2022. This Friday will be the soft deadline to purchase your tickets in order for us to get a headcount of attendees. We appreciate everyone that is supporting us this far and look forward to the event. There have been wonderful reviews and compliments in regards to the marketing and videos that have been put out for this event. We would like to thank the Strat Comm team for their great work on all of this.

#### Chad Gauthier:

- On campus, COVID was averaging at about 6-8 positive cases the last couple of weeks. Currently, this week we have 3 positive cases, 2 of which are faculty and staff. Regarding the students, there have not been many positive cases this week. Statewide, there was a slight bump in positive cases, but hospitalizations and deaths continue to stay low compared to previous months.
- As for as tropical storms, there are some formations happening, but none that should concern us. Hurricane Danielle is expected to turn East which would be away from the U.S. and Hurricane Earl is expected to parallel the U.S. making neither one a threat to us. Currently, there is a disturbance off of the Eastern Atlantic and one off of the African coast. The one off the Eastern Atlantic has a higher percentage of potential formation. Again, neither one of those looks to be heading our way and impacting us. However, anything could still happen so we will keep watching for any new updates.
- Facility wise, the contractors did some work between Mulder Hall and the cafeteria on that sidewalk to help with the drainage issue. Yesterday we received a heavy rain which allowed us to determine if their work helped the drainage issue or not. It did not completely fix the issues, but there was still a tremendous amount of improvement there. Overall, the drainage project is slowly improving the campus. There is still some tweaking to do and there will probably still be some more even after the project is complete.
- In regards to the roof on the library, that project is moving slowly due to consistent rain. For now, the workers had to seal the roof and postpone further improvement until the weather permits. The biggest issue with the library roof is the impact that it has had on our parking availability.
- We issued a substantial completion for UV light and UV H-Vac at the end of last week meaning that this project is nearing being finished.

- Numerous other projects such as the boiler project are starting up soon.
- On the safety and risk side of things, my annual audit is scheduled for November 11, 2022. There are a handful of faculty and staff that I may be reaching out to either with some paperwork or documentation on certain things in regards to the audit. Be on the lookout for that as I will be making it my priority to get everything for the audit completed.
- In regards to the brick pavers going in the octagons, we are expected to get one load Friday, Monday, and the final load on Tuesday. As soon as we get those pavers on the ground, it will probably be a 2–3 day installation timeframe. It is starting to shape up really well and we are almost at the finish line with that.
- As for the drains on campus, there are probably about 4 that are still closed, but all of the rest are open. The waterflow happening in the canal that we have behind the campus is doing great. This further proves how great this drainage project has improved the campus.
- All in all, there are still many things left to be done, but it is starting to wrap up really well.

**Shelly Gill: Report given by Dr. Abbey Bain**

- The application for Fall 2023 is already up and live with about 20 applicants as of now. We will send out admissions decisions starting on October 1, 2022.
- Please remember to mark your calendars for Together Tuesdays that will take place on October 4, 2022. We are hoping to cover every school within Rapides parish that participates. This event has been done the last couple of years and we are excited to continue participating in it. By doing this, we get to cheer on students before they go into class and aim to get our brand out into each school by wearing LSUA attire and handing out LSUA merch. Volunteers are greatly appreciated and Shelly will have more information coming out as it gets closer. If you have any questions regarding the event or how to get involved, please contact Shelly.

**Kelly Pepper:**

- The ribbon cutting for the Nursing Skills Lab will be on September 26 at 10:00 a.m. in Coughlin Hall on the lobby of the second floor. The invitations for that will be sent out internally to LSUA faculty and staff no later than Friday of this week. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend the event, we would love to see you there. Our donors will also be in attendance as well.

**Bernard Gallagher:**



- Everyone is fully engaged in trying to sort things out in the classroom and make sure page numbers match assignments.
- We had a Cavanaugh lecture with 52 attendees, which is a good number.
- Several people have asked me about the status of letters in the mail regarding their raises.
- There were some concerns pertaining to Curriculog, but after meeting with the Academic Leadership Team and the Leadership of the Faculty Senate, the issues have been resolved.
- In regard to the next Cavanaugh lecture, Dr. Stenson will be discussing the effect of World War II on football. More information will come out on this soon. Anyone is welcome to attend these Cavanaugh lectures at the West Side Library. They are typically only face-to-face.

**Beth Whittington:**

- Our faculty are doing a great job as far as advising as well as research in the classroom which then propels into Scholar Day. There is great work happening within the community in relation to our contacts.

**Connie Cooper:**

- Reminder that Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, 2022. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (OoDEI) has some programming planned to celebrate the month. The Kick Off event will be a “Let’s Taco ‘Bout It Lunch & Learn” where faculty, staff and students can learn more about Latin and Hispanic Heritage while eating a Latin and Hispanic meal. Additionally, we will have a book reading and discussion virtually through Zoom, a Zumba/Salsa fitness party, a Latino history movie screening at the Oaks, and a culture and heritage exhibit in Mulder Hall. We are excited to recognize and learn more about Hispanic Heritage from September 15-October 15.
- Thank you to the SLT for reviewing and approving the mission and core values for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Lastly, we are excited to officially launch the OoDEI website and get that up and running. That resource will be available soon to our faculty, staff and students.

*Respectfully submitted by Olivia Chatman*

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**The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.**

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