



MINUTES

LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

5/13/2025 2:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

In Attendance

Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. Elizabeth Beard, Dr. Abbey Bain, Deron Thaxton, Dr. Eamon Halpin, Melinda Anderson, Adam Lord, Tyler Unsicker, Shelly Gill, Bobi Delaney, Chad Gauthier, Connie Cooper, Kelly Pepper, Jason Normand, Dr. Cynthia Thomas, Dr. Susan Bowers, Dr. Julie Gill, Olivia Soileau

Chancellor Coreil called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM

Policy Statement Review, Discussion, and Decision

- Policy Statement 282 – Administration of Scholarships and Exemptions Policy
 - Recommended changes were presented by Deron Thaxton
 - Requested Changes: Deron Thaxton presented recommended changes to align the policy with current practices and to include updates regarding how the LSUA Foundation may award certain scholarships.
 - Decision: Dr. Abbey Bain made a motion to approve the proposed changes as presented. Kelly Pepper seconded the motion. With no objections or questions, the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Paul Coreil

- The golf course will close on Sunday, June 1.
- The Menard High School signing ceremony on May 6 was a success, with six students committing to LSUA.
- \$16.5 million remains in the Capital Outlay and has stayed in the appropriations bill.
- LSUA is working with DOTD to add university signage at the Turkey Creek/Meeker exit on I-49.
- Tuesday, June 3 – LSUA presents at Rotary
- The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 28, at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Elizabeth Beard

- Faculty Senate approved two new programs in AI/Artificial Intelligence: a concentration for Computer Science majors, and a minor available to students in all majors. These

programs will be added to the Fall 2025 catalog and help us maintain our cutting-edge advantage in graduating students who are ready for today's careers.

- LSUA will have a "CenLA heart" as part of the Explore CenLA project. Wangling Chou's color design class will work with Chase Dyess next fall to design the graphics on the heart, and plans are for it to be installed by the library patio. We'll have an unveiling event when it is installed next fall.
- Grades were due at noon today for full session Spring 2025 classes; EL1/Session 1 started Monday.
- New faculty: successful verbal offers were made for Ag Science and history faculty positions. As our exemption requests were approved by the state, we will be able to proceed with those (and other) faculty hires.

Dr. Abbey Bain

- Overall registration is almost 3,900 students for the fall semester. This is up around 18% overall YTD.
- Retention is 54% (compared to 46% YTY)
- Housing is 89% occupied with 268 contracts signed, which is 26% higher YTY
- We have over 200 freshmen registered for orientation this summer.
- Freshman Convocation will be a tradition returning to LSUA this fall for our freshmen.
- David Moore has been serving as our LA VetCorp member who works part-time on campus for our student veterans, but that department/service was recently cut entirely. We're sorry to see David leave. Lacey, Haylee, and SLT met with him this week to say thank you and present him with a plaque for his service.
- Tonight, we have a Dual Enrollment event for ASH, Bolton, and Rapides to encourage students to come to campus to attend class instead of their high school. I appreciate Enrollment Management and Samanta Evans for making this happen.

Deron Thaxton

- Received approval for 98 position exemptions. The current executive order is expected to be lifted on June 30.
- Year-end deadline communication was sent out earlier today. Please make sure and read it. Key deadlines are approaching, particularly for the submission of expense reports.
- The Campus Edge groundbreaking, originally scheduled for June 2, will be rescheduled for a later date in June.

Dr. Eamon Halpin

- Working with Andrew Hirchak on updating the Academic Catalog. The largest part of this work is updating courses and curricula that have been modified during the most recent academic year and adding new courses and new curricula that have been adopted during the year. Over the last year, over 100 course modifications and additions and over 25 curricular

modifications and additions have been submitted to the courses and curricula committee for approval. I serve as the Editorial Reviewer for the committee, so all proposals are vetted by me before they are considered by C&C members. Alice Blackwell is the chair of the committee and does an excellent job of guiding committee members through the often rather taxing process. Approved updates must be made not only to the public-facing catalog but also to the Power Campus Catalog and to Degree Navigator, so the entire process is quite time-consuming.

- Spoke with Cleo Wallace, the educational specialist at the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, last week. Dr. Haywood Joiner and I had visited him in person several years ago about getting VA approval for LSUA's Professional Aviation program. I emailed him last week, and he called me. I updated him on the status of the program and told him that I often receive requests from veterans who wish to enroll in the program with VA support. He was very encouraging and asked me to provide him with some updated documentation on the program's status. We will need to provide him with the amended contract with Gulf Coast Aviation. Bill Blackburn and Shari Drerup continue to work with FAA staff who are reviewing our request to be designated as a Part 141 Ground School.
- Last week, Brittany Soden, Trevor Ewing, and I, along with four student mentors, accompanied the SPERO students on a trip to the Four Seasons Bowling Alley in Alexandria. We were there for several hours and had lunch on the premises. The two guys who were working there took us backstage and showed us the mechanical workings of the bowling machines. Andrew Fuqua, otherwise known as Drew, asked the guys for a job several times. I believe he is going to have a student job with the baseball team next year – thanks to our Athletics Director, Tyler Unsicker, for giving Drew this great opportunity.

Melinda Anderson

- The Inaugural Hall of Distinction was a terrific success. Longtime donors all came back and were touched by being recognized. We also inducted Bennett Landreneau as the 2025 recipient. Thanks to all who helped make this happen.
- LSUA's Dr. Coreil and Deron presented to City Council on May 6. Excellent reception and comments from Council members.
- Friday, May 9 attended Conference of LA Colleges and Universities in Baton Rouge.
- Monday, May 12 Dr. Coreil and I attended Ways and Means Committee meeting. HB2 was covered and our \$\$ for Downtown Healthcare Campus is in HB2. Now we just have to keep it there! Also, Appropriations Committee amended HB1 and added \$500,000 for temporary offices/classrooms.
- LSUA/LSU Health Shreveport "Upon Adjournment" reception will be on Monday, May 19 at the Lt. Gov. Billy Nunguesser Pentagon Barracks apartment.
- Tuesday, June 3 LSUA Senior Leadership Team will present at Rotary.
- Tuesday, June 17 LSU Verge Ausberry will present at Rotary.

Adam Lord

- Met with/ Brandy Hearnberger to look for grants to offset broadcast studio renovations
- Mira did an incredible job helping Scholar Day better align with the brand (we still have work to do on and form and function of the presentations, but the branding looked a LOT better this year)
- Worked with the Chancellor's Office, Facilities, & Chartwells to pull off a very successful Wall of Distinction event
- Implementing plans for the Campus Edge Project groundbreaking for the new apartment complex and launching the development of the Edge of campus. Several of us here have tasks we need to complete sooner rather than later to tie a bow on this exciting event.
- PUR-522 Forms –
 - ALL products with ANY branding have to have an approved PUR-522 before purchase.
 - Submit a description, quote, & artwork to the form > Mira will assess.
 - Once approved, then you can order with state funds (include the approval in WorkDay).

Tyler Unsicker

- 26 athletes graduating this Spring
- Athlete cord recognition event tomorrow, May 14, at 4:00 p.m. in The Outpost – Asked about Student Athlete Stohls.
- Softball won yesterday, and they play today at 2:30 p.m. in the winners bracket.
- Tennis won this morning, and they play tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.
- Summer Book Read with Coaches - *Dare to Lead* by Brene Brown.

Shelly Gill

- Application Report trending higher than last fall. We have more FTF admitted today than the entirety of Fall 2024.
- Please be sure to inform Recruiting of any summer programming that deals with high school students.
- Starting in June, tours will only be at 10 a.m. for the duration of the summer.
- Dual Enrollment will host a meeting tonight for Rapides Parish Schools interested in bringing students to campus to take DE courses in the fall semester.

Bobi Delaney

- Commencement is this Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
- Final Grades were due today at Noon. Best faculty response to date.
- ELearn 1/1st Session began 5/12. AEA due 11:59 p.m. 5/14.
- Drop for non-attendance is scheduled for noon on 5/15, but due to Commencement, the deadline is being pushed back to 4 p.m. that same day.

Chad Gauthier

- Weather – Hurricane Prep Week last week.
- Facility Services –
 - Entrance Tower Project – ABW Architects - Bayou Rapides Corporation \$465,330. Weather has slowed it down some. Steel framework is complete. Large sign in place, electrical rough-in is being done. Masonry is nearing completion. Final completion is looking like the end of early July.
 - Street Overlay Project (Drainage Part 3) – Monceaux – TL Construction \$896,500. Acorn Drive work near the water tower is complete. Should be able to asphalt that section soon. The headwall is being constructed on Jerry Myrick this week. Will begin the additional work along the side of Acorn.
 - Parking Lot 7 – MMLH - Progressive Construction Company \$604,640. Complete – punch list only.
 - ROM Student Success Center – MD Descant – Work continues on – all phases, drywall, painting, and exterior work are progressing nicely. Closing in the center section and construction of the overhangs. The ceiling grid has begun installation.
 - Health Education Downtown Campus – ABW Architects. In design development. Without any complications, it remains on track to bid this Summer.
 - Roadway Lighting Project – Hendry Electrical Services, Mark Neely from ADG is the designer. Contracts are being worked on by LSU. CLECO has begun the process to install additional lighting on HWY 3170 and the entrances from 3170.
 - Baseball/Softball Locker Rooms – Jim Weinzettle with ABW has delivered some renderings for the fundraising efforts. Nothing new.
 - DM Project – Campus HVAC Control replacement. AFC is \$850,000. Dustin Duval with M&E on design. Still awaiting final approval for contract from LSU & FP&C.
 - Tank for The Fort –We have begun the IRT process with LANG. Construction of the concrete pad has begun this week.
 - Second Floor Fitness Center Suite – Skip Converse - Plan to begin that work next week.
 - Fitness Center Roof project \$702,450 – FP&C will be assigning the designer by direct appointment.
 - New sidewalk along Thelma Ethridge.
 - Many additional smaller in-house projects throughout the campus.
- Risk Management – Nothing to report at this time.

Connie Cooper

- Nothing significant to report at this time.

Kelly Pepper

- Thursday, May 22 - next quarterly LSUA Foundation Board Meeting.

- GAA Golf Tournament held on April 25 netted \$7,962 for the benefit of the LSUA Athletic Program.
- AMoA Dragon Boat Races held on May 3 netted \$32,000, with 25 teams participating.
- LSUA received a generous donation from Mr. Mike Jenkins of \$25,000 for the benefit of the LSUA Broadcast Media Center.

Dr. Cynthia Thomas

- It was noted that students do not go to the breakout rooms during the virtual graduation ceremony. Faculty and LSU Online staff are the only people in the breakout rooms.
- The courses for the AI curriculum have been approved by the Senate.

Dr. Susan Bowers

- Career Champions wrapped up the semester with a field trip to LSU Burden Botanic Gardens, LSU Dairy Store, and LSU Museum of Art.

Dr. Julie Gill

- No update.

Olivia Soileau

- No update.

Respectfully submitted by Olivia Soileau

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.
