



MINUTES

LSUA Chancellor Cabinet

11/18/2020 1:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

In Attendance

Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. John Rowan, Dr. Abbey Bain, Deron Thaxton, Dr. Eamon Halpin, Shelly Gill, Melinda Anderson, Adam Jonson, Elizabeth Jonson, Chancey Slider

Guests: Melissa LaBorde, Daniel Manuel, Kevin Vercher

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

Chancellor's Updates:

- We received a reaffirmation about the Drainage Project yesterday at the Rotary Club meeting. The Commissioner of Administration, Jay Dardenne, mentioned that we are going out on bids next month and construction should start in early spring.
- We are working with Jorge to get an animated video depiction of all of the infrastructure improvements we've made and plan to make over next 5 years to use for variety of priorities such as recruiting, fundraising and community awareness. We want a more appealing and more modern campus with no flooding, more lighting, new student success center, and a better downtown campus. We would like to develop some retail attractions and infrastructure where the golf course is. The animated video story will summarize those advances.
- We still have some work to do with the LSU Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed merger of ACDS with UA. It is on the agenda for the December meeting and we have one additional item that we would like to have on the agenda as well.
- Faculty Senate has asked for the consideration of new annual evaluation for department heads and administration which we will be discussing this week or next at SLT and Cabinet. They also sent in a request regarding submitting grades earlier than the graduation date of December 18th.
- Deron is working on drafting a policy regarding annual evaluations to encourage supervisors and employees to comply with the deadline. The policy will state that employees who do not have a current evaluation on file will not be eligible for promotions or raises. This will also apply to the supervisor of the employee.
- The Leadership Retreat notes have been typed up and we are sharing them with the groups that we interviewed which includes both internal and external individuals. Once the results of the retreat are finalized, we will work on developing strategies for addressing primary goals that were agreed upon.
- The next meeting Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for November 25th at 10:00am.

Reports

John Rowan

- Submitted the advertisement for the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity position to be posted. The search committee will begin reviewing applications when we get back from the winter break.
- Some faculty will be around and on campus after Thanksgiving to have access to offices and classrooms.
- Academic structure document was sent to cabinet yesterday and would like to request feedback and approval so that I can put together a proposal for the BOS. The cabinet agreed to move forward with the plan for academic structuring. The next step is to work with faculty and departments to finalize labels and names. A proposal will then be made for LSU Provost Haynie to take to a BOS meeting for approval.

Eamon Halpin

- We are making great progress with proposed aviation program. The program and related courses received approval from the Interdisciplinary Committee and is now scheduled for review by the Courses and Curriculum Committee. All is proceeding as planned. I met again with Raja from Acadian Aviation yesterday and we were joined by Shari Drerup who has a master's degree in aviation and is interested in teaching the academic non-flight courses. A friend of Raja's who is knowledgeable of FAA compliance also attended the meeting and indicated that he is willing to work with us to be sure that we are in compliance. Overall, it was a great meeting.
- Met last night with the SPERO committee. There is a donation giving option on the Facebook page for SPERO. Several people have shared and it has reached many individuals. We are still following up on leads for grant applications.
- Katie Cooley, the Testing Center Coordinator is retiring at the end of this year. She has been a very loyal employee and a joy to work with. A request has been made to fill the vacancy and the ad will be shared shortly.

Deron Thaxton

- No big budget or finance updates.
- An offer was made and accepted for the Director of Accounting Services. Zach McLendon will start on December 1st. We are very excited to get him on board and think that he will be great addition to the team. He will have an overlap period with Mrs. Pat Hoyt for training.
- Summer Knight begins on Monday in the position of Staff Accountant and we believe that she will also be a great addition to our team.
- Still working on getting someone hired for the risk management position and we are continuing to interview candidates. We hope to have someone on board in January.
- The audit on internal fees is still ongoing and there are no major findings so far.
- Drainage project is underway and the environmental study is ongoing. I got an update from the engineer early this week and everything is proceeding smoothly as planned.

Abbey Bain

- Very busy with registration and we gained some ground this week. We are still down about 5%, but that is good news compared to 12% last week.
- Working with Adam for athlete registration plans. Many student athletes don't have schedules yet and we want to concentrate on getting them registered and supporting their needs.
- Planning ahead for spring programming.
- Looking at plans for Homecoming in the spring. We hope to have more information out soon.
- We have been working a lot on advising. I am asking Deron to prepare a retention statistic so that we can see how our freshmen are doing compared to last year.
- Things at The Oaks are looking good and going well. We expect some cancellations for spring move-in, but also some athletes and students who did not come in the fall due to COVID-19 may move in. Thanks for facilities and their hard work. We now have 12 new rooms online for the spring and we are working on continuing to enhance the environment at The Oaks.
- Scheduling a walkthrough of campus at night with administration and SGA to identify areas that need better lighting.

Kevin Vercher

- Bid packages will go out for the Wesse house work for the soccer field area by the end of the week and we hope to finish work by January or February.
- Have a campus wide lighting project beginning within a week and we will be changing every bulb on campus. We should see some energy savings for next year.
- We are planning for projects at fitness center to replace air units and working on adding boilers to the library and Chambers Hall. We will mobilize the week after Thanksgiving.
- Started the exterior painting of Chambers Hall and hope to be done in the next two weeks.
- Thanks to everyone for the nice comments. I relay them to our crew and they appreciate it.
- We are a little short handed in custodial, but planning to hire someone to begin next week or the week after for Mulder Hall. I appreciate everyone's patience.
- Please don't hesitate to send any requests for needs to us.
- Did some work in Mulder on a drain near office 373 and we think there was a small leak in a drainage pipe. We made repairs and will wait until the next rain to give it a good test. We think that's the last hurricane Laura issue we are dealing with at Mulder.

Daniel Manuel

- Seeing a spike in on-campus COVID-19 cases. Rapides is increasing in the percentage of positive test results. Today is the second day of on-campus testing at the pod and 43 have tested so far today which is much more than the last time we had on campus testing.

Shelly Gill

- Pleased to report that we had 70 guests on campus for Spend the Day at A on Saturday. Everyone enjoyed themselves and were very engaged. Shout out to Kaitlyn Norton for doing a great job planning the day. Thanks to our Student Ambassadors, Facility Services, and all who participated.

- Dan weaver is taking the lead and doing a great job working with businesses in Alexandria and Pineville. He has visited 44 businesses and put up program fliers and is continuing outreach in our area.
- The application report for spring is up by about 35%. Summer is up by about %50. Fall is doing better than last report and we are down about 31% compared to 70% last time. I have talked to my counterparts at other institutions and they are all facing the same problems with applications being low. Our goal this and next week is to complete all received applications and get students admitted as soon as possible.
- Deron and I are going to complete a large mail out of our brochure and personalized URLs before Thanksgiving.
- Financial Aid is doing great with going around to local schools and will continue to go after Thanksgiving if the schools will allow. They are working on FAFSA completion nights and admissions tags along when we are allowed to. The next one will be at Rapides High on November 30th.
- Sent the Board of Regents Academic Affairs policy 2.18 to SLT this morning and need them to discuss the changes that were made. I am happy to provide additional information and support.

Melinda Anderson

- Thanks to everyone who attended the Mulder Scholar Dinner. It was very well done and great welcome to the students.
- Thanks to those who attended the Think Tank press conference at the Teen and Youth Center.
- In the process of consulting with Dr. Joiner and Mrs. Rosa Fields about the Black History Month Luncheon and we have decided to delay it due to COVID-19. We will not be gathering most likely but there will still be options to give.
- Met with Susan Bowers recently regarding the CTE and the McCann fund. It was a great meeting.
- The Foundation Finance and Executive Board Zoom Meeting will take place on tomorrow. We have received the preliminary draft of our audit report and it is clean. We will decide if the December 15th board meeting will be face-to-face, on Zoom, or a hybrid.

Adam Jonson

- Dealing with rescheduling postponed basketball games due to COVID-19. Both women's basketball games have been postponed as well as the men's game that was scheduled for this Sunday. We are trying to reschedule as many games possible.
- We still don't know about the RRAC spring schedule. There is a possibility that more teams may not be playing the spring which will change the baseball and softball schedules. There will be a chancellors and presidents call tomorrow and we hope to get more information on schedules.
- We are working on scheduling a men's basketball game with ULL and we are still waiting on the contract. This will be first division 1 game played since 2016 and the highest caliber division team that we have ever played if we are able to schedule it.
- Working with Abbey on planning ways to get student athletes registered for spring.
- Working with the coliseum on potentially scheduling a basketball game to be played there in December.

Melissa LaBorde

- We have two more Faculty Senate meetings for this semester and we are keeping momentum going.
- I noticed that there are fewer students attending Hy-Flex classes in Mulder recently, but Faculty are pushing through.
- Excited about collaborations coming up with various faculty and departments, particularly with our CMST students and Liz and Nathan.
- Getting with Chancey on an update for PS 202 and working with Carol Corbat on policy statements and the faculty handbook.
- Asked Dr. Coreil about administrative committees and he responded that assignments are being worked on and updated. I will forward the Senate recommendations for administrative committees from last year so he will have them.

Elizabeth Jonson

- Jorge is on campus working on brand components for next spring. We are working on videos and working with Nathan on incorporating into other marketing components.
- Nathan and I are working on an alumni video series
- Working on a video "I'm Thankful For" to tie into the Mulder Scholarship piece.
- We are having a community meeting on Friday morning to start connecting with local businesses about our branding.
- Working on the contract for Lamar for the next year.

Chancey Slider

- Working hard on commencement planning.
- Participated in an app training Zoom yesterday with Haylee and Liz. We are excited and hope to roll out the updates for the spring.
- The Board of Supervisors President Search Committee will be meeting in the ballroom on Friday morning and I am working on the set up now.
- Encouraging everyone in Abrams to donate to United Way and collecting donations.
- Planning for the Fall Feast that will take place next Tuesday on the Quad from 11:00am-1:00pm. We will be giving out free jambalaya plates and SGA is providing a sweet treat and some make-and-takes.

Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, November 25th.
