



MINUTES

LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

4/1/2025 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, Don Collins, Shelly Gill, Bobi Delaney, Chad Gauthier, Charlie Dupont, Connie Cooper, Jason Normand, Dr. Cynthia Thomas, Dr. Susan Bowers, Dr. Julie Gill

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

Dr. Paul Coreil

- The Board of Regents unanimously approved the land lease for the Edge Project. There will be a groundbreaking announced soon. This project will have a profound impact on our campus and community. With 176 2-bedroom units, priority is given to the students, faculty, and staff.
- The golf course will be closing.
- We are in the final stages of the real Tank coming to campus.
- The failed constitutional amendment could have negative impacts on higher education.
- Legislative Breakfast was successful – they recognized our growth and additional need for space and buildings.
- Charlie Weems will be inducted into the LA Political Hall of Fame this coming weekend.
- Menard High School has reached out to expand its relationship with LSUA. This is a great step.
- Thank you for your hard work.
- The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Elizabeth Beard

- Several Academic Affairs representatives will represent LSUA at the Board of Regents Meauxmentum Higher Education Summit tomorrow and Thursday (April 2-3) in Lafayette. Our team will focus on the track for "catapult course milestone" to shore up courses with high failure rates that impact students' overall retention and success. The identified courses at LSUA are ENGL 1001, ENGL 1002, MATH 1021, BIOL 1161, and CMST 1061. The Regents will provide \$100,000 to each university as an implementation grant to do the work outlined in the Meauxmentum project.

- Leadership Cenla kicked off Thursday evening with a "meet and greet" at the Diamond Grill, with welcoming remarks from Chamber President Deborah Randolph, Alexandria Mayor Jacques Roy, and Chancellor Paul Coreil. The first institute day included fieldtrips and leadership presentations from executives at the England Authority and the Port Authority.
- Brandy Hearnberger, Coordinator of Sponsored Programs, is in the process of submitting federal community project grants to our senators and representatives. The grant proposal this year focuses on renovation and upgrades to the Bolton Library.
- The Student Honors Convocation program is next Tuesday, April 8, at 5:30 p.m. in the ballroom. Thanks to LaMona Wallace and the excellent committee for organizing this event to celebrate student excellence.

Dr. Abbey Bain

- We are hosting a Food Pantry Drive. This is part of our commitment to being a hunger-free campus and having that designation by the state. Please take the time to check your email and purchase from the Amazon list, or feel free to bring other items to Student Engagement. Thank you!
- Year-to-year enrollment is looking really strong, about 20% up year to year. It is still early for predictions, but that is a good sign. In total, we have almost 2,000 students registered! Online is up significantly, with 1,160 students registered, and on campus, we have 716 students registered.
- Retention of FTF is also really strong, with 32% registered. On the first day registration opened for freshmen, 20% of them registered. That is by far the highest percentage we've ever had register on the first day.
- Reminder that orientation registration opened today. Freshman Orientation dates are June 27, July 25, and August 22. We are also adding a new transfer student orientation on August 21st.
- Housing application is open and continues to look good for fall occupancy. We have 243 applications and 196 contracts already signed.
- Ms. LSUA is this Saturday, and Generals Jam is coming up next week on August 10. The deadline to purchase your crawfish tickets is Friday. There will not be any tickets sold at the door.
- Next Friday, April 11, we will have our first Admitted Student Day program, which is maxed out with 84 students registered. The second date will be May 2.
- We had a great Mulder Scholarship Competition last Saturday. We had 21 amazing participants, and I am really looking forward to the freshman class coming in.
- Menard has reached out to LSUA to expand a partnership. We're looking at participating in a leadership program with their high-achieving juniors/seniors and expanding recruitment efforts there, including a big signing day for four seniors who plan to attend LSUA in the fall. We are excited about what is to come from this partnership!

Deron Thaxton

- Drainage phase 3 project – turnouts on Gary Tisdale are complete. All of the culvert replacements on Gary Tisdale and Jerry Myrick are complete. The rain has slowed down the widening and compaction on Tom Bowman's south side. Greg Marshall was overlaid, however, there are issues there that will have to be fixed. Both Robert and Brandon are aware.
- One of the next big steps in this project is to replace the culvert on Acorn Drive between parking lot seven and the water tower. For that, we're going to have to close the road for a day and repair that waterline while we open. There needs to be a permanent fix. This will require a few hours of water outage to the cafeteria. Tentatively, we are looking at Thursday and Friday of next week.
- Student success building – everything is going as expected there. Nothing to report that you are not already aware of.
- Tower Project – There was an issue with some steel early on that was causing some of the problems. However, that project is moving more slowly than expected. This week, they should begin priming the steel after the steel action is complete, and masonry should begin next week.
- Parking lot seven – complete except for a few punch-list items.
- Bottom Up Evaluations — remind all of your employees to take the time to submit.
- Chartwells' potential for renovations to the cafeteria
- Edge Project — fully approved — announcement pending
- Tuition increases are in effect for both high-cost as well as online programs.
- Enrollment Increase

Dr. Eamon Halpin

- I've begun work on the Academic Plan that we have to submit to the Board of Regents in June. It will include the names of the degree programs that we intend to develop and seek approval for in AY 2025-2026 and an initial justification for the development of each program (e.g., student interest, workforce demand, enrollment and completion numbers for existing curricula). One of the programs we will propose is a BS in Aviation (with two tracks, Professional Aviation and Aviation Management). If the academic plan is approved, we will develop and submit a full program proposal for approval by the LSU Board of Supervisors and by the Regents. The new degree will, if approved, replace the current BGS aviation concentrations.
- When a new program is approved, progress reports have to be submitted to the Board of Regents until the program is deemed to be viable. For STEM programs, viability means graduating at least eight students each academic year (fall, spring, summer). Our current Aviation program will, I think, have already reached this threshold by Christmas. We have two students graduating in the Spring: Brett Chelette and Joey Williams; three in Summer:

Nathan Blackwell, Turner Horn, and Julien Kliebert; and three in the Fall: Melody Gros, Mattilla Wiley, and Jacob Driver. Before the new degree has even been developed and approved, we are meeting the Regents' program completion threshold.

- Shari Drerup, Bill Blackburn, and I, along with Dr Coreil, participated in a Zoom call with the FAA staff who will be reviewing our application to be designated as a Part 141 ground school, the prerequisite for being awarded the ability to award the ATP restriction to program students. The meeting went well; we were briefed on the process and invited to a second Zoom meeting this Thursday.
- The Flying Generals, the student organization for aviation students, are hosting a Meet and Greet in the ballroom on Wednesday, April 9, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. All current and interested students are invited. Austin Mitchell, the new president of the Flying Generals, is coordinating the event.
- Brittany Soden and Trevor Ewing have admitted four new students to the SPERO program for Fall 2025, bringing the total number of program students to 16. Space will really be tight in Avoyelles with the program at full capacity. Even now with twelve students, it's a challenge. Any ideas/proposals for increasing available space would be very welcome. A few years ago, Brittany was appointed to the Board of Regent's Advisory Council for student with intellectual disabilities. She is now the longest serving program director as the three of the original four directors have retired. Now the new directors look to Brittany for support and guidance. Tristan Denley, the Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Innovation at the Regents, has a very good working relationship with Brittany.

Melinda Anderson

- Monday, April 7, we will be in Baton Rouge for the Senate Finance Committee for Higher Ed.
- Wednesday, April 9, we will be in Baton Rouge for the House Appropriations Committee for Higher Ed.
- Legislative session opens on April 14.
- Monday, April 14, we will be in Baton Rouge for the BRAC Welcome Home reception for the Legislators.
- April 16, we will be in Baton Rouge for the Governor's Prayer Breakfast.
- April 22-24, we will be in Baton Rouge for the Central LA Day, LSU Day, and Board of Supervisors meetings.
- April 24 – attending the Bolton High School Hall of Fame dinner.
- April 28 – I will be attending the first LSU “Upon Adjournment” reception
- LSUA Hall of Distinction – May 1 @5:30pm
- Thanks to all of you who have sent your meeting minutes to me. Much appreciated. Please send them to me by next Wednesday.

Adam Lord

- New Generals Briefing magazine is out, copies are around campus, and it will be sent out campus-wide.
- Updates on the new website.
- Kashie Natt was announced as the NAIA national basketball player of the year yesterday.

Tyler Unsicker

- No report submitted.

Shelly Gill

- No report submitted.

Bobi Delaney

- No report submitted.

Chad Gauthier

- No report submitted.

Charlie Dupont

- No report submitted.

Connie Cooper

- Meeting with departments and making sure that they are aware of compliance updates and recommendations on how to make the shift.

Jason Normand

- Attended a Workday onsite visit at LSUS
- At the onsite, we had data conversion validation sessions and integration testing.

Dr. Cynthia Thomas

- The Faculty expressed concern about the timing of Bottoms Up evaluations. Deans and directors have the faculty plans in hand when faculty are asked to provide an evaluation. The concern is about retaliation.
- The Faculty Senate is in the process of drafting the AI policy for the campus. It is expected that this policy will be updated yearly due to how swiftly AI changes.

Dr. Susan Bowers

- CTE – AI workshops continue April 11th and April 25th, starting at 11:00 am
- Career Champions – Had a great visit to Crest Industries and are getting ready for the community partnership dinner on April 10th.
- Shout out to DJ (David Saucier) at the Technovation Center. Helping numerous faculty members with class projects or research.

Dr. Julie Gill

- No report submitted.

Respectfully submitted by Melinda Anderson

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