



MINUTES

LSUA Chancellor Cabinet

4/8/2021 3:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

In Attendance

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

Guests: Melissa LaBorde, Kevin Vercher, Jerri Weston

Chancellor Coreil called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Chancellor's Updates:

- There will be a Rural Broadband Taskforce meeting this afternoon at the Live Oaks Conference Room. Senator Gerald Long has been appointed by US Senator Cassidy to develop rural broadband initiatives across the central part of Louisiana. I have been asked to attend and will report what I find out.
- Congratulations to Destiny Harrison, an LSUA junior chemistry major, for being awarded the continuing student Mulder Scholarship. The first-time freshmen award winner will be notified next week at their high school and I will be in attendance along with the Foundation and several other campus staff.
- A lot of my time right now is focused on the legislature which goes into session on Monday. We have two big initiatives including aviation fees for which the bill has been written and filed. It's coauthored by Senator Jay Luneau and Representative Lance Harris. The other big initiative regards the \$5 million match for the LSUA Student Success Center. The Foundation has committed the 50% match and we are very hopeful and optimistic that the legislature will be supportive.
- The funding proposal that Melinda is writing regarding the Epps House for representative Daryl Deshotel is in hopes that there will be opportunities for one-time programming and equipment funding from state appropriations. More dedicated recovery funding will be available due to CARES Act dollars available for tourism development and support.
- The market study being called the "Campus Edge Project" has been initiated that will examine the potential for success in developing the corner at U.S. 71 and the Marksville highway. We are very excited about the big impact this project could have for our campus and community in terms of student recruitment, retention and community development.
- I have to emphasize how big of an accomplishment it is that the Alexandria City Council unanimously voted in favor of helping to fund \$180K in support of the demolition of the old health department building on Desoto Street located next to our existing Allied Health teaching and lab facility located in downtown Alexandria. We are excited along with the city about the future development of our Allied Health programs with this show of support.

After demolition, the next step will be the design and construction of a new building that will provide the additional space needed for growing programs in Allied Health.

- The LSU Board of Supervisors is meeting this Saturday, April 10th and I will be in attendance. It is not common for the board to meet on a Saturday. We have some important items on the agenda including the Capital Outlay Project covering the matching state funds for the Student Success Center and a couple of other items that are academic in nature related to our Computer Science Degree and a name change for our degree in World Religions.
- Thanks to Daniel Manuel for getting a report ready for the Board of Regents that primarily dealt with Title IX and sexual harassment. This request came from the LSU System to all regional universities. The situations unfolding with LSU has not directly impacted our campus, but is likely to indirectly impact higher education overall as the legislative session unfolds.
- Spoke with Chief Collins earlier this week and he is doing tremendously better and hopes to be back with us on campus possibly early next week. He appreciates the prayers, thoughts and support.
- Our next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st.

Reports

John Rowan

- Thanks to Deron and Dr. Bain for helping with some academic affairs initiatives including a walkthrough of the library to help us identify some space for CTE and CORE. We want the library to be even more of a hub of activity and contribute to the vibrancy of the campus.
- The spring drama production of Bard's Bounty was prerecorded and has been released. I was very impressed with how it turned out. Bob Harper and the students did a fantastic job and I encourage everyone to watch it.
- Almost all leadership positions have been identified and filled for the new structure of colleges and departments. I hope to send out a university wide email by the end of today to update everyone. The new structure goes into effect on July 1st.
- Scholar Day will be on Thursday, April 22nd. We have over 100 student research proposals for poster sessions and verbal presentations. This event is coordinated by Sandra Gilliland. I encourage everyone on campus to participate and to come see our students' excellent work.

Eamon Halpin

- Contacted last week by a representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield about the proposal for funding for the SPERO program that I submitted a couple of months ago to get more details and we had a good conversation yesterday. One thing noted in the proposal was that the gap between revenue and student expenditures would decline over the course of the first four years of the program. The representative asked how we would fill the gap for years two and three which is a great sign that they are interested in helping.
- Working with John on a proposal for community project funding that has become available to us through our new congressional representative, Julia Letlow.

- Finished work on the SACSCOC prospectus for the proposed Professional Aviation program. I am just waiting on some data from the library regarding resources for the program courses.
- Been talking with Liz and Shelly about generating awareness for the aviation program and recruiting students.

Jerri Weston

- Registration numbers have been consistently down but we are beginning to close the gap for fall and we are currently at 1152 which is down by about 12% compared to this time last year as of today. On Monday, we were down 18% so we are seeing improvement quickly. Summer registration at this time last year was 1082 and we are currently at 1003 so we are only down by about 7%. There are quite a few students who have not registered for fall 2021, but many of them are waiting on advising appointments.
- Working on catalog updates.
- Working on the name list for the commencement program and talking to Liz about cover designs.
- Hoping to get information out to spring graduates regarding commencement by next week.
- Had a meeting with all of the LSU System Registrars and Admissions supervisors to discuss sharing information for LSU Online students. Richard Robinson has set up shared folders for us to share. There will be a formal agreement written regarding expectations and information that will be shared. We have a big meeting with LSU Online next week and we will begin formalizing everything. The Registrars and possibly Admissions supervisors will continue to have monthly meetings to ensure that everything is going smoothly.

Deron Thaxton

- Did a walkthrough at the library with John and Abbey to identify some potential areas to house the CTE and CORE programs as well as some new spaces for student seating, study areas, lounge areas, furniture upgrades, etc. to enhance the space. This is an exciting project that we will be discussing over the next several weeks.
- Shelly and I were on a call yesterday regarding the marketing study for the golf course corner. The study has kicked off and there will be many upcoming meetings for discussion.
- Cares dollars were dispersed to students PowerCampus accounts yesterday and refunds will be going out shortly. For students who chose to have their Cares dollars applied to their account, those funds have been applied. About \$100,000 was applied to account balances for students and this was an excellent benefit for the students and the university that we did not have with the first round of Cares dollars.
- Shout out and thank you to Dr. Coreil and Dr. Joiner for presenting our Allied Health demolition proposal to the Alexandria City Council on Tuesday. The voted unanimously to approve it and supply us with \$180,000 to demolish the Desoto Street building. The next steps include demolition in the next two to three months and then going into programming and working with Dr. Joiner and architects on how the new building can be designed to meet the needs of the downtown Allied Health program.
- The final two letters that we needed to conclude the environmental study for the Drainage Project have been received by the engineer and it is 100% complete and we are entering a 30-day public comment phase regarding digging in this area. We confirmed our

groundbreaking for the Drainage project yesterday that will take place on June 18th at 10:00am. The governor will be in attendance and Melinda will be sending out a save the date soon.

- The governor's proposed budget for higher ed is still intact with what was submitted and many legislators are in full support. We will know more later in the session and things are subject to change, but we are optimistic.
- House Bill 247 is a proposal to prohibit naming any public building or facility after a person. This could impact our Capital Campaign project for the Student Success Center as well as other facilities and buildings on our campus in the future.

Abbey Bain

- Registration is ongoing. Registrar Office continues to send reminders by email and text and advisors are doing the same.
- We are in the final round of interviews for our last advisor position
- Working closely with IET to update the advising assignments and making sure they're accurate
- Ms. LSUA is this Saturday, April 10
- Crawfish biol is back and will take place next Thursday the 15th
- Title IX consent workshops this month for students (April 15th and 28th at 2:00 in Mulder 232). Please encourage your students, especially student leaders, to attend. We know that students are more likely to share their experiences with peers so having them equipped and well-informed about reporting is essential.
- Housing applications for the fall are looking good compared to last year – we are seeing more continuing students apply and sign contracts which is a great sign of the positive culture on campus now.
- We will begin planning for WOW soon so please make sure to keep an eye out and send Haylee Malone any ideas for events/programs

Shelly Gill

- The current application report is trending positively compared to this time last year and previous years for fall.
- Dual enrollment registration begins next week and we expect to see an uptick in registration.
- Working hard to make sure that scholarships are posted to student accounts so that we can start the season of awards.
- Doing some staff shifting in our office. Asking everyone for patience with our department because we expect to move a little bit slower since we will be doing some new employee training.
- Met with the Rapides Parish School Board last week about the Fast Forward initiative and the possibility of offering associate degrees to rural schools. They are planning to bringing the principals and counselors of those schools here to our campus for a meeting soon.
- Thanks to Dr. Rowan for doing a great job with the ACT skills prep session with the city of Alexandria. About 32 students joined us by Zoom. We are planning a Ready Expo

with the city, CLTCC, and the Workforce Commission. We are meeting tomorrow to begin planning and the event will take place on April 22nd at 5:30pm at the City of Alexandria Youth Center.

- We have an open recruiter position in the office. Please let me know if any recent graduates or seniors who will be graduating in May that might be interested.
- Engage is ramping up. There has been a slight delay due to some of the campus closures that took place this year, but it will be up and going by the first of June.
- LSU SIS is also ramping up and they plan to have some demos of software available in May.
- Working on recruiting students into our STEM programs so that the STEM grants can be utilized.

Chancey Slider

- Working with the Rapides Parish Coliseum and our administration to finalize commencement plans. We hope to send information out to campus early next week.
- The Employee Recognition Dinner will take place next Tuesday on April 13th in the ballroom at 5:00pm. We are looking forward to a very special night. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of planning for the dinner including Laura Fowler, Strategic Communications, the Foundation, Academic Affairs, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Chartwells.

Melinda Anderson

- The CLECO check presentation for \$100,000 for the Fierce for LSUA Campaign took place last week. We are very excited about this and hope to continue to grow a beautiful relationship with CLECO.
- Two new full-ride tuition and fees scholarships have come to fruition from the Jung family. One is for Nursing and the other is for Arts, English, and Humanities.
- Alexandria City Council unanimously approved our request for funding for the demolition of the Desoto Street building downtown. Thank you to Spencer Martin for his diligence in working with the city of Alexandria in order to get their support.
- Working on plans for the Employee Recognition Dinner.
- Working on a property donation that will take place on April 20th.
- Had a great Zoom "Coffee with Coreil" meeting with the Executive Committee.
- We have covered a lot of ground with the Drainage Project groundbreaking to take place on June 18th at 10:00am.
- Working on some documentation to try to get some funding for work and future planning for the Epps House at the suggestion of Representative Deshotel.
- Working with Adam on the golf scramble taking place on April 20th.
- The next Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for May 18th.
- Working on budgets for the AMoA, GAA, and The Oaks.
- Today, the Mulder Scholar continuing student scholarship award was awarded to Destiny Harrison who is a spectacular student and works in the admissions office. She is going to be a great representative of LSUA and the Mulder Scholar program. Next week, we will award the incoming first-time freshman student at their high school.
- Thanks to Dr. Coreil for the time that he has spent in Baton Rouge and with the legislators to build positive relationships and connections for LSUA.

Haywood Joiner

- The Department of Allied Health continues to work with LSU Online to recruit certified military trained Medical Laboratory Technicians (MLTs) into the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science (BSMLS) online program. Several military trained Medical Laboratory Technicians have recently entered the BSMLS program. Military MLT's are initially trained, Phase I, at the Military Education Training Center (METC) located at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX, followed by Phase II training at military bases located throughout the United States. Information about the LSUA MLT to MLS program is being made available to Phase I student while stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, and to Phase II students at other training sites.
- LSU Online is exploring the development of a Bridge Program with METC. If approved, the LSU online programs will be promoted to service members and veterans. METC promotes Bridge Partners as follows:
 - Showcase the logos of partners on the METC public website accessible to over 160,000 alumni and others.
 - Brief all new incoming instructors and staff about bridge partners.
 - Link information about partners' degree programs to each specific METC program of instruction on METC website.
 - Regularly update the METC Commandant, Dean, Associate Deans, and program leaders about the degree bridge programs.
 - Send post-graduation surveys to all graduates approximately 6 months after starting their careers and therein reminds them about the degree bridge pathways with a link that takes them back to the METC website where partners' websites are directly linked.
- The establishment of the LSU Online METC Partnership will hopefully be very beneficial to future enrollment in LSUA 100% online programs

Adam Jonson

- Currently at a women's soccer conference tournament match in Texarkana. The women just lost a match to LSUS. The men play next and we are hoping that they win and can move onto the championship tomorrow.
- We have a one club golf tournament coming up on April 20th. We have several individuals registered already.
- Kolby and I went to Marksville yesterday and met with the Paragon Casino and the Tamahka Trails Golf Course to discuss holding doing some events on June 11th and 12th. Working out the details and will send out more information soon.
- Considering plans for the upcoming community clean up event in Alexandria to get our campus to be a part of a good community service effort.

Melissa LaBorde

- Shout out to David Shanks and Bob Harper for doing an excellent job with the Bard's Bounty recording.

- Shout out to Tanya Lueder for her involvement with the state robotics competition coming up next week and some of the great connections and partnerships that she has developed on behalf of LSUA.
- No updates other than those already submitted regarding the academic calendar for Jerri.
- Will be glad to help get the word out about the campus phases for the Drainage Project after the groundbreaking.
- There was mention at a recent meeting that some quick curriculum changes have to be made to the Allied Health program. The CandC committee is committed to meet again and the Faculty Senate can meet again if there is anything that needs to be done quickly.

Elizabeth Jonson

- We have three digital campaigns going on right now including nursing and overall brand campaigns for enrollment and first-time freshmen. So far, they seem to be performing fairly well.
- Had a good meeting yesterday with the marketing team at Crest Industries regarding the upcoming state robotics competition that they are helping to sponsor. Excited about this partnership and cobranding.
- Excited about our exposure for the Economic Dashboard on the cover and the STEM grant story inside of the most recent edition of the Cenla Focus Magazine. Chase did an excellent job developing the graphics. Everything exceeded my expectations so hands down to Will Harp and everyone at the Cenla Focus. KALB has picked up the story and they interviewed Dr. Dupont and Blake Chatelain. We expect that to be aired today.
- Working with Dr. Dupont on the SOWELA signing that will take place in Oakdale by the end of May or beginning of June.
- The launchpad graduation will take place at the beginning of May. The Mayor should be here so we plan to get some good media coverage.
- Leadership Cenla is coming up. Dr. Dupont and Evelyn Jones are speaking at Rotary on Tuesday and we plan to have flyers to pass out there.
- A PROWL luncheon will take place on campus on Friday.
- Jessica Thacker's class has done a phenomenal job on the social media campaign. Their work speaks volumes about the potential that can be tapped from our students through communications courses. We have asked the class to also help with Scholar Day. Kudos to Jessica and her students for doing such great work on behalf of LSUA!
- Excited about the work that our Media Team is doing. One member is going to cover the robotics tournament in Houston and another will be going to Arkansas with Dr. Corbat's group of biology students. It's great and refreshing to have an entire team pulling together to accomplish major goals.

Kevin Vercher

- Working with Deron regarding updates and renovations at the library. We will meet with the architect next Wednesday at 11:00am to kick off the initial design phase.
- With weather events, like the rain that we got last night, there are some continuing roof leaks and drainage issues that we are dealing with and working on insurance claims for.
- Keeping up with normal day-to-day activities and doing some painting, beautification and upkeep around campus.

- We have a request to hire out for a custodian and a ground crew person. We hope to have these positions filled so that employees can start working in the next couple of weeks.

Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 21st.
