



# MINUTES

## LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

7/28/2021 9:30 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

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### In Attendance

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Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. Abbey Bain, Deron Thaxton, Dr. Haywood Joiner, Melinda Anderson, Connie Copper, Chad Gauthier, Shelly Gill, Melissa LaBorde, Nathaniel Parish, Chancey Slider, Kevin Vercher, Jerri Weston

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### Chancellor Coreil called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM

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#### Chancellor's Updates:

- We have been meeting as a Cabinet combined with the COVID-19 Task Force for over a year and we recently decided to make some changes to the structure of the Cabinet. We want to welcome Connie Cooper who will be officially joining Chancellor's Cabinet starting in August. In addition to this change, some members of the Cabinet will be stepping down and I want to sincerely thank them for their service, dedication, and commitment to the Cabinet as well as for the significant contributions that they have made during their membership. Dr. Haywood Joiner and Jerri Weston will no longer serve on the Cabinet, and we will be electing two faculty members to serve on the Cabinet in the near future. The Board of Supervisors By-laws require that we have three elected faculty representatives on cabinet so we plan to have the elected Faculty Senate President, Missy LaBorde, and two soon to be elected faculty members serve on the Cabinet. We surely want our Cabinet to represent all areas of campus appropriately. These changes will be effective in August for the fall semester.
- Compliments to everyone for making the President's visit last week a great success. Chase and Nathan did an excellent job of getting outstanding coverage of all activities during the visit. Nathan also produced a short video that has been getting a lot of attention on social media. President Tate tweeted it and it is getting a lot of views from people all over the world. Strat Comm did a great job capturing the positive highlights and sharing them through this outstanding video and other communications venues. Also, thanks to Kevin and Facility Services for working hard to make campus look beautiful for the visit. I also want to thank Chief Collins for providing excellent security for the President during his entire visit. Our entire campus community made a very positive impression and for that, I would like to thank everyone!
- Nathan, Chad, Michelle and I are working on producing a video to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations for faculty, staff and students. Thanks to everyone who working on the vaccination incentive program that will be announced soon.
- Will be putting out a memo before the end of the week regarding COVID-19 plans. Our priority is to keep campus safe and open for our students. We are asking everyone to be alert, safe and patient as we move forward.

- Encouraging everyone to spread the word and participate in the upcoming GAA fundraiser, Shrimp Jam. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for our athletic program and we are looking to a wonderful event on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- I and some members from campus administration will be attending a meeting in Baton Rouge hosted by the Board of Regents regarding new Title IX laws and requirements for university campuses on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The next Cabinet meeting is scheduled to take place at 9:30 am on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

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## Reports

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### Chad Gauthier

- COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are surging throughout the country and Louisiana. We had no cases at the last Cabinet meeting, but in the last two weeks we are up to about 10 cases across campus. Today, we are meeting with LSU officials and their COVID-19 team of advisors regarding system protocol. They will share their ideas for the direction moving forward for our system.
- Working on the final stages of a vaccination incentive program for students, faculty and staff. We hope to get information out on this program later this week.

### Abbey Bain

- Working with Strategic Communications, Risk Management, and the Health Center on a COVID-19 vaccination incentive program for our campus. The program campaign name is VaxThatA and we are encouraging all members of campus to get vaccinated. We will be giving away some great prizes, such as iPads and Mac computers. We are also working on a survey to help us identify how much of our campus population has been vaccinated. Vaccinations will begin to be offered at our Health Center again at the end of this week or beginning of this week and are free to all members of campus and the community.
- The Health Center is getting a lot of usage and we are encouraging appointments instead of walk-ins.
- Daniel and IET are working with the Registrar to create a preferred name change form.
- Working hard on planning for the Weeks of Welcome. Move-In day is on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. The volunteer sign-up sheet went out to faculty and staff. Please encourage employees in your areas to participate, even if just an hour. This is a great opportunity to welcome and get to know our students.
- Our first orientation is next Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> and we are full with 165 students registered. Ethan is training ambassadors for orientation. Please pitch in and help in any way that you can.
- Overall, enrollment is looking good for fall, but we expect to be down in on-campus enrollment numbers. We are requesting more data from IET and our advisors are texting and communicating with students to offer support and encourage registration.

### Deron Thaxton

- Closed out the year early last week with a \$1.3 million surplus. We covered many accounts that had outstanding debt including \$265,000 towards athletics and complete coverage for the Childcare Center, Continuing Education and golf course debts, as well as some coverage for a few other areas. We also put about \$353,000 back into the student tech fee and about \$300,000 into an account that will roll forward. We closed out the year in great shape financially and are in good shape as we go into the next fiscal year. This will provide some slight cushion considering the unforeseen obstacles of uncertainty with COVID-19.
- Fall enrollment on campus has dropped down from where we expected it to be a couple of weeks ago. We are not sure what the reason is, but we were trending pretty flat and have continued to see a downturn over the last two weeks by about 3% down. This may be related to Covid-19. Overall enrollment is still trending to be up by 8-11% which is majority online. First-time-freshman enrollment is still up.
- We are using cares dollars to discharge debt for students who were enrolled March 13<sup>th</sup> through the end of December that covers last spring, summer and fall. We are claiming these debts as lost revenue. This will help students to re-enroll and continue with their course work. We are working on the process now to have it done. We cannot use it as an incentive to get students to enroll so we cannot communicate that we can remove debt from those semesters for students if they re-enroll. We will communicate that their debts have been covered and then follow up with a separate message to students that do not immediately enroll to remind and encourage them to enroll.
- Next year's budget is almost finalized. We will be sending out budget unit information within the next few weeks.
- Work for the Drainage Project is taking place at the back of campus near the Dean Lee Research Center.
- We met with architects yesterday regarding the Library project. The designs that they brought to us show substantial changes and we will be working to finalize the plans to make it a more vibrant place on campus.
- Everything has been submitted to begin the process for architect selection in the fall for the Student Success Center.
- The process to request the demolition of the downtown building has begun. A small group is meeting tomorrow to discuss the programming for a new building to be built there.

### Kevin Vercher

- The Drainage Project is in full swing at the back of campus as Deron mentioned. The back of campus may be a bit congested, so please avoid that area if possible.
- We installed a portion of the automatic soap and sanitizer dispensers on campus and will complete this project sometime next week.
- We are about to bid the plumbing project to automate all restroom features across campus including toilets, faucets, urinals, etc. Water fountains are also included in this project.
- Continuing to paint the third floor of Mulder. The carpet will be here on Friday and the installation is scheduled to start next Friday or Monday.

- Several other projects are bidding right now including a new roof for the Student Center, a covered crosswalk from the backside of Coughlin Hall to Chambers Hall, and a painting project at Oakland Hall.
- Looking forward to the start of the semester.

### Shelly Gill

- We submitted all of the requested documentation for the Board of Regent's audit. They are primarily looking to see that we correctly reported information for Fall 2020.
- Conducting staff training for REACH this week. This will be an ongoing task throughout the fall.
- Dual enrollment is ramping up and we expect to see many more applications come in as school is starting soon.
- We are working to eliminate paper in our office, so please be patient with the transition.
- We are very concerned about in-person events and the impacts of COVID-19. We are planning many events and working on calendars with hopes of getting on the road for recruitment opportunities, but we are wondering how things may change since we are seeing a spike. We will be getting guidance from Chad regarding travel procedures and protocol.
- Pushing through with applications and working to complete as many as we can. Daily admit lists have been being sent out to colleges and departments.
- Working with Strategic Communications on a video shoot that will take place next Tuesday. A videographer will be coming out to help us update our explore website.

### Melinda Anderson

- Working on plans for Shrimp Jam and looking forward to a great event. We have been sending out flyers and encouraging participation. As of this morning, we have 15 table sponsors already. The tickets are in and we will begin mailing them out next week. This event is being made possible thanks to the Lieutenant Governor's Office whose partnership with the Louisiana Seafood Promotion Board is appreciated for providing the shrimp to the caterer. We also want to send special thanks to the caterer, John Ed Laborde and Panaroma Catering, for providing the meal and some complimentary beverages to help us fundraise.
- Working on some scholarship items to be sure everything is in line.
- Thanks to everyone who has congratulated me on the new transition to Chief of Staff. I am looking forward to working closely with Dr. Coreil and many of you.
- We sent an official letter requesting \$180,000 in support from the city of Alexandria for funding of the demolition of the downtown building.

### Haywood Joiner

- As stated in our last Chancellor's Cabinet meeting plans have been approved at all levels for the renovation of the Allied Health Education Building to house the LSUE Surgical Technology program. Renovations should begin within the next two weeks and will initially include removal of the existing cubicles, removal of existing tile flooring and reinforcement of the ceiling to support the new surgical light fixtures. Paint has been selected for the surgical suite walls and tile has been selected for the floor. The project should take approximately six-weeks from start to completion.

- Chancellor Coreil and I will visit the LSUHSC New Orleans on August 3, 2021 for a meeting with Dr. Robert Laughlin, Dean and JR Peltier Chairman for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry, and Chancellor Larry Hollier, LSU Health New Orleans, to discuss progress on plans to locate a satellite of the LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry Dental Hygiene program in Alexandria. We are hopeful that we will have the program established in Alexandria no later than fall 2022.

### Jerri Weston

- The preferred name form is on our website and we are prepared to begin receiving requests.
- I sent Abbey a list of about 80 students who have classes in their carts, but have not registered for classes yet. She is sending them texts and communications to encourage registration.
- 360 authorized seniors do not have holds on their accounts and are not registered yet. We will be sending emails to them today to encourage them to get registered.
- Many students registered for fall on-campus courses are now requesting online courses.
- Summer grades are due next week.
- Please be patient with our office since some are working from home and out of office this week and next.

### Nathaniel Parish

- President Tate's visit went very well on Friday and we got a lot of good coverage.
- We have some news releases in cue for this week and next week.
- Chase is working on several projects right now. Some of his biggest priorities are Mulder renovations, website updates, and college logos.
- We are working on VaxThatA masks, shirts, and social content for the campaign. We will be shooting the video today as a kick off on social media.
- LSUA has several submissions in the Chamber Bizzy awards. We will send more information to administration soon and begin working on getting votes.

### Donald Collins

- Asks for help from the Cabinet to relay the message to faculty and staff that Drainage Project construction on campus will bring some visitors to observe the changes and it is important to alert UPD if something looks or seems out of place once campus.
- Campus is safe and secure.

### Chancey Slider

- Working on plans for Fall Convocation on August 20<sup>th</sup> and the return week.

### Connie Cooper

- The LSU system now has a CDO Leadership Team that I am a part of. We will begin face-to-face meetings (depending on COVID-19 protocol) soon. LSUA is scheduled to host the first meeting on our campus on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Initial priorities include developing a travel training series and creating a shared electronic resource system.

- I have started having Campus Conversations with different offices and department on campus regarding DEI. I recently met with the admissions team to provide them with DEI tools that they can use relative to admissions and their recruiting efforts. It went very well. I look forward to having more Campus Conversations with other areas of campus as we begin to work on our campus climate and culture.
- Working with Nathan to develop a video that we hope to be ready in time for orientation. The video will introduce my office and myself to campus so that students know that we are here to offer support and know how to reach me.
- Two top priorities for the Office of DEI right now are to reimagine the advisory committee for DEI so that we can begin to dig deeper and to refine an assessment tool so that we can begin assessments by the third week of August. The information obtained by the assessment will help us to begin building our roadmap that we hope to have a draft of by October.

Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider

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The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

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