



# MINUTES

## LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

08/11/2021 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, Melinda Anderson, Bob Austin, Donald Collins, Connie Cooper, Chad Gauthier, Eamon Halpin, Shelly Gill, Missy LaBorde, Nathaniel Parish, Kevin Vercher, Chancey Slider

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### Chancellor Coreil called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

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#### **Chancellor's Updates:**

- COVID-19 is surging in our state and community once again as reported by Gauthier. Vaccination rates are also going up. We have an incentive program beginning to encourage vaccinations for students, faculty, and staff. Once FDA fully approves the vaccines, they will be required on campus. We are administering vaccines on campus at the Health Center as well as COVID-19 testing. The Health Center is open five days a week and we are encouraging appointments. We are doing everything that we can to keep our campus fully open while keeping our students, faculty and staff safe. Masks will be required in all indoor areas of campus including classrooms for the fall semester. Sanitizer stations, wipes and masks will be made available to everyone. As of now, on-campus classes will not be offered in HyFlex or remote form. Faculty will work to ensure that students who miss class for legitimate reasons can make up work or be offered recordings of class sessions.
- Performance evaluations are due by August 20<sup>th</sup> and we want to remind everyone that this deadline must be met.
- Please volunteer to help with **Move-In Day** to welcome our new students at The Oaks.
- I, along with several members of administration and campus, will be attending a meeting hosted by the Board of Regents next Wednesday regarding Title IX. Title IX compliance is a very important priority to us and we plan to learn as much as we can to be sure that we are following all protocol and procedures to keep our campus and students safe and protected.
- The Red River Athletic Association Executive Director has been connecting with our new Athletic Director, Tyler Unsicker, and we are very excited about him coming on board next month.
- We are looking at plans for our Tank mascot auditions moving forward quickly since the last person who held the position graduated and we need to find a replacement.
- A draft of the updated organizational chart was sent to Cabinet members yesterday and the Cabinet had a brief discussion about some clerical and grammatical changes that need to be made before it is finalized. The final updated org chart should be finalized and published on our website before the start of fall classes.
- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 25 at 1 p.m.

### **Deron Thaxton**

- The upcoming year's budget is due this Friday and we are working to get them complete. We met with the Dean's last week and shared their departmental budgets with them. All other non-academic budgets will go out to department heads and directors over the next few days. We are working on finalizing raises for salary increases this year that will be effective August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- As Dr. Coreil mentioned, we did receive \$180,000 from the city of Alexandria. We appreciate their support with this project.
- Performance evaluations are due on August 31<sup>st</sup>. I ask that all supervisors please get them submitted timely and as soon as possible.
- The third disbursement of Cares dollars will go out near the end of September or early October. This is the highest amount to go out yet. There will be an \$800-1000 base level for fulltime students and up to an additional \$1000-1200 for students who have Pell grants. Part-time students will have a base level of \$500.
- We are looking at discharging outstanding debt for students enrolled March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and forward using institutional Cares dollars.

### **Kevin Vercher**

- The Drainage Project is causing some road closures on campus. Culverts are being put in and we are relocating some utilities. I expect them to be in the area of Abrams in about 6-8 weeks. We will be communicating all arrangements for parking and road closures.
- The Desoto Street demolition architect is putting together drawings. The asbestos abatement will begin once the documents are completed and final pricing in.
- The carpet replacement in Mulder should be completed this week.
- A new roof is going up at Avoyelles Hall and the police station roof is being looked at today.
- We have a number of COVID-19 related projects that are about to be out to bid including the plumbing project for touchless fountains and restroom fixtures. The automated soap and sanitizer dispenser project should be complete by next week. We are also working on having some UV air purification devices installed in some of the larger meeting rooms and in the air-conditioned spaces around campus. We are also working on a project to place Hepa filters units in classrooms
- The multipurpose building is under architectural selection that will be located near the baseball field and golf course.
- I submitted our capital outlay plan for the next five years. The student Success Center is at the top of the list. The project should begin in the fall.
- Country Day University Academy work has been completed.
- Robert Miles has accepted the position of custodial supervisor. We are excited to have him in the position and ask that you congratulate him if you see him.

### **Abbey Bain**

- Thanks to everyone who helped with our first fall orientation last Friday. Our second orientation will take place next Friday and the third will be on August 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Encouraging faculty and staff to volunteer to help with Move-In Day. Please communicate with us if there are any questions regarding residential life and Move-In Day.
- We are working on making some adjustments to housing fees for next year. As of now, students pay a \$250 deposit and an application fee. We find students struggle to pay the deposit so we are looking at other models to transition to nonrefundable application and room reservation fees of lesser amounts.
- Housing is currently at 90% occupancy which is a huge jump from where we were two years ago. Thanks to Micheal and the residential life staff for helping to change the culture.
- Quarantine rooms will be made available at The Oaks for the fall.
- I will be attending a large Title IX training in Baton Rouge with the Board of Regents next week with several members of campus including Dr. Coreil, Daniel Manuel, Bob Austin, Chad Gauthier and a few others.
- Working with advising and admissions on reaching out to students. Overall enrollment is still trending upward, but we are seeing a decline with on-campus students. We plan to continue to work on enrollment goals and hope to have an Enrollment Taskforce retreat this fall.
- Some advisors will not be taking appointments in order to accommodate walk-ins for next week and the first week of classes.
- A new position has been posted to help with our intramural programming and wellness. This person will be housed at The Oaks and part of their duties will include dealing with emergency response after hours.
- Weeks of Welcome kicks off on August 16<sup>th</sup> and we have many fun, exciting things planned for those two weeks. Move-In Day is on August 16<sup>th</sup> and we appreciate everyone who is coming out to help.
- We are still working with Deran Schilling on the advising dashboard and hope to have it going in the next week with some training taking place with our deans soon.

### Shelly Gill

- We are very focused on Reach implementation right now. It is going live on August 30<sup>th</sup> and we will have a consultant on site for the first week of roll out.
- Working heavily on dual enrollment registration.
- Reaching out to on campus first-time freshmen who have been admitted, but do not have a schedule to encourage advising.
- Still planning to host the articulation workshop for high school counselors on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Typically, about 80 RSVP for this event, but only 24 have so far. We are anticipating that this event will be much smaller than in the past.
- We are beginning to get changes to the high school recruitment calendar. Some are being cancelled and some are being changed to virtual.
- Recruiting for 2022 begins next week.
- We will be going to Hammond, Eunice, and New Orleans next week for articulation workshops. We will then be going to Grambling, Monroe, and hosting a workshop here the following week.
- We are leaving the fall application open for online and on-campus students for those who would like to enroll for second session.

- Met with Frank from LSU One Dual Enrollment yesterday and we are working on putting a list of courses together that LSUA would be willing to offer. This would be an opportunity to have LSUA courses advertised statewide as part of an LSU Academy where students can get an associate degree through dual enrollment. LSUE is doing the same thing. We will know which colleges will offer which courses after everything is reviewed.
- Abbey, Deron and I are continuing to meet with the Rapides Foundation and Career Compass regarding a Beyond Graduation program that targets students between the ages of 16-24 who graduated from high school, but are not in school or employed.
- Thanks to SLT for allowing us to advertise and hire a dual enrollment coordinator.

### Eamon Halpin

- Completed a grant application for additional funding for the SPERO program. The application will go to the Central Louisiana Community Fund as part of their community impact award and the award maximum is \$50,000. I will be sending it to Dr. Coreil and SLT for their review and approval soon. If the grant is approved, we will have raised a total of about \$225,000 for the program.
- The Governor's Office hosted a virtual conference regarding disability affairs in July that I participated in. They had a special panel that I was invited to be on regarding programs for students with developmental disabilities. I was able to meet and connect with all of the directors for other programs like SPERO in the state and I learned a lot.
- Shari Drerup, our aviation course instructor, is located in Mulder 353. She has been busy assisting students who are interested in the program and students who have been admitted into the first course while I was away the last couple of weeks. We have 12 students enrolled in the first course and we are continuing to see students who are interested in the program. Shari and I will be meeting with Raja from Acadian Aviation next week.
- Jerri and I have been working on Curriculum.

### Connie Cooper

- Working on redesigning the diversity, equity and inclusion advisory council. The new name will be the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership Team. Dr. Coreil, Dr. Rowan and I will be looking at the campus demographics to select the team.
- The next thing that we will begin working on is fine tuning the assessment in hopes of launching the week of August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- We also plan to create a DEI advisory council comprised of external individuals to help us with our mission and goals.
- We have an LSU CDO Leadership Team within the LSU System and we are slated to meet on August 12<sup>th</sup>. After the meeting, I plan to provide the Cabinet with an update regarding trends in DEI and what we will be focused on as a system.
- I have been considering the creation of a reporting tool for bias and suspected bias on campus. We have "Tell Coreil" and "Let Row Know", but we are thinking about other ways of reporting and tools that we can develop.
- I have had two more successful campus conversations with the deans and the residential assistants. It's been phenomenal to visit and talk about our campus culture and ways that we

can work together to improve our campus. I will be having another conversation with the department chairs this afternoon.

- Thinking about ways that we can utilize the different screens on campus to spread the message of diversity and inclusivity.
- Working on becoming an institutional member of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) which will give us access to a lot of resources, current trends, and information regarding national DEI work.

### **Chad Gauthier**

- Yesterday, the LDH posted another record update regarding Louisiana COVID-19 related hospitalizations. Hospitals are now posting data regarding their individual institutions. Rapides Regional Medical Center recently posted that they currently have 59 hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and only five of those were vaccinated individuals. It looks like the data points strongly to a vaccination preventing hospitalizations and death. We will continue to push for members of campus to get vaccinated. The vaccination incentive program has launched. Abbey and Michelle have gotten some coverage on KALB and we are working hard to show how proactive and preventative we are trying to be.
- Tropical Storm Fred is expected to make landfall east of us as of now, but we will continue to keep a close eye on it.
- Planning to meet with Abbey, Ethan, and Shelly soon regarding the Rave Guardian app. Rave Guardian is an emergency app that can be put in the palms of hands of anyone with a smart device. I have been working with Chief Collins and Richie from IET to implement the system and hope to have it completely set up soon.
- Continuously meeting with LSU regarding COVID-19 protocol and procedures.
- The daily symptom checker should start to be sent out again next week. Our goal is to utilize it to for members of campus to check in if they are not feeling well and to report COVID-19 cases and exposures. It is not required to be completed everyday as of now. We have gotten about 6-7 positive cases on campus. I ask everyone to wear masks, stay safe, and consider getting vaccinated if you have not already.

### **Melinda Anderson**

- Working on planning for Shrimp Jam. As of now, we have about 21 corporate table sponsors and about 38 individual tickets which secures a raised amount of about \$46,850. We are looking forward to a great event and raising funds for our athletic program through GAA. For those who are interested in purchasing tickets, they can be purchased online.
- Meeting with some of our donors this week regarding our Student Success Center.
- Working with Dr. Coreil on some transitions with my new position and community outreach.
- Our Foundation Board meeting will take place at the end of the month.

### **Bob Austin**

- We are looking forward to our new Athletic Director, Tyler Unsicker, being on campus on September 1<sup>st</sup>. I have been having conversations with him and we have an upcoming budget meeting with Deron.
- Harrison Houle has been hired as our new Women's Head Soccer Coach. He is a former LSUA player and has been very involved with LSUA soccer in the past so we know that he will do a great job and we are looking forward to having him.
- We will be doing COVID-19 testing for student athletes every week and we are considering 24 hours prior to games and team travel. Students who have been fully vaccinated will not be subject to weekly testing. We will be collecting data regarding the percentage of student athletes who are and are not vaccinated as they begin arriving on campus.
- The tennis courts have been resurfaced and look great. The pool is ready for use.
- There has been an issue lately of individuals driving down the farm roads in the back due to construction and asks that we please try to deter this from continuing.
- We have quite a few faculty and staff members sign up to assist with Move-In day on Monday. Please continue to encourage employees in your areas to volunteer.
- We are looking forward to Shrimp Jam and encourage everyone to spread the word and try to attend.
- Soccer teams are on campus and they are beginning to work out.
- Thanks to Dr. Coreil and everyone on Cabinet for guidance and allowing me to be a part of this group. I look forward to helping out in any capacity needed going forward.

### **Missy LaBorde**

- Asked for internal communications regarding drainage project road and parking lot closures to go out in advance.
- Some faculty members are worried about course fees being absorbed into the college budget. Deron stated that course fees are restricted and will go to the appropriate course areas.
- Asked Abbey if faculty should advise students who ask for help and are not on their advising roster or if they should be sent over to the advising center. Abbey replied that faculty can work with students if they feel comfortable and sending a note to the students' assigned advisor afterwards would be helpful.
- Asked Chad about making information regarding COVID-19 reporting and quarantining more available and accessible on our website. He plans on updating our website very soon.
- Received the draft list of administrative committees from Dr. Rowan and there are a couple that are not on the list that may need to be added back such as student grievance due to being tied to several policy statements. I will be sharing these with Dr. Coreil to see how we need to move forward with review.
- Will be speaking with Dr. Coreil soon regarding the selection process of faculty representatives on the Cabinet.

### **Nathan Parish**

- Thanks to Bob for the Shrimp Jam video on his Twitter.

- We have had some great stories out lately. Chad was on KALX this week to discuss campus COVID protocol. Abbey and Michelle were on KALB yesterday regarding vaccinations at our Health Center for members of campus and the public.
- We are pushing out the VaxThatA campaign materials on social media and will begin to push more graphics through email once students are back on campus. We are getting some good feedback regarding the campaign and seeing that the incentives are already beginning to work.
- We have some upcoming video shoots to do.
- We are pushing out information for Shrimp Jam and TankFest.
- We are continuing to work out our Marketing Plan and advertising for many projects.

### Donald Collins

- We need to have plans in place and consistent, open communication regarding pool procedures and protocol. The Cabinet had a brief discussion about the need to develop plans for open hours and protocol for usage. Abbey mentioned that the new intramural position will oversee the lifeguards and hours for the pool once hired and that she plans to work with Chad regarding safety and risk management for faculty and staff pool usage. More information regarding the pool will be coming soon.
- If there are any individuals on campus who become confrontational about wearing masks or COVID-19 protocol, please contact UPD so that we can address the situation as needed.
- We will continue to put out updates regarding parking and road closures due to the Drainage Project construction on campus and we ask that everyone remain patient, flexible, and abide by requests.

### Chancey Slider

- Working on plans for Convocation that will take place next Friday. I will be sending out an updated invitation that include a Zoom link sometime this week.
- I have not transitioned into my new position yet, but I am doing research and working with some areas of campus to identify channels of support and campus needs regarding grants and sponsored programs.

Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider.

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The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

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