



# MINUTES

## LSUA Chancellor's Cabinet

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4/12/2023 1:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Coreil

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### In Attendance

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Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. Elizabeth Beard, Dr. Abbey Bain, Dr. Eamon Halpin, Deron Thaxton, Melinda Anderson, Adam Lord, Tyler Unsicker, Don Collins, Shelly Gill, Chad Gauthier, Connie Cooper, Kelly Pepper, Jerri Weston, Beth Whittington, Olivia Chatman

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

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#### **Dr. Paul Coreil**

- This morning, Coach Skip Bertman and Warren Morris both made motivational presentations to our LSUA Baseball Team's student athletes at Walker Automotive. Mercedes Benz dealership. Lawrence Searcy gifted each player on the team with a signed copy of Coach Bertman's new book on his life.
- AVIATION –
  - Congressman Garrett Graves is now the Chair of the Aviation Subcommittee in Congress. When I went to Washington D.C., I was able to meet with him and Deborah Randolph who is President of the Central LA Regional Chamber. At this meeting he indicated that he wanted to talk with us about the ACE initiative that we are implementing with England Airpark. We have a meeting with the subcommittee staff on Thursday, which we hope could lead to support for the ACE program.
  - So far, we have 30 new applications for new students interested in enrolling into the Aviation Program, which is great news.
- We are getting 2 new police cars for our officers here shortly. This will help us better cover our campus here as well as our campus downtown.
- Deborah Wood from the nursing department is retiring, so we will be advertising for her position soon. I want to thank Deborah for her many years of dedicated service to our nursing students here at LSUA. We wish you a happy retirement!
- COMMENCEMENT –
  - There are 400 students eligible to walk for graduation and 225 have RSVP'd, which is amazing for LSUA. It will be an exciting time for our graduates and all of their families and friends.

- The virtual commencement for online graduates who cannot make it to the Rapides Parish Coliseum will be on Monday, May 8.
- Reception for online graduates who are attending commencement at the Rapides Parish Coliseum will be in the Mulder Hall Lobby on Wednesday, May 10 at 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. This will give the online students a chance to meet with fellow classmates, talk to their professors and tour the LSUA campus.
- The Hope House Lobster Boil is coming up and we are planning to get some LSUA athletes to help serve again this year. It is a great way to show LSUA's commitment to the community.
- Reminder to please complete the QEP survey if you have not already done so.
- In a new LSU study recently released, LSUA was reported to have a \$109.1 million annual economic impact on the Central LA economy. This is approximately \$30 million more annual than just 5 years ago. Read more about it here: [LSUA Economic Impact in Central LA](#)
- At 2:30 p.m. on April 20, some of the biological sciences faculty and myself will be meeting with the Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center of New Orleans to discuss establishing a guarantee interview opportunity for our pre-med students. There is also grant money available for students who commit to serving as a physician in a rural area. All of this and more will be discussed at the meeting and we are looking forward to it.
- HEALTH EDUCATION CAMPUS –
  - Dr. Haywood Joiner informed me that they are currently undergoing construction and remodeling at the Allied Health building downtown. After the remodel, the LSU Dental School will be installing 6 dental chairs for the students who will be starting in our new dental hygiene program this fall.
  - The surgical technology program, which is a partnership with LSUE, will be starting this fall. There are about 10 students within this program. All of these new programs that we are adding further compliment and justify why the Health Education Campus is much needed.
  - We were appropriated about \$250,000 for the dental hygiene program. Deron and I plan to discuss this and the opportunities it presents for the program.
  - State Legislative Budget Hearing is tomorrow and they will emphasize on what we need to do as a university/community to help them justify \$25 million for Capital Outlay commitment for the new Health Education Campus. Many of our partners from the community and hospitals will be at that meeting as well to express the need of this new facility.
  - It is important that we make the search for the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services a top priority. That role is important on this campus and we need to make sure that we are portraying it as such for the individuals who are interested.

- The next meeting will be on April 27, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

### **Dr. Elizabeth Beard**

- SPERO has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education as a Comprehensive Transition Program. The approval means that students enrolled in the program will be eligible for federal funding (Pell, grant, student loans, etc.). I want to thank Eamon and his team for all of their hard work. This is great news!
- Director of CORE position – We had 2 excellent faculty candidates who completed interview presentations for the director position. Dr. Cheri Bardales has been appointed as the new Director of the Center of Opportunity, Research, and Experimental Learning (CORE). She will be shadowing and working alongside Dr. Sandra Gilliland and the ETL team through Scholar Day this year.
- Dr. Nate Sammons is doing a wonderful job coordinating our Engaged Teaching and Learning initiatives. One of the things that he is working on is how we can best meet student learning needs in the post-COVID classroom environment that we have. He is hosting a faculty retreat/brainstorming initiative on Friday to look at innovative course design ideas, how to maximize on-campus presence, learning opportunities, the ways that classes are offered, scheduling and overall student needs and engagement.
- We have 3 of our 5 colleges in transition in the dean's position. With the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Social Sciences, I will be soliciting input from the faculty on how they view the acting dean or college leadership moving forward.
- Dr. Mary Treuting will be out on medical leave for the rest of the spring semester and into the summer semester as well.
- Search for the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services is ongoing; the search committee has been named and are reviewing candidates.
- We will be hiring a director/coordinator of tutoring services for the fall and we will be posting that position soon. There is still some work to be done in terms of getting that space ready as well as working with our departments and programs to make sure there is a consistent plan for student resources. The goal is to have both in-person and remote tutoring available.
- The Alexandria Museum of Art (AMoA) earned their reaccreditation, which is a huge accomplishment.
- The *Revolutionist* play will be opening up tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. Our campus family is invited to a special reception at 6:30 p.m. to introduce the new endowed chair, Patrick Hunter. Also, we are launching a donor's circle called Friends of the Gwartney to support the performing arts through the LSUA Foundation.

### **Dr. Abbey Bain**

- Twana Chestand started this week as the new LSUA Counselor. As soon as we have her headshot a campus wide memo will be sent. She is already starting to see students.
- Financial Aid is going to move from Enrollment to Finance under Deron and keep a dotted line to Shelly for scholarships. We believe this will help with communication and consistency for student reports.
- We are changing a few things with the structure of Advising. New Professional Advisors will report to Haley Bryant. They will still have their offices physically located in academic departments. We believe this will help with consistency in the student experience, help with training/onboarding, and clear communication. Haley Bryant will be promoted from Assistant Director of Advising to a Director with this change. We have a position posted now for an advisor but will hire multiple people from this posting.
- A group is meeting this Friday to review the Guild partnership and needs for admissions and advising. We expect a large increase in enrollment for the BSN and ALLH programs so academic personnel plus Shelly and others will meet to review what staffing needs are.
- Registration is looking strong – we are ahead of this time last year and have almost 100 FTF registered! Big thanks for Admitted Student Day. It was an amazing program. I am proud of the innovation and lack of complacency.
- Events: Ms. LSUA is this Saturday. Take Back the Night is next Tuesday. Crawfish Boil/Generals Jam is next Thursday!

### **Dr. Eamon Halpin**

- SPERO –
  - We received news that SPERO has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education as a Comprehensive Transition Program. Students within this program will now be eligible for financial aid (Pell grants, student loans, etc.) as opposed to having to pay out of pocket. Also, this means students will be eligible for funding from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS). I have already contacted the regional manager and let her know that we now have federal approval.
- AVIATION –
  - Earlier in the year, Mattila Wiley, who is one of our students in the management program started an aviation club. The club has designed 3 different aviation shirts for \$20-\$25 with the Flying Generals LSUA logo on them. If you would like to order one, you can email me and I will let Mattila know.
  - Registration for first-time freshmen started on April 1st, but students who attended Admitted Student Day on March 31st were registered ahead of time, so we do have 4 new students already enrolled.
  - Open house for the Aviation Program has not been set yet, but I have been meeting with Bill Blackburn and Shari Drerup to continue planning it out.

- SACS –
  - One of the SACS standards has to do with general education. Each of our degree programs has a general education curriculum for all bachelor degrees with 39 hours of the total 120 hours being general education hours. The hours cover a spectrum of disciplines such as English, Fine Arts, Mathematics, Humanities, etc. The SACS standard requires that we monitor how students are doing in those general education courses. The method we have been using for a couple of years now is the graduate exit exam. I got together with a small committee a few years ago to revise this exam and we have been administering it every semester. The participation has been very good, but there are a few weak spots that have been persistent. Those weak spots have been reading/comprehending, writing and critical thinking. I have worked with the Center for Teaching Excellence to schedule 2 panel discussions – April 19<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. Faculty members have been invited to be on this panel discussion and any faculty/staff can be in the audience. It is an opportunity to discuss these weak spots and determine strategies to address them.

### **Deron Thaxton**

- Around this time last year, there were about 400 bursar holds and this year we have about 120. This is a significant improvement and most of it is due to communication going out from various departments. Thanks everyone and keep up the hard work!
- May 1 – All Things Finance Year-End Forum at noon in Mulder 147
- BUDGET – We are continuing the budgeting process for next year. In terms of the overall budget, we are looking at around \$30 million dollars – that is combined self-generated with state appropriations. We are close to the final draft on that portion of things, but we are still working on all of the equity adjustments and merit raises. You may hear from myself or others on SLT for input on equity adjustments and how we compare internally and externally with other universities. We have roughly \$600,000 or so that is going toward equity adjustments.
- Jason Normand is tied up with Workday meetings, so he wasn't able to make it today. He wanted to make sure everyone was aware that the classroom updates have been completed.
- CARES – June 30 is the final date to spend. We have distributed all of our student funds months ago, but we still have a remaining \$200,000 in institutional dollars that we will be spending before June 30. That will be used to offset some salaries again this year.
- Budgeting on Honors Program – Up until this year, we had \$50,000 annually set aside through Foundation dollars and through Mulder funds for the Honors Program and scholarships. Those funds will run out at the end of this year, so next year we will have to pick up those dollars within our operating budget. We have quite a few students in the Honors Program, which is great. Looking at it from a spending standpoint, we met and discussed ways to scale back in order to continue funding the program and have come up with a plan.

## **Melinda Anderson**

- Thanks to those who served at Manna House on March 31 – very much appreciated.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – LSUA/LSU “Upon Adjournment” legislative reception at the Lt. Gov. apartment at Pentagon Barracks. We had very good attendance from the House and Senate.
- April 12 - Attended book signing with Dr. Coreil and the LSUA Baseball team at Walker Automotive – Coach Skip Bertman and Warren Morris spoke to the team. Lawrence Searcy gifted the entire team with Coach Bertman’s newly released book and Coach and Warren signed each one!!
- Back to Baton Rouge on April 13<sup>th</sup> for a CENLA Legislative Delegation luncheon – attending is Mayor Roy, Monte Wilson (CHRISTUS) and Deborah Randolph to discuss Nursing and Allied Health Downtown campus.
- Tuesday April 18 will be Cenla Day at the Capitol; Wednesday, April 19 will be LSU day at the Capitol
- April 20 the Board of Supervisors arrive in Alexandria, will attend the SG Crawfish Boil and have a reception at Spirits.
- April 21 the Martin Family Student Success Center Groundbreaking where the Governor will attend followed by the Board of Supervisors Board meeting.
- A special thank you to the Foundation, Facilities, Strat. Comm. Team, Chief Collins, Laura and Livi for ALL of the fantastic behind the scenes work that has been done for all of these events.

## **Adam Lord**

- Strat Comm is staying busy with events happening on campus including the upcoming groundbreaking and meetings in Baton Rouge. On behalf of my staff, if you have promotion needs or requests for coverage, please use the system on our website to submit those forms so that it goes to our calendars.

## **Tyler Unsicker**

- We had our first City of Alexandria youth camp with soccer last week. Had 40 kids show up.
- Great event today at Walker Mercedes with Skip Bertman
- The new director of tutoring is going to be a big asset for athletics
- Working through H.C. candidates
- Jon Hay our Assistant AD for Athletic Training’s last day is Friday. We will post soon.
- One of our baseball players, Julien Kliebert, made SportsCenter on ESPN’s Top 10 Daily Plays at number two in the nation. Link to watch: <https://youtu.be/L8LJz0PFyv0?t=150>

## **Don Collins**

- Nothing significant to report on our end. We are busy with our daily tasks of keeping the campus and all of you safe.

## **Shelly Gill**

- Thank you to everyone who assisted for Admitted Student Day – such a great success.
- Applications, Admits, FAFSA Received, FAFSA Processed, Housing Applications – all are trending up for fall – things are looking good.
- It is award season for high schools – if anyone wishes to present scholarships at a specific high school, please let us know.
- DE registration has started this week.
- May 4 – planning a lunch for Tribal Leaders to unveil our Land Acknowledgement Statement and Native Serving Institution designation. Part of this lunch will be a student panel. We are looking for a few students, who self-identify as Native American, to serve on this panel.
- Land Acknowledgement Approved by Chancellor Cabinet – it is attached.
  - LSUA Land Acknowledgement Statement:

The LSUA Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, on behalf of the entire LSUA community, would like to acknowledge the indigenous history of Central Louisiana and affirm indigenous culture, history, and experiences. We recognize the communities of this region including the nations of Caddo, Natchez, Taenas, Ofo, Yawani Alabama, Tunica, Biloxi, Pascagoula, Avoyel, Choctaw, and Koasati (Coushatta), and others whose memories may have been erased by violence, displacement, migration, and settlement. We thank them for their strength and resilience as stewards of this land and are committed to creating and maintaining a living and learning environment that embraces individual differences, including those of the indigenous peoples of our region.
- Newest Guild partner to join will be Christus Health.
- Our office has an open Recruiter position – if anyone knows someone who would make a great Recruiter and representative for LSUA, please encourage them to apply.

## **Chad Gauthier**

- COVID –
  - First time in a while all parishes are at a low community level
  - Last week, we had 1 case on campus, this week we have 3 so far.
- WEATHER –
  - Nothing significant to report at this time.
- FACILITY SERVICES –
  - Many projects both large and small.

- Work ongoing in CyberLab in Mulder
- Abrams AC
- Busy next week with groundbreaking approaching.
- Fencing on side of Student Center completed today.
- RISK MANAGEMENT –
  - Fairly Quiet

### **Connie Cooper**

- Excited to launch diversity training for year 2023. This year we have two new options: (1) Microaggression Workshop taught by Dr. Bardales and (2) Stereotypes Workshop taught by Ethan Lipsey. One workshop will be virtual.
- The new Black Women's Empowerment Initiative (BWEI) will launch next week.

### **Kelly Pepper**

- Thank everyone for participating in LSUA Giving Day.
- Tree Dedication for Mrs. Elsie Mae Hyde on April 24.
- Please shop the LSUA Foundation professional apparel store.  
Apparel shop can be found on our website: <https://www.lsuafoundation.org/>

### **Jerri Weston**

- Our office is still pushing and targeting registration with text messages and email and we will continue to do so. Compared to last year's registration, we are still tracking ahead. Currently, there are only about 119 students with bursar holds on their accounts.
- COMMENCEMENT –
  - Work for spring commencement is ongoing and I am continuing to email graduates with information regarding the ceremony and making sure that they have taken the registration form.
  - The link to order regalia from the bookstore website is now closed, so graduates will have to go to the bookstore to purchase regalia.
  - The post baccalaureate/certificate students will be participating in commencement as well. With them, we have over 400 candidates eligible to walk in the spring ceremony.
  - Chase is working on the program and we are steadily getting the names/honors worked out so that they can be added into the program.
- Thursday, April 20 at 1:00 p.m. – We are having an Honors Lounge open house and you are all invited to come by and see the lounge.



## Dr. Bernard Gallagher

- The play *Revolutionists* is running this week.
  - Showtimes — April 14-15 7:30
  - Showtime — April 16 2:30
  - Richard Gwartney Theater
- *Verbatim* is up and running and will feature entries from 13 different local poets. No faculty from the University are able to submit poems. The idea behind the website is to promote local poets and to help the community identify LSUA as cultural center worthy of note. Here is a link to the site: <http://www.lsua.edu/national-poetry-month>
- Julie Kane, former Poet Laureate, will be reading from her collected works at 6:30 P.M. this Friday at Westside Regional Library. It is free and open to the public.
- Julie Kane will be conducting a poetry writing workshop Saturday from 12:00 to 2:00 at the Main Branch of the Rapides Parish Library. It is free and open to the public, but please RSVP [bernardg@lsua.edu](mailto:bernardg@lsua.edu) .
- There is a reception in the Mulder Hall lobby at LSUA to introduce our new Endowed Chair in the Arts, Mr. Patrick Hunter. We will showcase a new vision for Theatre Arts at LSUA and planned updates to the Richard Gwartney Theatre space. Stay as a special guest for a private showing of our spring performance of **The Revolutionists**, directed by Robert Harper.
- Dr. Ginger Jones has announced her retirement.
- The English Department is planning to begin a search. I am not sure how many lines are available.
- Holly Wilson was recently in San Francisco at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference (an international conference) giving a commentary on a paper on ethics. Her comments were well received. She was also asked by the leadership of the Southern North American Kant Society to host a SNAKS conference on Immanuel Kant and his anthropology at LSUA in Alexandria. The plans for this are already underway.
- Cenla Authors' Club is planning a Robert Olen Butler (winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1993) Master Writing in Fiction Lecture via Zoom. The College of Liberal Arts will be hosting the event during the third week in May.
- The College of Liberal Arts is planning a reception and poetry reading for the poets who were published in this year's *Verbatim*. The event is tentatively scheduled for May 15 (Monday) at 6:30. More news to come.

## Beth Whittington

- The Psychology Department is conducting searches to replace two leaving faculty members: Dr. Sandy Gilliland and Dr. Mark LaCour
- The Technovation Committee is narrowing areas for Certificate offerings.
- The annual meeting of the Criminal Justice Advisory Board will be Friday, April 14.

- The LSUA Criminal Justice Training Institute will be hosting 3 trainings for law enforcement on campus in May and June. Two are being co-hosted with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

**Olivia Chatman**

- Thursday, April 27 – Cookies with Coreil from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Quad

*Respectfully submitted by Olivia Chatman*

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**The next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.**

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