

MINUTES

LSUA Chancellor Executive Council

5/9/2017 9:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Chancellor Huang

In Attendance

Dr. Huang, Adam Jonson, Steve Cox, Catherine Pears, Jim Rogers (for Christof Stumpf), Deron Thaxton, Abbey Bain, Sarah Black, Melinda Anderson, Shelly Gill, Barbara Hatfield, Leana Wilson

Chancellor Huang

- It is the last week of the semester. I owe a big thank you to everyone for a successful semester.
- I want to commend Catherine Pears for all of her hard work and leadership for the Dragon Boat Races. It was nice to see the city in action. I am grateful and proud of our own teams, Spitfire and Geaux Row.
- We had three strong candidates on campus last week for the Vice Chancellor of Student Engagement position. I reviewed the surveys and appreciated the feedback. The Student Government Association and executive committee provided comments and rankings as well. The students' opinions were overwhelmingly to one candidate. Human Resources is completing the background checks. I hope to select the candidate next week. I appreciate the work done by the search committee especially the chair, Cynthia Thomas. The new Vice Chancellor will start over the summer. I will then have the opportunity to look at the leadership structure of the university. I would like to have an action based cabinet that will work to accomplish our goals.
- I am glad that growing enrollment and improving retention are primarily our goals. The new Vice Chancellor will lead a lot of the student affairs efforts, but he will not work alone to increase retention. Retention is everyone's responsibility. Faculty should be the primary retention force, which is why we need each department to create a retention plan. This could be revolutionary or even transformative. I also believe students are important to this process. They must be accountable, engage with the university, and seek guidance when needed.
- I was hoping to make a salary announcement this month, but after going to Baton Rouge and meeting with other Chancellors and the President, we will not make an announcement until late June or early July. The legislature is still in session and is working on the funding formula. I will know more at the June Board of Supervisors meeting. We are all interested in providing a raise with the resources that we have available. The enrollment numbers are looking good which gives me hope that we can do something. Our ability to give a raise hinges upon the numbers.
 - Jim Rogers- last week on the radio, a state senator that represents Rapides, said that LSUA was on the top of the list of the universities to be closed.
 - Dr. Huang- We have work to do. We need to educate everyone on the important role of higher education.
 - Melinda- In the community, I do hear positive input on LSUA, especially about our growth and exciting athletic programs.
- Everyone is working hard on enrollment, especially Shelly and her staff. We will keep working toward our goals of increasing enrollment.
- Commencement is Thursday at 10:00 am. This is a very important event and a culmination of everyone's hard work. I hope everyone is there to share this moment with students.

- We have a new Faculty Senate. Melissa Whitley is the new president, the vice president is Mary Kay Sunderhaus, and Jim Rogers will remain secretary. Let me take this opportunity to thank Christof Stumpf for his good work as Faculty Senate President over the last year. It is not an easy job. I thank Christof, Jim, and Fred for their work with the Senate and the Administration. We have to work together to solve more problems. I would like to have regular meetings throughout the semester with the Faculty Senate. I do want the Senate to be more proactive regarding the policies. Policies must be clear so that we can follow them. The Student Service policy (PS254) is a case in point. If students make a request to faculty or staff, then they should respond promptly.
- We may adjust our summer meeting schedule and meet less frequently.

Barbara Hatfield

- We have a new director of continuing education - Kristine Nation and she will start on Monday.
- We are interviewing for new faculty in biology and clinical lab science
- We recently hired new faculty in chemistry, nursing, accounting, mathematics, general business, education (grant funded).
- We have a positions still vacant, including Mulder Chair in the Arts, Alumni & Friends Chair in Business, and the CLECO/Brame Chair in Business.
- Rusty Gaspard has agreed to be the interim librarian for next year. We will have a search at a later point in time.
- There is a Funding formula meeting June 14. Deron, Leana, Shelly, Steve, and I are all going.

Shelly Gill

- Applications look strong for summer and fall. At this point last year we had 1,004 applications and this year we are at 1,099 which is an 8.6% increase.
- Two recruiters just got back from Canada recruiting and had a successful trip.
- We had 15 students from Alexandria Senior High School with scholarships to LSUA. We awarded the most scholarships to their senior class compared to any other school.
- Louisiana College has a new policy that their current students can't take a college course within 50 miles of the school (which includes LSUA). They won't accept the credit.
- My staff and I will put together an enrollment plan for the next 10 years. Every Wednesday afternoon we will focus on this plan. We are meeting with a variety of departments to learn what is new and see what our graduates are doing to share with prospective students and parents.
- I also want to connect with alumni on recruitment initiatives

Sarah Black

- We hired an assistant director for public relations- Camile Pere will start May 22. She graduated with a marketing degree from LSU and is currently the marketing director of Chick-fil-A in the mall of Louisiana in Baton Rouge.
- A big thank you to everyone who participated with dragon boat. It was a lot of fun.

Abbey Bain

- Commencement is this Thursday, and we will have a link to live stream. Sarah will market this on social media but please share with your departments and students you see/work with. This is our largest graduating class with over 200 students.

Melinda Anderson

- We will have our first Inaugural Graduate Dinner tonight. We have 80 students coming and six or seven Foundation Board members along with Department Chairs. We are hoping this becomes a tradition moving forward to say congratulations.
- Tomorrow is CenLA day at the capitol in Baton Rouge.
- We are working on a strategic plan with foundation board which will coincide with the master plan. We will have a foundation board retreat to engage them in the process this summer.

Deron Thaxton

- For the budget, we are doing well in terms of closing out the year. As of Thursday last week we were slightly below \$700,000 to go back in reserves this year. We still have a few expenses and purchase orders with dollars locked up that will be released. This will be the last year that we have a structured plan in place to move dollars back to reserves. Moving forward we can move funds to provide raises or back to departments etc.
- In the past when budgeting for departments, we looked at what was spent and based our numbers off of that. This year we looked at it differently –looking at your needs. We know we will have to scale back, but we are trying to give more where we can.
- Pepsi contract is expiring the end of May. We are in the final phases of narrowing down with Coke-A-Cola June 1st. From now on, any fundraiser, even through students, must buy drink products through Coke and not purchasing from Sam's Club or Kroger etc.

Catherine Pears

- Exhibits- Currently Kathryn Keller: A View from Within and Our Living Past ends on May 19 and the Music Maker Foundation exhibit through Memorial day. Partnering with Little Walter Festival with tours.
- Collection- We are coordinating with the Fran Davis estate to move a Lin Emery sculpture to the museum property. Additionally, we are now looking for one really impressive piece to reveal at the opening in October.
- LSUA- The renewal of our CEA with the City of Alexandria continues through the process for approval from the city.
- Sponsorships & Fundraising- The Dragon Boat Race day was great, however, team numbers were down a bit at 26. Thanks to LSUA and Abrams hall specifically for loaning their electric cart which helped us control our budget.
- The concert fundraiser Halleluiah: a Tribute to Leonard Cohen on the 22nd at the Jewish Temple was very successful and the congregation is interested in having an annual concert.
- 40th Anniversary
- We continue with Kinetics to complete our 40th anniversary promo videos and are loading them onto the AMoA Utube channel. Research for the permanent exhibition continues with final work being completed this summer.
- Grants, Trusts & Foundations- We continue to write grants and send requests to viable funders.

- Education- It looks like Camp Carter will be offered at the old Lecompte High School because of the damage and possible closure of Carter C. Raymond School. I will meet with the Board of LHS this Thursday to finalize the plan. The Rapides Parish library that is in the housed there is willing to add support to the camp also. We will seek out area churches to feed the kids.
- Community Programing- The illuminated procession at AlexRiverFete was much fun with community members joining the making and participation. We have Pat “Mother Blues” Cohen performing May 18 in conjunction with our exhibition and the Little Walter Festival.
- Tourism Awareness luncheon sponsored by the Alexandria Pineville CVB Tomorrow rather than Central Louisiana Day at the legislature.
- Board Relations- The Board approved the proposed budget at the April meeting. The May meeting has been moved forward a week to June 5 to move it off of Memorial day.
- Staff- The staff continues to perform above and beyond expectations. I will be out from May 19-25.
- Building- The recent power outage in town damaged the HVAC monitoring system. We have estimates and will move forward with the repair. We will file an insurance claim. Additionally, the motor for the freight elevator has died. I am waiting for the estimate to replace the motor. The technician believes surges related to the power outage caused this damage also.
- CSI will be here tomorrow to begin installing 3 additional panels in the vault for collection storage.

Jim Rogers

- Faculty senate – we are trying to engage faculty more through faculty governance and committees. One example is overseeing policies. Many of the faculty do not feel connected to faculty senate. I agree that students come first and retention is everyone’s issue. I think that faculty are getting the message, and I think the next faculty senate will do the same thing. We need to be actively engaged in what is going on.
- I want to thank Deron and his crew for replacing light bulbs and cleaning. That was great and a positive message we can’t be perfect but we are going to do the right things.
- My daughter will be starting here in the fall. I am so proud of this place. I think everyone is sensing that things are getting better.

Leana Wilson

- Final grades due Monday at noon. We will get those finalized by tomorrow. This is really important for continuing students and financial aid.
- There is an open position in my office after Kim left. I have 15-20 applications to consider and will begin reviewing next week.

Steve Cox

- Summer enrollment is really strong- I would expect about 1,000 students. Many of those will be online.
- Fall enrollment is also strong-
- Retention among FTF is about 35% and last year it was about 30% at this point in time. We are a little better than last year.
- Cumulative GPA is also looking better.
- Barnes and Noble has a deal to cut the cost of books. There would be a fixed rate to get an electronic version immediately and then an additional cost if you did need the physical text. We are going to meet with faculty

in the next month or so. LSUA would add the course fee and have the agreement with Barnes and Noble so students wouldn't have to purchase books at all.

Adam Jonson

- Rugby finished in the final four in Colorado.
- Baseball is in regional play. They won conference regular season.
- Softball won both the conference regular season and regional play. We will host the World Series opening round on Monday. We find out tomorrow who will be traveling. We are hoping to be the number one seed.
- Tennis will travel Monday to play Tuesday in the national tournament in Mobile. We are the number nine national seed.
- Cheerleading had tryouts with 7 girls and one man. For dance we didn't have enough come for tryouts. When we split we were hoping to have 8 on each squad.
- GAA board meeting on Thursday
- Coach Cordaro was a finalist for the Grambling job. We should know more today or tomorrow.
 - Dr. Huang: Larry was recognized by the Board of Supervisors and Dr. Alexander. We are trying hard to retain him.