

Week of July 31

Freshman Convocation is in two weeks. TWO WEEKS! Where did the summer go?

I could not be more excited about the rapidly approaching academic year. We have a great group of returning students and an impressive freshman class looking to us to help them prepare for life. Our traditional students come to us with more challenges, yet more promise, than any preceding generation. I know that statement is vague enough to apply to nearly every class of students for the past one hundred years. Still, it is an awesome time to be in higher education, especially here. The stars are beginning to align...

I hope you have a great week!

The Week

Monday morning, the Leadership Team gathered for our monthly meeting. A draft of the minutes is available at the end of this document.

Later Monday, Pete Gregory introduced representatives from CODOFIL (Council for the Development of French in Louisiana) to Darlene Williams and me. We talked about areas of partnership ranging from French immersion to study of Creole culture and language.

After a series of impromptu visits around campus Tuesday morning, Drake Owens and I drove to Dallas for a meeting and dinner with NSU Foundation Board Chair Richard Zulick. We discussed a number of operational matters, the ever increasing need for private funding, and the opportunity for a renewed focus on the generative mode of leadership by the board. Afterwards, Drake demonstrated one can actually drive from Dallas to Natchitoches in less than five hours...

Wednesday morning, I drove to Baton Rouge for the Board of Regents meeting on the funding formula for higher education. The level of transparency on display was refreshing if long overdue. 150 or so audience members from all segments of higher ed were joined by a few legislators and several regents. After a staff member gave a detailed overview of the cost components of the formula, the floor was opened for questions and comments. I pointed out that the current formula suggests taxpayers now

pay 30% more in higher costs every time a student chooses to attend a community college rather than a regional university. This contradicts the conventional wisdom that led to a number of policy decisions made by the board that now should be revisited. **These are the types of things that happen when the outcomes of a formula are predetermined and the staff attempts to work backwards to manipulate inputs that result in those outcomes.**

Thursday morning, I enjoyed one of those guilty pleasures of the job by visiting with the 2016 Demon Football Team. Coach Thomas and his staff are developing a program of which we can all be proud. In the room was a talented team with strong senior leadership. We talked about our extraordinarily high expectations of them on the field, in the classroom, and in the community. We also talked about Dante and Virgil...seriously...

Afterwards, Marcus Jones and Jennifer Kelly joined me for a tour of Prudhomme and Caddo Halls with Steve Horton and his staff from LSMSA. After the new (and sorely needed) LSMSA residence is constructed, we will make decisions about the use of those facilities. Unfortunately, Caddo is likely not salvageable. We will need to seek expert guidance to confirm that, of course. During the visit, we identified some units that could provide relief for our current housing needs.

Thursday afternoon, Jill Bankston, CFRE, met with Tonia and me on tailgating and the game day experience. Afterwards, Fran Lemoine and I visited with a candidate for a faculty position in the area of Natural Science-Wildlife Management.

Friday morning, Vickie Gentry met with me on a number of matters. I also enjoyed a visit with Anna McDonald.

At the meeting of the NSU Foundation Board, we presented an update on university matters and touched on our vision for the future.

After lunch, Jodi Biscoe and I joined Betsy Nohavitz and Alexis Guess to talk with the new freshman and transfer members of the football team.

Later, NSU Alum Tom Pears met with Drake Owens and me to discuss opportunities related to self-generated revenues and Tom's willingness to volunteer.

Afterwards, Senator Gerald Long and Johnny Koch (a mutual friend from Baton Rouge) dropped in for a visit.

Friday evening, the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health celebrated a new graduating class of nurses. The event was historic as the first class of Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates was presented. Dr. Clawson and the entire CONSAH team continue to push the bar higher.

Please contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

August 1, 2016 @ 8:30 a.m.

Leadership Team Meeting

Absent: John Pearce and Liz Knecht

- Frances Conine:

- Climate Survey of students conducted in the spring 2016 semester; was offered to students on the Natchitoches campus (3,400 students surveyed; 443 responded). The survey was conducted at all colleges and universities in Louisiana. The results will be made available on the Dean of Students website.

- Pokemon program is being developed and will be Northwestern focused. Karalee Scouten is leading its development. They will be asking for donations for gifts to give as prizes.

- The Diversity Center will soon have a Chalk Talk Wall to use for sharing thoughts.

- Gearing up for Welcome Week.

- Chris Maggio:

- Financial Aid has awarded \$53 million in aid for the fall; \$38 million of it is Federal.

- Working with 343 students who have aid, but have not yet registered for classes.

- TOPS letters have been mailed.

- 1,000 students have been chosen for verification; 373 have turned in the requested information.
- Had another successful Freshman Connection in July; over 200 up compared to last year.
- Working on lack of housing.
- Varnado project going through; currently on schedule to reopen next fall.
- Greg Burke:
 - 3rd year funding approved for the NCAA AASP Grant in the amount of \$255,000.
 - Currently doing an 8-stop Victory Tour to sell football tickets.
 - Seating/ADA project in Turpin Stadium continues; on target to finish by August.
 - Selected and announced N-Club Hall of Fame class.
 - Total Demons Unlimited Foundation attainment for 2015-2016 was record \$2.8M.
 - Athletics has had 18 personnel changes since March.
 - Working through storm damage repair to athletic facilities.
 - Fall sports teams are arriving.
- Marcia Hardy:
 - Faculty Senate's Executive Council will meet in advance of the first official Faculty Senate meeting for the academic year scheduled Tuesday, September 20th, 3:30 p.m. in the Student Union President's Room. Dr. Henderson will address the Faculty Senate at the first meeting. Several topics/issues for consideration by the Faculty Senate were presented to the Leadership Team. These and other issues brought forward by Senators during the summer will be presented to Senators and addressed this year.
- Margaret Kilcoyne:
 - Recruiting and Retention—Scholarships for students:

- Boise Cascade Wood Products of Lena is completing three years of funding \$1,500 in Engineering Technology scholarships. DIS-TRAN Packaged Substations has recently completed three years of funding \$6,000 in Engineering Technology scholarships for students majoring in Electronics Engineering Technology (EET) or Industrial Engineering Technology (IET). Beta Engineering of Pineville is completing three years of funding \$6,000 for scholarships to students pursuing degrees in engineering technology.

- Kimberly Gallow established a business scholarship for minority students.

➤ Impacting the Community and our Region:

- Faculty from Northwestern State University's Department of Engineering Technology will participate in the DIS-TRAN Packaged Substations' Conference and Expo Aug. 18-20. In addition to hosting an informational exhibit at the vendor fair, Dr. Ali Ahmad, head of NSU's Department of Engineering Technology, will teach a workshop on team work time management. The expo will take place at Crest industries, 4725 Hwy. 28 East, Pineville.

- Natchitoches Community Alliance Foundation – United Way Grant -\$15,000 (2 programs) The second program funded by United Way of Natchitoches Community Alliance Foundation is the Natchitoches Parish Education Summer Camps hosted at Northwestern State. These camps are for middle school students to learn STEM education and career development while inspiring students to value staying in school. We've been asked to continue this fall with providing after-school programs.

- Hosted 3 Robotics Camp- One for Beginners was July 11-13 for students ages 7-12. This session will cover basic electronic circuits, assembly of a robot and basic programming to navigate a robot. Second one – Second camp was for-Robotics' Advanced will be July 14-15 for students ages 13-18. This session will include Arduino programming, advanced sensing, Bluetooth and app programming. Third one for beginners on July 18 -20.

- Educators from around the state completed training at Northwestern State University to implement the Project Lead the Way middle school curriculum, Gateway to Technology, in

their classrooms this fall. PLTW Gateway is a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond, challenging students to solve real-world challenges, such as cleaning oil spills and designing sustainable housing solutions.

- CIS & IET will be setting up a booth and participating in GEEK'd CON on Friday, August 19, Saturday, August 20, and Sunday, August 21 in Shreveport.
- Our IET Department will be presenting workshops related to electronics and automation at the 9th Annual DIS-TRAN Packaged Substations Conference & Expo on August 20 in Pineville.

➤15 funded endowed professorships for 2016-2017.

➤Articulation Agreements:

- Professors Parker, Liao, and M. Jones are working on a joint degree program with Shenzhen University in China.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Northwestern State University and Northwest Louisiana Technical College, Natchitoches Campus, for OSHA 10 certification at a reduced rate - \$101.50 for our students.

➤New flooring will be funded by private donor and grant money.

- Vickie Gentry:

➤The Faculty Institute will be held on Tuesday, August 16 in the Magale Recital Hall. There will be various presenters with topics to include SACSCOC, Title IX, Faculty Senate, etc. Teachers and Advisors of the Year will be recognized.

➤There is \$600,000 in endowed professorships available for faculty; \$300,000 additional funds are carry-over from last year. These monies are to support faculty teaching, research, and/or service activities. Faculty are encouraged to apply.

➤The Council of Academic Deans are meeting weekly and working on various academic concerns, including textbook costs.

➤Jennifer Kelly began July 1 in the position of Academic and Auxiliary Services and supervising Academic Success Center, Academic Advising Services, and Testing Center.

- The selection committee for the Hall of Distinguished Educators is meeting August 2. Paula Hickman, who was selected as a Friend to Education last year, will be recognized at this year's ceremony.
- Dana Clawson:
 - Rapides Hospital donated \$50,000 grant to help and program expansion in Alexandria area.
 - Working on recruiting and retaining.
 - In summer, CoN had 1,120 students enrolled.
 - To meet 6% increase for fall, we need 250 nursing students and 40 Allied Health students; working on it.
 - Been working on giving a facelift and new equipment to two distance learning rooms in Shreveport, one in Alexandria, and one in Leesville.
 - Putting in new nursing lab in Natchitoches and new lab in Shreveport.
 - Alexandria recognition ceremony to be held on Tuesday; Shreveport recognition to be held on Friday.
 - Ten DNP students will present oral defenses on Thursday.
- Drake Owens:
 - Alumni Association board meeting held last Friday focused on outreach efforts and engagement strategies including special interest groups and self-sustaining chapter programming.
 - Finalizing work on new University Advancement website to be completed by the end of the month. Website content includes video testimonials from alumni, donors, and staff centered around "Because this is Northwestern State" messaging.
 - Major gift of \$200,000 secured from SWEPCO escrow funds approved by Commissioner Campbell last Thursday—Campbell to add \$100,000 in addition to the gift, and has challenged CenturyLink CFO Stewart Ewing to match with an additional \$100,000. Corresponding multi-investment announcement being planned for release this month.

- Participated in meetings with BoRSF Planning Committee concerning increases in minimum matching gift amounts and elimination of First Generation Scholarships. Follow-up meetings planned for tomorrow and Wednesday to curtail changes.
 - Alumni Association membership program to be launched this week including enhanced benefits and tracking mechanisms to monitor activity and affinity level.
 - Foundation Board meeting to be held this Friday focused on fundraising efforts and management fee increases to reduce gap in state funding. Updates forthcoming related to Gallaspy Trust asset availability to assist with TOPS reductions.
 - Continued efforts for development of contiguous campus properties including the city park project adjacent to the Robert Wilson Recreation Complex, acquisition of property across from Watson Library, and long term goals for Chaplin's Lake property ultimately connecting to the proposed city entertainment district.
- Jerry Pierce:
 - Filmed 25 video testimonials for "Because this is Northwestern State" Capital Campaign; 10 more to go.
 - Completed Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Degree Programs website and video/email campaign; ready for launch in next few weeks.
 - Filmed and produced "Believe & Achieve" TV commercial; will hit the airways after Faculty Institute.
 - Designed/installed 20' banners for Shreveport Nursing Campus; Line Avenue improvements.
 - Designed postcards (mass-mailing) for Allied Health programs.
 - Designed a display package for Engineering Technology.
 - Gearing up for Demon Days 2-16; video and website launch next week.
 - New Bureau and Photo Services continues to work with many other units on campus to advertise and cover summer events such as camps for youngsters, Boys and Girls State, Advance, Alumni and

Foundation events and promotions for both summer and upcoming fall events and programs.

- Publications has been working with Alumni, Foundation, Student Affairs, First Year Experience and several other units to prepare materials for distribution during Welcome Week and other events planned for Fall 2016. This involves working with personnel in University Printing to schedule print jobs and meet deadlines.
- Sports Information has worked in preparation for fall, as well as promotions for Victory Tour events, highlighting incoming and returning student athlete accomplishments, changes in coaching staff and facility improvements.
- Video-taped and edited breakout sessions at the NSU/Natchitoches Folk Festival for a grant.
- Completed working with Advance Camp students in the film and video class.
- Started work on the design of the new computer editing room in Kyser Hall for New Media, Journalism and Communication. Now in the process of cleaning out part of one room to make room for walls to be taken down to make the room larger.
- Recorded interviews in Stroud Room for athletic grant presentation.
- Recorded interviews with the Turpin family members during a recent visit to the stadium.
- Fun-N-Fitness Camp had 249 children during three-week period. Camp Director Jason Stelly, along with a counselor staff of all NSU students, did an outstanding job this year.
- New Assistant Director of Wellness & Fitness, Olga Bazhanova has hit the ground running by teaching group exercise classes this summer, organizing boot camp, expanding the upcoming fall group exercise schedule, and reorganizing personal training equipment.
- The Intramural area has finalized the fall schedule, prepared for welcome week activities, and begun organizing to host the LCIRSA state tournament in November.
- The WRAC facility has finished all replacement of cardio equipment and upholstery on strength equipment in preparation for the fall

- semester. We are now implementing a new “sub it up” software to improve the efficiency of student worker scheduling and time keeping.
- Carl Jones:
 - Working on year-end financials and the budget document.

 - Greg Handel:
 - Continuing to work on transition.
 - Busy summer with camps with students and potential students.
 - CAPA calendar finalized this week.
 - September 27th, the first symphony performance will be dedicated to Steve Horton; may host a reception in his honor.
 - The Symphony Society to be inducted into the CAPA Hall of Fame.
 - College of Arts and Sciences had some late resignations; search committees have been excellent in helping with the University’s mission.

 - Marcus Jones:
 - September 13-15, a Security Assessment Workshop will be conducted on campus.
 - An energy performance FRP will be issued soon.
 - Thirteen new international students will be on campus this fall.
 - University Police has four new female officers with one on every shift; two officers have been added to the Shreveport campus.

 - Roni Biscoe:
 - Last Friday, candidate for Institutional Research Director position was on campus; waiting on the decision.
 - Working on Strategic Plan
 - Continue to work on SACSCOC requirements.

 - Darlene Williams:

- Anticipating NSU@DeRidder launch for fall 2016; waiting on approval.
 - Technical staff work on the upgrades of multiple video conferencing classrooms
 - Expanding NSU's footprint at the Learning Center for Rapides Parish by expanding program and course offerings.
 - Keypath – getting close to an agreement; attorney is reviewing. A full program launch could occur in spring 2017.
 - Moved NSU@BPCC to TIED; Dr. Donna Johnson will be helping with this program along with NSU@Barksdale.
 - Anticipate increases in online and dual enrollment students for the fall semester.
 - Working with many online adult students to get them through the admission and registration process for the fall semester.
 - Expanding pilot of Respondus Monitor – a product that enhances LockDown Browser by using a student's webcam to record the assessment session.
 - Governor's application for Military Friendly School has been submitted.
- Ron Wright:
 - Working with Continuing Education on the acquisition of software to handle registration and payments for non-credit activities.
 - Nursing has expressed an interest in using Banner recruiting components to assist in tracking their recruiting efforts.
 - IR has requested assistance in creating Data Marts to facilitate enhanced reporting capabilities.
 - Working with Student AR to complete a project that will provide access to enhance billing information by students.
 - myNSU and mobile app updates continue to be developed with anticipated release date of mid-fall.
 - Should consider scaling back on the use of generic email accounts for communicating with students. Consider assigning a specific person from the various Student Service areas to each student who

can continue to assist them throughout their student career similar to how we assign academic advisors currently.

- John Pearce:

- Meet-Your-Senator Day will be during welcome week this semester so the students can get better acquainted with the SGA earlier in the semester.
- Greg Burke, Tre Nelson, and Jon Pearce met on July 13th to discuss the student athlete/SGA relationship and ways we could help each other in the coming year.
- Sent out an email to potential stakeholders of the stage project; hoping to set up an meeting the week of August 8th.
- Have discussed setting the Leadership Team Luncheon for November.

- Wrap-up, Dr. Henderson:

- SACSCOC off-site review to be held this fall; the on-site visit will be in March of 2017; QEP focus on experiential learning will require engagement of entire university community.
- Showed an organizational behavior video in which Al Capone uses a baseball analogy to gently urge his team to put the goals and needs of the organization above their own individual interests.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.