

MEMORANDUM:

To: University Community

From: Dr. Robert T. Smith, Chancellor

Date: February 6, 2025

Re: Agenda – February 7, 2025 LPC Meeting

The LSUS Planning Council will meet on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. on the third floor of the Noel Memorial Library. The meeting is open to all members of the university community.

1. Chancellor, Chair: Robert T. Smith
2. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs: Helen Taylor
3. Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration: Shelby Keith
4. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs: Demetrius Brown
5. Associate Provost: Helen Wise
6. Chief of Staff: Kim Ramsey
7. Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement: Kenna Franklin
8. Faculty Senate President (or Assign): College of Education & Human Development: Cassandra Williams
9. Faculty Representative: College of Business: Amin Saleh (**absent**)
10. Faculty Representative: College of Arts & Science: Marisa Connell
11. Dean of Graduate Studies: Sanjay Menon
12. Dean, College of Business: Mary Lois White (**absent**)
13. Dean, College of Arts & Sciences: Tibor Szarvas
14. Interim Dean, College of Education & Human Development: Katherine Wickstrom
15. Dean, Noel Memorial Library: Brian Sherman
16. Senior Associate Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students: Paula Atkins
17. SGA President (or Assign): Devesh Sarda
18. Staff Senate Representative (or Assign): Business or Student Affairs: Angela Burton
19. Chief Information Officer: Scott Hardwick
20. Director, Human Resources: Robert Lindsey
21. Director of Alumni Development: Jazmin Jernigan (**absent**)
22. Director, University Athletics: Lucas Morgan (**absent**)

Ex-Officio (Non-Voting)

- Executive Director, LSUS Foundation: Laura Perdue (**absent**)
- Director, Media and Public Relations: Erin Smith
- Executive Assistant to the Chancellor: Brandy Hayse

1. Welcome (Smith)
2. Approval of minutes from January 15, 2025 LPC meeting

The minutes from the LPC meeting on January 15, 2025 were approved as distributed.

3. SACSCOC reaffirmation site visit and QEP (Helen Wise)

Helen Wise gave an update on the LSUS Quality Enhancement Plan. The SACSCOC reaffirmation visit will be on

March 17th – 20th. The university will have a QEP Director for the next 5 years. There will be an email about this position out on Monday. Thanks to those who helped with the focus report.

Why the QEP Matters

- Strengthens student engagement and retention
- Equips faculty with innovative teaching methods
- Aligns with national best practices and LSUS strategic goals

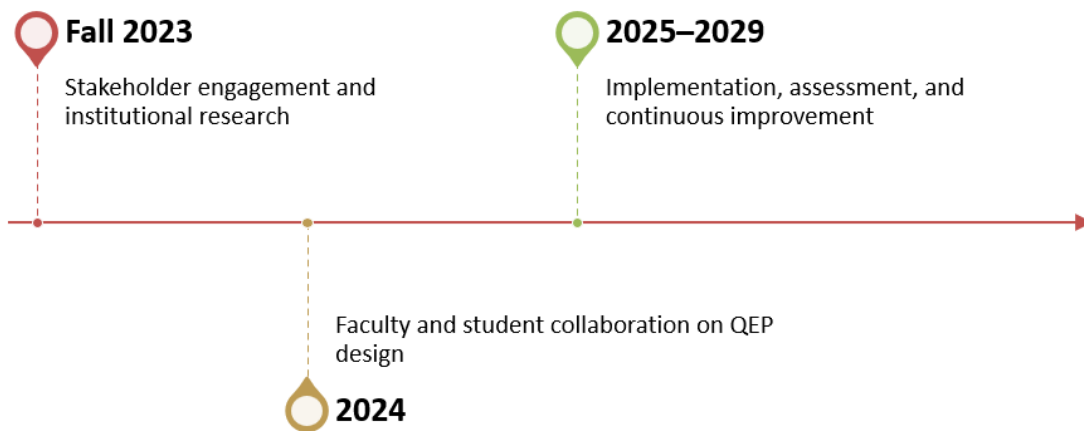
Guiding Framework for the QEP

- Faculty development through structured training

- Integration of High-Impact Practices (HIPs)

- Continuous assessment for data-driven improvements

QEP Planning and Evaluation Timeline



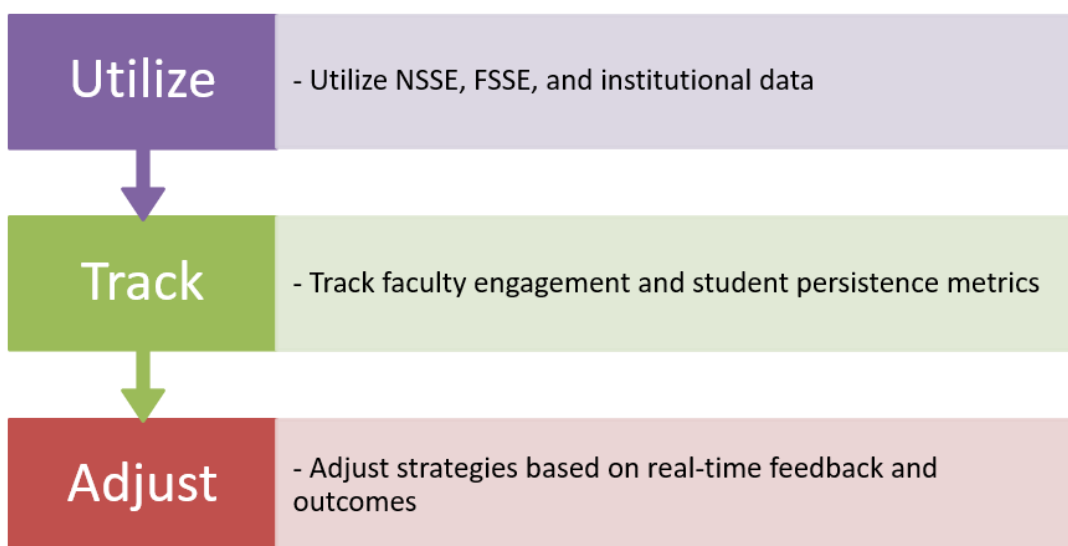
QEP Goals and Objectives

- Increase faculty participation in HIPs by 50% in two years
- Improve persistence rates in redesigned courses by 10%
- Demonstrate improved learning outcomes with 70% of students progressing

Implementation Strategies

- Faculty workshops and professional learning communities
- Curriculum redesign to integrate HIPs and student engagement
- Structured student success initiatives and co-curricular programming

Assessment and Continuous Improvement



Institutional Commitment and Budget

- - Funding allocated over five years
- - Funding for faculty development, assessment, and research
- - Long-term sustainability through CELT and Academic Affairs

Next Steps and How to Get Involved



- ATTEND UPCOMING
FACULTY TRAINING
SESSIONS



- PARTICIPATE IN COURSE
REDESIGN AND STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES



- ENGAGE IN ASSESSMENT
AND FEEDBACK TO REFINE
THE QEP IMPLEMENTATION

QEP Committee

- Faculty, Staff and Students
- Ongoing 5-year plan with yearly reporting
- Email goes out Monday with a campus-wide request for participation and nominations for QEP director.

On- site Visit

SACSCOC team (8 members, 1 visitor, 1 VP)

March 17-20, 2025

Hold these dates!

4. Management of Pilots Pointe Apartments (Demi Brown and Shelby Keith)

Demi Brown stated we initially discussed taking over all operations with Pilots Pointe, but we have decided to continue our partnership with Rise. LSUS will staff the Residential Life team that will work with the marketing and leasing Rise team.

Shelby Keith spoke about the original loan to acquire Pilots Pointe, including our ability to pay this loan and how the Rise partnership will help. He also stated that we can terminate the partnership with Rise if needed. Adding LSUS has taken over the ITS at Pilots Pointe and our students will have leasing priority.

Chancellor Smith stated that when we first acquired Pilots Pointe we lacked residential life experience but we now have staff with very extensive experience in residence life. Another advantage to continuing the partnership with Rise is a much faster timeline for renovations.

SGA President Davesh Sarda asked what percentage do we control over Pilots Pointe, and if students have a problem, who do they approach? Demi Brown stated that there will be an LSUS employee on-site for students.

Davesh Sarda asked what the length of the new agreement will be with Rise. Shelby Keith stated the new agreement will allow a 30-day termination with cause and 90-day without. Paula Atkins stated concerns should be addressed because we are resetting our relationship with Rise with new expectations.

Davesh Sarda asked if Rise would be moving the bridge project forward. Shelby Keith stated that the Rise partnership does not impact the bridge. This is a separate project.

Davesh Sarda shared additional concerns about continuing with Rise. Shelby Keith stated we are giving Rise a set of responsibilities and we plan to hold them accountable. Chancellor Smith added that we should now have a substantially improved relationship with Rise under the new terms. We are serious about taking care of our students.

5. Dean of Education and Human Development search update (Helen Taylor)

Helen Taylor shared that the search committee has conducted candidate interviews by zoom and is now moving to bring 3 candidates to campus. The campus interviews will be on March 12th, 14th and 17th. Tibor Szarvas invited everyone to attend the candidate presentations at 11:00 AM on these dates in the Science Lecture Auditorium. Helen Taylor added that we appreciate your attendance and feedback and gave thanks to the search committee.

6. Updates from Cabinet

Kim Ramsey stated that we celebrated Homecoming last week together with the 50th Reunion of our first four year graduating class. She gave thanks to the Homecoming Committee, Foundation, Alumni Affairs, and the campus community. Also sharing a statement from Leigh Chambers, Homecoming 2025 Committee Chair:

“On behalf of the entire homecoming committee, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to leadership and the entire LSUS community for their incredible support of homecoming. As we reflected on the event, it became clear that we simply cannot thank everyone individually. Because truly, every campus unit played a role in making this a success. The biggest takeaway from our final committee pre-group meeting this past Wednesday was we engaged all of our constituent voices, created meaningful experiences for our LSUS family, and built momentum for this to become an annual tradition. I think it's something that we were hoping that it would be. It was clear that our campus came together in a way that fostered connection, pride, and fun.”

Chancellor Smith shared a few remarks about the success of the pep rally and reunion and thanked everyone for their participation.

Demi Brown announced that Shelley Moore was promoted to Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management on February 1st. Also reported, a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Committee will be formed

to develop a plan around best practices.

Shelby Keith reported that we are anywhere from 7-10% ahead for enrollment. Adding that we will hit 11,000 students before the AP2 drop for nonpayment date, but the census will provide the final number.

Shelby Keith updated everyone on major projects stating there will be a bridge meeting this coming week so we can get started. Adding that once construction starts it can take up to about 1 year to complete but hoping for less. The Business Education 3rd floor project will have cost figures next week to be able to go out for bid. Items in the hallways will be removed before the SACSCOC consultant arrives. The Science window issue has been resolved.

Katherine Wickstrom asked where the Business Education furniture will be going. Shelby Keith stated the furniture will be moved by an outside vendor into vacant classroom space identified by Dr. White.

Helen Taylor reported that Deans have been asked to provide summer and fall classes by March 1st. Classes will go live to students on March 15th and advising will begin the first week of April. Deans have also been asked to submit their academic plans for the Board of Regents. Hiring requests will be due around April/May 1st for searches to start in the fall for faculty to start in 2026.

Helen Wise reported that Meauxmentum will be April 2nd and 3rd and LSUS will be receiving a \$100,000 grant for student success. More information will go out soon regarding Meauxmentum. The Summitt will be held in Lafayette this year.

7. Comments from the audience

Brian Sherman announced that the Friends of the Library Sale is today and gave congratulations to one of the library employees for receiving a \$15,000 grant from the Board of Regents. This grant will go towards identifying OERs, developing OERs , or recognizing champions of OERs on our campus.

Sanjay Menon asked about U.S. News & World Report's Best Universities in Louisiana ranking. An open discussion was had about how these rankings are done and the reliability.

Melissa Hawthorn asked for guidance regarding new restrictions regarding DEI. Chancellor Smith stated that we will absolutely follow the law and we will support the needs of all our students, as we always have.

Rob Lindsey reminded everyone that unclassified planning sessions are due February 21st.

8. Next scheduled LPC meeting: March 7, April 14

9. Adjournment