

MEMORANDUM:

To: University Community

From: Dr. Robert T. Smith, Chancellor

Date: August 22, 2025

Re: Agenda – August 25, 2025 LPC Meeting

The LSUS Planning Council will meet on Monday, August 25, 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: David Fowler *Absent*
10. Faculty Representative: College of Arts & Sciences: Jorji Jarzabek
11. Dean of Graduate Studies: Sanjay Menon
12. Dean, College of Business: Mary Lois White
13. Dean, College of Arts & Sciences: Tibor Szarvas
14. Dean, College of Education & Human Development: Allen Grant
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
22. Director, University Athletics: Lucas Morgan

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 *Absent*

1. Welcome and remarks (Smith)

Chancellor Smith welcomed faculty and staff back to campus, expressing excitement about the return of students and the busy year ahead. With the transition to centralized advising, he emphasized that the goal is not to take responsibilities away from faculty, but rather to give them more time to focus on teaching and mentoring. Centralized advising is a shared responsibility, and success will depend on ensuring advisors receive accurate academic plans.

Additionally, LSUS will be launching the Center for Northwest Louisiana Regional Impact to expand opportunities and strengthen the university's positive influence on the region. Chancellor Smith also noted that the Strategic Plan has been submitted and will be publicly reported on to maintain transparency and accountability.

2. Approval of minutes from April 16, 2025 LPC meeting
 - *Correction to #4 Policy Revision – The policy was last revised in 1983, not reviewed in 1983.*
 - *Minutes from April 2025 were approved.*
 - *The color coding needs to be rethought due to colors being difficult to differentiate.*
3. Requests for new positions (Keith)
 - *Request for New Positions*
 - *Shelby Keith discussed potential new positions in the Division of Finance & Administration, where the Catering Specialist is funded by Auxiliary Services, and the Custodial Manager, Maintenance Foreman, Compensation Coordinator, and Buyer are all supported by the General Fund. Helen Taylor spoke about Academic Affairs, noting that the proposed Assoc/Full Professor serving as American Studies Chair, the Art History Assistant Professor, MPH Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership Assistant Professor and Professor, and LPN Assistant Professor are funded by the General Fund, while the Assistant Director of Online Learning is supported by the Online Learning Fee. Demi Brown covered Student Affairs, explaining that the proposed CRM/Data Specialist is funded by the General Fund, the Academic Advisor by the Student Success Center Fee, the Health Educator/Wellness Coordinator by the Student Health Fee, and both the Campus Leadership Coordinator and Campus Engagement Coordinator are funded by the Student Activity Fee.*
 - *Total from General Fund: \$970,557.22*
 - *Total From Restricted Funds: \$450,848.58*
4. Policy review (Ramsey)
 - *Policy 1.02.01: Use of University Funds for Entertainment/Special Meals Returned to the Agenda*
 - *Policy 1.06.02: Use of Health & Physical Education Building, Tennis Courts, and Athletic Fields- No Feedback*
 - *Policy 1.24.01: ADA Compliance-*
 - *Scott Hardwick, CIO said there may be some changes coming from a policy revision from LSU. There is no information that he can share at this time.*
 - *No Feedback*
 - *Policy 3.36.01: Staff Senate Support Scholarship- No Feedback*
5. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (Farrow)
 - *Dr. Farrow spoke about the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) at LSU Shreveport, introducing both herself and Dr. McCray. She emphasized CELT's commitment to supporting faculty in delivering high-impact instruction. CELT exists to promote high-quality teaching and learning by enhancing pedagogy, fostering positive classroom culture, and encouraging student-centered practices across both face-to-face and online courses. Its vision is to cultivate a campus-wide culture where excellence in teaching is clearly defined, actively supported, and consistently implemented, ensuring that every student benefits from engaging, inclusive, and effective instruction. The CELT website is currently in development and is expected to launch in September. As part of its fall programming, CELT will host a book study on Facilitating Seven Ways of Learning: A Resource for More Purposeful, Effective, and Enjoyable College Teaching. David Gaither has secured an accessible digital copy of the book to support this initiative.*

6. Updates from Cabinet and other Administrative Officers

- *Demi Brown: Demi thanked all faculty and staff for their support during a busy two weeks and shared several exciting updates for the semester. The first is the launch of **TimelyCare**, a free telehealth service available to students 24/7, offering support for health, wellness, and mental health needs. He also welcomed **Dee Dee Brown** to campus and celebrated the success of **Pilots Pointe Apartments**, which is now at full occupancy—thanks to **Trish** for leading the charge on that project. LSUS recently welcomed its largest class ever through **US@LSUS**, helping students get off to a strong start. Demi encouraged everyone to attend **Freshman Convocation**, happening this Friday and congratulated SGA President **Devesh Sarda** on his appointment as the student representative to the **Board of Regents**.*
- *Shelby Keith thanked everyone on the completion and certification of Inventory. He followed up by noting that we would not be transitioning to Workday Student. Scott Hardick and Darelnna Atkins are co-chairing the committee. The Enrollment Tuition Deadline and drop for non-payment is (AP1) 8/27 (AP2) 10/22. Enrollment: Undergrad is currently up 9%, while Graduate is flat (but should increase). Grand Total: up 2%. First time freshmen is up 14% (LY291 TY333); First Time Under-Grad up 37%/ Returning up 5%.*
- *Helen Taylor: Thanked faculty and staff for the turnout at Campus Kickoff! New Faculty Orientation we welcomed 14 new faculty to campus including 1 dean and 2 chairs. We piloted student evaluations in Watermark and got a 55% response rate. With Watermark we can look back historically and will be in the same eco system as our FPRs. Academic Affairs is creating an updated hiring guide*
- *Helen Wise – We have submitted the final report to SACSCOC – Now we wait until December.*

7. Off-agenda items

- *Jazmine- Start the semester with Sprinkles in the Alumni Affairs Suite. Alumni Event 8/28 Seventh Tap (free and open to the public). Welcome Students 9/4/2025 in UC Lobby*
- *Lucas Morgan- Spring Street Museum is creating a display for the Pilots Baseball Team*
- *Kenna Franklin- Hurricane Katrina Play- UC Ballroom*
- *Angela Burton – Unofficial committee for Mascot: Angela, Leigh, Kyle*

8. Comments from the audience

9. Next scheduled LPC meeting: September 25, 2025

10. Adjournment