



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 11, 2026 - 3:30pm-5:00pm
Chancellor's Reception Room – 3rd floor MEB

Those present included:

Allied Health: Ngozi Akotaobi, Stephanie Eschete, Brittany Hall, Elise Money-Nolan, Jade Schoendorf

Dentistry: Eugene Antenucci, Diedra Brewer-Hohensee, Stephen Brisco, Meric Karapinar-Kazandag, Thomas Lallier

Graduate Studies: Shyamal Desai, Sonia Gasparini

Medicine: Suresh Alahari, Allison Augustus-Wallace, Allyson Bennett, Jennifer Cameron, Sanjay Kamboj (also proxy for Maria Reinoso), Brian Lochlann McGee,

Nursing: Laura Bonanno, Mary Kelly, Quinn Lacey, Erica Love, Colleen Story

Public Health: Reni Elewonibi, Jennifer Glick (also proxy for Reni Elewonibi and William Robinson), Bingjing Mao (also proxy for Tung-Sung Tseng)

Library: Sharon Duffy

Ex-Officio: Rebecca Bealer, Michael Boutte, Shelly Dolan

Absent with Proxy as noted above: Maria Reinoso, Reni Elewonibi, William Robinson, Tung-Sung Tseng

Not present: Laura Pelaez (Medicine)

I. Welcome and Call to Order by President Augustus-Wallace at 3:32pm

II. Introduction of Special Guests:

Dr David Guzick – *Senior Vice Chancellor of LSU Health - New Orleans*

- Three priorities include: Gaining Top 50 research institutions rank, Earning AAU membership, Achieving NCI designation. The first two are LSU wide endeavors. LSU Health – New Orleans is leading the NCI effort with other institutions
- Clarified details related to NCI designation:
 - It is not related to cancer care, number of patients, number of providers, etc.
 - Clinical research trials are important with focus on innovation
 - One criteria is 10% of newly diagnosed patients at LCMC (any site) are enrolled in a clinical trial. Of those 10%, 25% should be enrolled in a trial that is led by one of our investigators. We are very low in achieving this goal at this time.
 - We need to have a Department of Radiation Oncology. The Board of Supervisors has approved this new department and Board of Regents will soon review. A chair for this department is being recruited with a goal of 9/1 start date.

- Dr Miele is the Cancer Center Director and is a highly recognized and accomplished cancer investigator.
- The three new floors of research space in MEB are now complete and being used as a recruitment tool for funded researchers to join LSU. He recognized the work of Dr Steve Nelson and others in leading the effort to create the new labs.
- LCRC (Louisiana Cancer Research Center) is not being included in the NCI application at this time because LSU does not have control of the building. LSU cancer researchers working there will be moved to MEB unless LSU gains control.
- In MEB, the 5th floor will be devoted to funded cancer researchers. The 7th floor may house some as well if special ventilation is needed as that is where that equipment is located.
- A new Biochemistry Chair is being recruited.
- Only funded researchers will work in the new MEB lab space.
- Other sites competing for NCI designation in our region are Little Rock, AK and Jackson, MS. While he believes New Orleans is a more attractive city to investigators, we are ~15 investigators and ~\$10-15M in annual funding short of our goal at this time.
- At the Board of Supervisors meeting, he presented a 3 year plan for achieving NCI designation. This is an aggressive goal as 5 years has previously been the timeline. May 25, 2029 is the goal date. He states that we have the governance, structure, and space in place. We are in need of funded investigators, investigator-initiated research trials and additional funding. 7-8 researchers have been recruited and another 7-8 are in the process. Timeline is ~1 year to get funded researchers on board.
- Funded research in other areas is supported too as this helps build our overall research portfolio.
- He stated there had not been an official budget for the cancer center at LSU. There is now a \$70M budget. This money comes from grants, tobacco tax revenue, state funding, clinical revenue. But there is still a shortfall. LCMC has agreed to cover 50% of the deficit and LSU Health – NO will cover the other 50%. Work is ongoing to secure more funding from philanthropy (Foundation) and from the state (Gov. Landry). We need to show sustainable and consistent funding for NCI. The funding from clinical revenue is facing a challenging landscape due to cuts in Medicare reimbursements.
- He has met with the Deans and sees the education effort doing well. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to the deans with suggestions for improvements.
- The initiative to combine the LSU research sites into a single entity is driven by the need to combine our research expenditures for the goal of becoming a Top 50 research institution. We are at \$600M now as a combined entity.
- SACS has been satisfied with this action and they will only accredit LSU Flagship going forward. The branch campus sites will not be individually accredited by SACS in the future.
- LSU-New Orleans (formerly UNO) is not part of the flagship because they are not a research site.

Dr Demetrius Porche – Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

- SACSCOC Substantive Change effort is underway. They approved our prospectus. Waiting for the Department of Education to recognize. They are asking questions that

will need responses. More details in attached document.

- September 1 is the deadline for getting the information to Dr Dalton so he can finalize our submission to SACS.
- Institutional names are being discussed. We are currently using LSU Flagship to refer to the 5 combined research institutions but it may change to LSU Research Enterprise or another name in the future.
- Definition of Branch Campus – Also in attached document. This is a SACS definition. As a branch campus, we maintain independence while being geographically separated from the main campus. There are ongoing efforts to look for opportunities for consolidation and collaboration. This may include a single Faculty Handbook in the future but not at this time.
- He stated that, despite media reports, the LSU Health Science centers (Shreveport and New Orleans) are not merging. Recent headlines created confusion about this issue.
- Senators asked if Communications could make a statement to the media to clarify our status.
- The legal name of our site is not changing from LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans. However, we will start referring to ourselves as LSU Health – New Orleans, a branch campus of LSU Flagship.
- Senators raised a question of how this name change impacts the accreditation process for programs at our campus. While SACS will no longer be accrediting our site, our programs will continue to undergo this process. Clarity on language to use for our institutional name on applications is needed.
- Financial Aid – there are new guidelines regarding amount of student loans. We are taking a conservative approach and offering unsubsidized student loans in the amount of \$20,500 for health profession degree programs. Upper limit is \$50K.
- School of Nursing Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Baton Rouge site was August 7. He notes that this site cannot be called a branch campus of LSU Health – New Orleans as we are now a branch campus. Clarity will be needed regarding how to refer to these off-site programs in light of our institutional name change.
- We applied for Military Campus status at the Bronze level which identifies us as a military-friendly campus.
- LSUSHC Health Fairs – August 19 (Additional discussion by Sen. Dolan later in meeting)
- Mandatory meeting for Student Organizations to be held September 9
- Human Resources rolling out employee engagement survey in September
- AI committee is being appointed (Additional discussion by Ken Boe later in meeting)

Ken Boe - *Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology*

- Announced the Adobe Acrobat license issue has been resolved and the IT help desk phone line has been restored.
- Presented on 4 topics (Slides attached)
 1. AI Policy
 - Campus wide policy is nearly finished

- AI Committee is being formed; at least 28 people are included with plans to add more due to additional input needed; May create an Executive Board due to the size
 - Dr Porche is the sponsor of the committee
 - Faculty members will serve as Chair and Co-Chair
 - Faculty Senate will have a representative
 - Students and Administrators will also be included
 - Focus will be on practical applications and usage of AI on campus
 - Expects frequent updates will be needed due to fast changing climate
 - It will not create a new CM. CM-42 (Information Technology Infrastructure) is being updated to include references to AI
2. Exam Software Assessment
- Committee is evaluating QuestionMark Perception (program already in use on campus) and ExamSoft
 - Demos were done week of 8/3 and now getting committee input
 - If there is quick consensus, the process will wrap up quickly. If more extensive evaluation is required, then the timeline will be extended.
3. Moodle Migration
- Moodle will be upgraded to Version 4.5
 - Plan to migrate to cloud version over December holiday break with launch on January 1
 - LSU Baton Rouge also uses Moodle but is separate from us due to our integrations with PeopleSoft
 - LSU Online continues to offer online Moodle support for faculty; this was negotiated a few years ago and he noted that we have not yet been billed for this service
 - Senators noted that they have taken advantage of it and find it helpful
4. Technology Acquisition Review Process
- New process is being required by laws and regulations regarding assessment of all technology products acquired and used on campus
 - There is a need to know what is being used and what data is being used with these products
 - Each product will need to be assessed at purchase or renewal for: Accessibility, Security Risks, Duplication, Infrastructure Alignment.
 - The review must be complete before it can be acquired or used so this will extend the timeline (by months) on using new and renewed tools
 - He encourages early submission of acquisition requests
 - CM-42 is being updated to reflect this new policy
 - See slides for full scope of technology included in new policy
 - Announcement will be made this month

Leigh Smith-Vaniz–*Director of Disability Services*

- Announced the Office of Disability Services (ODS) Faculty Handbook
- Contains federal guidelines, best practices, and definitions regarding student accommodations
- She noted that faculty are the subject experts and have discretion on whether a requested accommodation is a fundamental alteration that would impact

program quality. Her role is to meet with students and handle their concerns as she has extensive training in the area of disability accommodations.

- The Digital Accessibility Resource Hub is available for all to help provide guidance on making class resources accessible for all students.
- Resources were shared with Senators - [ODS Faculty Guide](#) and [Digital Accessibility Resource Hub](#)

III. Welcome to New Senators and Acknowledgement of 2025-26 Executive Committee

- Plaques presented to 2025-26 President – Sen. Jennifer Cameron and 2025-26 Secretary Sen. Tom Lallier
- New Senators received pins

Public Commentary (2 minutes each) – None

IV. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

- Revisions noted; minutes accepted by Senate after revisions
- Motion by Sen. Lallier, Second by Sen. Lochlann McGee

V. President's Report (President Augustus-Wallace)

- Faculty Handbook update
 - Section 10.7 regarding Scientific Integrity needs revision this year
 - President-Elect Laura Bonanno will serve as head of Senate Handbook Revision Committee
- Other items addressed by Dr Guzick and Dr Porche

VI. Board of Supervisors Report (Senators Alahari and Dolan)

- No July meeting

Report from June Meeting: June 26, 2026

The following were approved

1. Request to Approve the Three-Year Academic Plans for All LSU Institutions
2. Request from LSU A&M to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Robotics
3. Request from LSU Shreveport to Establish a Bachelor of Science in Data Science
4. Request from LSU A&M to Offer a Graduate Certificate in History for Advanced Secondary and Early College Instruction
5. Request from LSU Health New Orleans to Create a Department of Radiation Oncology in the School of Medicine

Below is the report submitted to Board of Supervisors

LSU Health New Orleans

- **School of Medicine:** Dr. **Suresh Alahari** was chosen for the Society of American Asian Scientists in Cancer Research (SAASCR) 2026 Outstanding Achievement Award. The award is meant to recognize and acknowledge senior professors for unparalleled, innovative research discoveries.

- Dr. **Lucio Miele** and Dr. **Suresh Alahari** were named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), one of the highest honors in the global scientific community. AAAS Fellows are elected by their peers in recognition of extraordinary achievements across disciplines, including research, teaching, technology development, administration, and science communication.
- Louisiana will enact a new law requiring all insurers to cover behavioral health crisis services—an initiative developed with LSU School of Public Health, that creates a statewide, accessible crisis response system.
- The School of Nursing Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) program will be recognized in Washington DC as a National League for Nursing (NLN) Program of Excellence for Research-Focused Doctorate in Nursing.
- In collaboration with LCMC Health and St. Charles Parish Hospital, the School of Allied Health has been awarded \$112,00 funding through the HERO Program, supporting its continued efforts to expand access to high-quality allied health education and workforce development. This project will support graduate students pursuing a Master's degree in Communication Disorders, increasing the number of qualified speech-language pathologists.

VII. Reports from Assemblies – Written submissions only; no discussion due to time constraints

Staff Senate:

- No Report

Allied Health:

- SAHP has been working on aligning our Strategic Plan with Dr. Guzick's vision. We had a town hall meeting with him this week for further discussion regarding his goals in alignment with Drs. Rousse and Dalton.
- Semester begins in a couple of weeks, and we are looking forward to welcoming a few new cohorts of students.
- Our Promotion and Tenure Guidelines have been undergoing major revisions to better define and outline expectations of the committee, these have not been officially approved and implemented yet but are in the process.
- We are still in search for an Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Assistant/Associate Dean of Student Affairs; both positions have applicants who are undergoing interviews. These positions are vacant in the school right now.

Dentistry:

- Dr AC Liles has been appointed Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs, effective August 1, replacing Dr. Tom Giacona who has served as Interim Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs
- Tricia Barker was appointed Dental Hygiene Program Director
- The post-graduate residency in Oral Facial Pain has been moved from Comprehensive Dentistry to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS).
- Construction is ongoing throughout the dental school, including:
 - Renovations to Auditorium C

- 2nd floor clinic waiting area and dispensaries
- 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floor breezeways (replacing north facing walls and windows)
- Plans are ongoing for full renovations of:
 - 2nd floor Clinics
 - 4th floor clinics
 - 5th floor faculty offices
 - 6th floor student and resident areas
 - 8th floor research areas
- The School of Dentistry launched a \$100 million modernization project in July 2026. The massive undertaking spans 338,000 total square feet across two primary campus buildings, aiming to upgrade aging clinical, teaching, and research infrastructure. The basement was renovated and now serves as a meeting and lecture hub since the main lecture auditoriums are under construction. The library is closed and the Central Dental Laboratory Space has moved to a different floor during renovation. Because the general contractor must execute a "carefully sequenced" multi-phase strategy across eight floors and two massive buildings while keeping the school operational, the total timeline is stretched to prevent shutting down patient clinics or dental classes all at once, and is anticipated to extend through the late 2020's.

School of Dentistry Strategic Plan 2026-2031

- Education: Educate and prepare competent oral health professionals to meet the evolving health needs of society.
- Research: Foster research capacity to drive innovation in oral health.
- Patient Care: Improve overall health by providing quality oral health services and promoting disease prevention.
- Community: Enhance community outreach efforts to increase access to oral healthcare, educate the community on the importance of oral health and its connection to overall health, and strengthen the role of oral health professionals in overall healthcare.
- Organizational Environment: Advance and sustain a culture that reflects our values and invests in our people and infrastructure.

Graduate Studies:

- While several student-faculty activities related to SGS were discussed, three are particularly noteworthy to report:
 1. Dr. Angela Amedee announced a new Duration of Status Rule: the maximum duration of status for international students is now set at four years. Moving forward, international students will no longer be permitted to change programs or take a leave of absence without reapplying for a new I-20 form, which serves as a certificate of eligibility for non-immigrant status. Current international students will not be affected by this change regarding their duration of status; their existing expiration dates will remain valid.
 2. This current year, eight PhD and six M.S. students have joined SGS.

Medicine:

Highlights from our June 2026 meeting; No meeting held in July

Guest Speaker 1st: Dr. Richard DiCarlo, SOM Dean

- 1) LCMC contracts: Contract negotiations continue to be ongoing; updates are to include clearly identified benchmarks w/ thresholds for potential bonuses/reductions. The newly proposed models continue the use of productive incentives and integrate research (clinical/translational), along with administrative and educational efforts. This updated model is expected to be introduced July 1st, 2026, with expected improvements to follow and to be ongoing.
- 2) NCI Designation: a) Academic depts. are collaborating to create a Dept. of Radiation Oncology-a) MUST for the NCI Designation; b) NCORE-Review of clinical trials & oncological treatments.
- 3) Flagship Transformation: a) A clinical committee has been created (Chairperson-Dr. DiCarlo), report to be submitted along with the review of the relationship and impact with LCRC.
- 4) SACSCOC Report: Submitted in March 2026, expecting a request for additional information June 2026, with an October 2026 visit (tentative)-mostly the Baton Rouge campus; final approval expected December 2026.
- 5) CALS: a) Walkway: Expected opening early July 2026; b) Building: Additional offices are being built on the third floor.
- 6) Entrance from the Seton Building-Plan to extend and open the third floor of the Clinic under consideration.
- 7) LCRC: Plans under consideration for a fence and a connection to the walkway.

Nursing:

- No Report

Public Health:

- No Report

Library:

1. August Information Sessions:

Introduction to EndNote 25 Wed August 19 – 12 pm – Ische Library Room 405 or via [Zoom](#)

Printing Your Research Poster Wed August 26 – 12pm – Ische Library Room 405 or via [Zoom](#)

All Library sessions are recorded and available on the [Library website](#). Registrants will receive a copy of the slides and recording link after the session.

2. Update on Dental Library Closure

- The Dental Library is currently closed for a major renovation project and is expected to remain closed for approximately 12 to 18 months.
- We are in the process of relocating the entire Dental Library collection to the Isché Library. During the move, access to physical books and journals will be limited for the remainder of this week. Quality Group is rebuilding the dental collection shelving on the 4th floor of the Isché Library. Because construction on the 5th floor is not yet complete, a portion of the collection may need to remain in storage boxes until additional space becomes available.

- To maintain a library presence on the dental campus, librarian Julie Schiavo will be available on campus on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings through October. Specific locations are still being determined. This schedule will be re-evaluated at the end of October.
- The work on the 5th floor for installation of the new IT server room is still ongoing and hopefully will be completed by the end of this semester. That will increase the amount of quiet study space available to students.
- The Dental Library staff can be contacted at dentlib@lsuhsc.edu if you need to request any materials.

3. VisualDx has new interface

VisualDx (a clinical diagnostic tool for skin conditions) has launched a new interface with a new differential diagnosis builder and a dynamic diagnoses comparison tool. They created a short [instructional video](#) about the new interface that highlights these changes. This is a popular tool in Dermatology, Pediatrics, Family and Internal Medicine specialties.

VIII. Old Business

- **Senate Resolution for Transparency (Pres. Augustus-Wallace)**
 - Senate continues to support this effort; no update at this time
- **Part-time Faculty as PIs on Research Projects (Sen. Cameron)**
 - Not a common event on our campus but does occur; typically when faculty retire or leave the institution and want to continue their work
 - Usually related to ongoing projects but could happen with new projects
 - Senators raised the question of needing a definition of part-time faculty
 - Policy would apply to any PI role regardless of size or scope of project but could potentially be altered on project-by-project basis
 - Timeline for decision is not clear; Office of Research Services need to have a policy in place as part of the IRB reaccreditation process.
 - Document was shared with Senators with pros and cons of each side (Attached)
 - Senators expressed approval of the compromise used by other institutions which includes guardrails to protect institutional oversight while allowing part-time faculty to compete for research funding.
 - Senator Cameron will put together a policy for Senate to review
- **International travel policies (SOPH Senators)**
 - June meeting included discussion of moving policy from SOM to VCAA but they may not be sufficient to resolve deficiencies in current policy
 - SOPH senators will submit their recommendations to the Senate for discussion at the next meeting.

IX. New Business

- **LSU Health New Orleans Health Fair (Sen. Dolan)**

- Health Fair August 19 in Lions Building, 1st floor, 1:30-7:30pm
- Open to all students, staff, faculty and their families
- Part of our Hunger-Free Campus designation
- Many health related activities
- Registration requested for planning of food
- Information shared with Senators (attached)

XI. Adjourn at 5:09pm