

CABINET MEETING COMMUNIQUE  
MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2006

Present: Crew, Dilworth, Hanson, Jones, Pierce, Webb

- The State Office of Risk Management is requiring that each employee, whether full-time or part-time, fill out a form regarding pre-existing health conditions, because of workman's compensation implications. Each vice-president is to ensure that employees within his/her division complete the form, put it in a sealed envelope, and process it.
- With the commitment of Cabinet members and others throughout the University, progress is being made in reducing the amount of movable property that cannot be located. Because of similar problems at ULL, that university will now require responsible people to pay up to \$1,000 for lost property under their supervision.
- Dr. Webb shared information pertinent to last week's meeting of the Board of Supervisors in Baton Rouge. Based on current information, public higher education will be expected to prepare FY 2007 budget requests reflecting an \$83M (8%) reduction in state general fund appropriations. Indications are there will be no relief this year in the area of unfunded mandates. The Board of Regents ultimately will recommend higher education governance realignments to the Legislature, with greater emphasis placed on institutional missions. Also, the Regents will conduct reviews of academic degree programs to determine those that should be eliminated.
- Dr. Webb asked that the Cabinet consider whether it is feasible to enable employees to use sick leave for illnesses suffered during periods of University closure. Cecil Knotts, Director of Human Resources, will inform the Cabinet on this matter at a future meeting.
- Dr. Webb stated that the Board of Supervisors may hold a special Board meeting on January 26-27, 2006. The regular February meeting is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a possibility that the System Office may reduce some reporting requirements pertinent to personnel changes.

- On the recommendation of Dr. Hanson, the Cabinet approved policies and procedures outlined in *Guidelines for Online Programs*. This document was recommended for approval by the eLearning Advisory Council.
- Mr. Jones reported on deliberations among officials from Northwestern, Century Development, and Regions Bank relative to the construction of new student residence halls (388 total beds) for the fall semester of 2007. Plans call for presenting a proposal to the Board of Supervisors at the February meeting. If approval is granted, the University will move forward on that basis. If construction is approved and completed in a timely manner, there would be 1,300 outsourced beds for the fall 2007 semester. To obtain financing, the University has agreed to close any and all residence halls to ensure maximum occupancy rates in the outsourced residence facilities.
- Mr. Jones provided members updated lists of positions and requests to advertise that are currently frozen. Vice-presidents should meet with him to ensure the lists are current in terms of their recommendations.