

CABINET MEETING COMMUNIQUE  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Present: Crew, Hanson, Carl Jones, Marcus Jones, Natchitoches City Mayor Wayne McCullen (Guest), Tammie Pezant (Guest), Pierce, Mr. Chris Sampite (Guest), Webb, Williams

- Mayor McCullen provided information about measures the City of Natchitoches has taken and will be taking that help strengthen the partnership between the City and Northwestern. The Cabinet agreed it would be beneficial to have the Mayor attend future meetings from time to time and that the Cabinet or some members of it might meet with the Mayor and his key leaders.
- At the request of Mr. Marcus Jones, Mrs. Pezant informed the Cabinet as to ORM audit changes and the University's Emergency Preparedness Plan. She also provided cost information about the purchase of two alert sirens and related peripherals for the campus. The total cost will be in the neighborhood of \$40,000. The Cabinet agreed as to the necessity for this purchase, and the determination of a source of funds will be made later.
- Mr. Marcus Jones asked Chris Sampite to inform the group regarding an upgrade of TMA Systems Software needed for an updated, electronic work order system. It is necessary for the University to purchase the new system and server, and the Cabinet approved the expenditure of \$58,500 for this purpose. The software is compatible with Banner, the software system to which migration will be effected over the next three years.
- Based on recommendations by Dr. Hanson and Mr. Carl Jones, the Cabinet authorized approximately \$300,000 for use by the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Council in funding proposals on a priority basis. The Cabinet tentatively granted authorization to fund in full a significant number of projects listed in priority order by the Council. The Cabinet further grants authority to the Council, if it desires the discretion, to examine individual requests more carefully, to determine whether adjustments should be made in individual allocations.
- Because of the necessity for Northwestern to be linked to LONI—Louisiana Optical Network Initiative—the Cabinet authorized \$300,000 in Internet Fee restricted funds to make this connection through the Board of Regents.

- The Cabinet authorized the following approximate expenditures because of critical priority needs: (1) \$50,000 for upgrades for University Police; (2) \$60,000 for two trucks and two pool vehicles; (3) up to \$300,000 to upgrade restroom facilities in Kyser Hall; (4) \$250,000 for campus-wide railings code compliance; and (5) \$150,000 for the upgrade of the large classroom in Fournet Hall.
- The Cabinet discussed the importance of implementing a viable marketing plan for the University. It was decided that this could best be done through a significant upgrade to Northwestern's website, including a plan for maintaining the system in the future. Dr. Williams will gather information regarding the most effective means by which to accomplish this and will report back to the Cabinet at a future date.
- The Cabinet discussed other items for which funds are not currently available: replacement of the elevator at Turpin Stadium; restroom upgrades at Turpin stadium, including ADA compliance; and installation of light poles beside the hiking paths along Chaplin's Lake and Tarleton Drive.
- Dr. Hanson distributed copies of the AASCU final report and asked that Cabinet members review its contents. The information will soon be shared with budget heads.
- Dr. Hanson asked Cabinet members to consider possible priority links pertinent to the University's participation in VSA—Voluntary System of Accountability—and be prepared to make their recommendations at the next meeting.
- Mr. Carl Jones shared information regarding the University's projected year-end reserve for the Utility Surcharge Assessment. A determination has been made to maintain a reserve fund balance to cover estimated utility cost increases for a period of approximately one year. Consequently, the University will suspend collection of the surcharge for the spring semester and will continue to assess the situation once a year, to determine whether to reinstitute collection in the future.