

CABINET MEETING COMMUNIQUE  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 27, 2007

Present: Crew, Hanson, Carl Jones, Marcus Jones, Pierce, Webb, Williams

- Drs. Hanson and Williams reported on the University's progress in securing a connection through LONI (Louisiana Optical Network Initiative). Board of Regents staff indicate the Regents will pay the cost of equipment purchases to effect this important link and bill the University for one-half of the total cost. It is estimated the total cost will be approximately \$300,000, so that the University's share will be in the neighborhood of \$150,000.
- Dr. Webb informed the Cabinet that Tammie Pezant will represent the University in Baton Rouge this week at state reviews of campus emergency preparedness plans. She will present information on Northwestern's plan at the next meeting of the Cabinet, which will be in January.
- Mr. Crew said he will meet this afternoon with the parish 911 commission to present Northwestern's request for the funding of two sirens to complement those to be purchased by the City of Natchitoches.
- Dr. Webb shared a letter from Commissioner E. Joseph Savoie regarding the 2008 Master Plan for Public Higher Education in Louisiana. The Regents will establish performance targets for student retention and graduation rates and degree production for each state university, with measurements compared to peer institutions inside and outside Louisiana.
- The Cabinet approved Dr. Hanson's recommendation that the following nine "Institution Choice Buttons," or links, be listed in Northwestern's website for the VSA—Voluntary System of Accountability—an initiative in which state public universities will participate: Electronic Learning; Athletics; Student Activities and Organizations; Adult and Graduate Programs; Student Success Initiatives; Student Housing; Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band; Louisiana Scholars' College; and Academic Units.
- Carl Jones shared information about the following: IRS audits of universities; a state RFP concerning background checks for new employees that will now be required for public colleges and universities; a planned meeting with officials of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts regarding possible renovation of Sabine Hall for LSMSA students; and state approval for the University's proposed procurement package for the SunGard Banner software migration.