

CABINET MEETING COMMUNIQUE  
MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2008

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

- The Cabinet voted to approve submitting a proposal for a \$25,000 grant through the Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living.
- The State higher education community will seek an exemption from the Limited Hiring Freeze announced by the Governor yesterday via Executive Order.
- The State office of Facility Planning and Control has issued an ultimatum to Northwestern with regard to the Caspari Hall (Student Services) project, since the planned facility exceeds appropriated funds: (1) Defer the project to a future date; or (2) Ask the architect to scale down the project to where it is within the existing budget. Faced with this dilemma, the Cabinet agreed it would be necessary to reduce the size of the building from three floors to two.
- Members of the Cabinet outlined selected accomplishments for the last quarter of 2007 for their respective divisions.
- Dr. Williams said she is seeking information on the possible re-design of the University's website, with the options of redesign only or redesign plus support. She likely will present an update at the next meeting of the Cabinet.
- Dr. Webb asked Dr. Hanson and others to explore the feasibility of implementing a redesigned First-Year Experience for next fall, at least on a pilot basis, to enhance student success. Discussion is to center on shorter terms in which students might take only one or two courses per term. Dr. Webb asked that Dr. Hanson provide progress reports at each Cabinet meeting.
- The Cabinet discussed a number of ideas for enhancing the quality of student life at the University.