

CABINET MEETING COMMUNIQUE
MEETING OF MARCH 06, 2008

Present: Crew, Reatha Cox (Guest), Hanson, William Housel (Guest), Carl Jones, Marcus Jones, Chris Maggio (Guest), Pierce, Roni Ramirez (Guest), Webb, Williams

- Ms. Ramirez and Dr. Housel presented a proposal and flow chart depicting an approach to move Northwestern toward greatness in the future (see attachments). The Cabinet unanimously granted its approval to the far-reaching plan to use focus groups in obtaining feedback from faculty, staff, and students.
- Dr. Webb disseminated copies of a letter from System President Sally Clausen regarding Northwestern's 2007-2008 performance grant from the System Office. He pointed out that the funds should be used to promote student access and success at the University.
- Dr. Hanson reported that Dr. Maggio and Mrs. Cox, along with five other Northwestern employees, recently attended a national meeting about the First-Year Experience, and that they will report to the Cabinet at the next meeting.
- Dr. Maggio and Mrs. Cox made a presentation concerning the Franklin Square Project and the resulting assessment made by an outside team of Northwestern's Greek System. A Blue Ribbon Committee of ten people is addressing components in the report.
- The Cabinet discussed with Dr. Maggio whether on-campus housing should be provided on a temporary, overflow basis this fall. A decision likely will be made at the next Cabinet meeting.
- Dr. Hanson disseminated copies of a document recommending modifications to the existing University policy governing emergency administrative leave for unclassified staff (including faculty). The Cabinet approved submitting the proposal to the System Attorney for review and recommendation.
- The Department of Pediatrics at LSUHSC in Shreveport has received NIH funding for participation in the 25-year National Children's Study, and our faculty, especially those in nursing, at the Leesville/Fort Polk Campus of Northwestern will collaborate on the study. Officials at LSUHSC hope that Northwestern can provide a facility to house personnel for this purpose, since their plan is for the Leesville/Fort Polk Campus to be the center of the NCS protocol for Beauregard and Vernon Parishes. Carl Jones and Marcus Jones will analyze the situation and make a recommendation to the Cabinet at a future meeting.

- Dr. Williams reported on her progress in exploring means by which to redesign Northwestern's website to improve marketing and informational capabilities. She plans to present her recommendations at a future meeting.
- The Cabinet approved the expenditure of e-learning fee dollars to effect necessary technological upgrades to the University's network and communications distribution systems.
- The Cabinet approved staff upgrades in the Human Resources area recommended by Carl Jones to ensure timely data entry for HRS and ISIS.
- Dr. Webb distributed copies of a letter from Angele Davis, Commissioner of Administration, that he previously discussed with Carl Jones. The letter addresses the issue of unlocated movable property. Mr. Jones said that changes in policies and procedures are under development for eventual presentation to the Cabinet.
- The Cabinet asked that Marcus Jones explore the feasibility of providing signs regarding the prohibition of smoking within 25 feet of entrances to campus buildings.

Proposed: **Go 4 Greatness Action Plan**

Because the current strategic plan is in its final cycle, a core group of faculty and staff have met to discuss development of a new action plan.

Based on concepts from Good to Great, by Jim Collins, and 212°: The Extra Degree by Sam Parker and Sam Anderson, the core group would like to propose asking the following questions:

- What can we be the best in the “world” at? What is it that we cannot be best at?
- What drives our economic engine?
- What are we deeply passionate about?

This would be accomplished through a series of focus groups conducted throughout a week’s time, at varying points in the day, to accommodate the work schedules of faculty and staff, as **all** full-time employees will be invited to participate in one of the twenty focus groups. This method would allow for a legitimate working sample, with the understanding that not all employees may wish to participate.

The data from the focus groups would be collected and collated, and the results used as input for a second round of groups from interested staff and faculty to prioritize ideas. Every effort will be made to be as inclusive as possible throughout the process. The prioritized list would then be presented to the President and Cabinet for review and approval.

This process is designed to maximize staff and faculty input and buy-in, taking advantage of the creativity and capabilities they possess, and the synergy created by the group process.

The expected result is the creation of a vision, NSU 212 °, for the future of NSU to make NSU more marketable, to increase student, faculty and staff satisfaction and retention, and to make NSU a first choice University. NSU will be the place where the environment promotes University-wide success and achievement through discovery, enhancement, and the acquisition and utilization of knowledge.

