

MEMORANDUM:

To: University Community

From: Dr. Robert T. Smith, Chancellor

Date: March 18, 2026

Re: Agenda – Mar 19, 2026, LPC Meeting

The LSUS Planning Council will meet on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. on the third floor of the Noel Memorial Library. The meeting is open to all members of the university community.

1. Chancellor, Chair: Robert T. Smith
2. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs: Helen Taylor
3. Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration: Shelby Keith
4. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs: Demetrius Brown
5. Associate Provost: Helen Wise
6. Chief of Staff: Kim Ramsey
7. Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement: Kenna Franklin
8. Faculty Senate President (or Assign): College of Education & Human Development: Cassandra Williams (absent)
9. Faculty Representative: College of Business: David Fowler (absent)
10. Faculty Representative: College of Arts & Sciences: Jorji Jarzabek
11. Dean of Graduate Studies: Sanjay Menon
12. Dean, College of Business: Mary Lois White (absent)
13. Dean, College of Arts & Sciences: Tibor Szarvas
14. Dean, College of Education & Human Development: Allen Grant
15. Dean, Noel Memorial Library: Brian Sherman
16. Senior Associate Vice Chancellor/Dean of Students: Paula Atkins
17. SGA President (or Assign): Devesh Sarda
18. Staff Senate Representative (or Assign): Business or Student Affairs: Angela Burton
19. Chief Information Officer: Scott Hardwick
20. Director, Human Resources: Robert Lindsey
21. Director of Alumni Development: Jazmin Jernigan
22. Director, University Athletics: Lucas Morgan (absent)

Ex-Officio (Non-Voting)

- Executive Director, LSUS Foundation: Laura Perdue (absent)
- Director, Media and Public Relations: Erin Smith
- Executive Assistant to the Chancellor: Brandy Hayse

1. Welcome and remarks (Smith)

Chancellor Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave an update on the status of the Men's and Women's Basketball teams. Enrollment is at 10,996, many projects are moving forward, and the T-buildings are coming down soon. Chancellor Smith has asked the Faculty Senate to review our current repeat policy to ensure students are not punished for repeating courses. LSU A&M has a repeat and delete policy, which is common with most universities. We would like to move to a similar policy. Chancellor Smith reported on the budget hearings leadership has attended in Baton Rouge and noted that LSUS received 3 shoutouts from President Rouse and Senator Pressly.

2. Approval of minutes from February 23, 2026, LPC meeting

The minutes from the LPC meeting on February 23, 2026 were approved as distributed.

3. Request for Professionals in Residence for B.S. in Social Work and B.S. in Nursing (Taylor)

Helen Taylor reported that both programs require a significant lift for approval, and asked Allen Grant to report on why these programs need these positions to move forward.

Allen Grant stated that these positions will give us the expertise needed for accreditation and curriculum consulting and will include teaching requirements. These programs have been requested by the workforce and align with Board of Regents requests.

4. IT Policies (Ramsey, Hardwick, Jackson)

Scott Hardwick reported on the following policies related to PM-36.

- *PS-124 Data Management*
- *PS-125 Information Asset Management*
- *PS-126 Encryption*
- *PS-127 Compliance*
- *PS-128 Identity and Access Management*
- *PS-129 Physical Security*
- *PS-130 Application Security*
- *PS-131 Network Security*
- *PS-132 System Security*
- *PS-133 IT and Security Operations*

Devesh Sarda asked who all do these policies apply to – students, LSUS property, etc. James Jackson stated that these policies will apply to any and all property owned by LSU Shreveport. Exceptions are allowed but will be managed by LSUS IT.

5. PURE Program (Taylor, Lewis)

Helen Taylor discussed the need to increase and enhance opportunities for students to participate in research.

Amanda Lewis reported on the PURE Program. This is a funding program for undergraduate research experiences and creative endeavors. The program was piloted last summer with Foundation funds and had successful outcomes.

Devesh Sarda stated that this program will be beneficial and add needed experience for students. Requesting that this opportunity go out to students, not just faculty. Amanda Lewis stated that students will apply, and that it's a student-led application process. Devesh Sarda asked how many students this program will support. Amanda Lewis stated the ask is for 15 students.

Scott Hardwick asked whether the students would be researching with LSUS. Amanda Lewis said yes, this is a research experience for students on our campus.

Proposal Name:



Program for Undergraduate
Research & Creative Experiences

PURE@LSUS

Program for Undergraduate Research & Creative Experiences

Date: March 2, 2026

Proposal Description:

This initiative aims to enhance undergraduate research opportunities by providing meaningful research and scholarly creative experiences, a structured mentoring relationship, and opportunities for academic and professional development. It emphasizes a high-impact learning experience with sustained engagement between a student and a faculty mentor.

Program Learning Outcomes:

- Hands-on research experience, problem solving skills, and improved communication skills.
- Enhanced preparation for graduate studies and careers.
- Certificate recognizing program participation.

Program Structure:

- **How it works:**
 - Students select and approach faculty they want to work with.
 - Faculty may mentor more than one student (limit 3).
 - All disciplines are eligible.
- **Duration:** 8 weeks (20 hours/week commitment) program. The target is for summer projects, but any funds not awarded during the summer cycle will be made available for projects during the academic year.
- **Requirements:** Minimum 3.0 GPA, personal statement, submission of an application, and participation agreement from the faculty mentor.
- **Presentations:** Students can present their research findings at a new LSUS Research Forum in the Fall (poster session) and the LSUS Regional Student Scholars Forum in the Spring of 2027.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The Program for Undergraduate Research & Creative Experiences will foster student success by integrating hands-on research, mentorship, and use of campus resources. This program aligns with LSUS's mission to enhance academic excellence, innovation, and workforce development. PURE@LSUS will strengthen student experiences and foster increased faculty mentoring.

6. Media and Public Relations department name change (Erin Smith)

Erin Smith discussed Media and Public Relations changing to the Department of Marketing and Communications. This change aligns with other schools in the LSU System. The goal is to make the change with the department's upcoming move to Bronson Hall.

7. Updates from Cabinet and other Administrative Officers

Shelby Keith reported that budget meetings went well in Baton Rouge. A 3% cut is possible from the Legislature, which will be about \$300,000. With the new funding formula, we are expecting to come out with more funding. Enrollment is stable, and no issues are anticipated with our budget for the next fiscal year.

Helen Taylor updated that the new undergraduate degree in Healthcare Administration was approved by the Board of Supervisors and is now with the Board of Regents. The Master of Science Degree in Biotechnology should be on the next Board of Supervisors agenda in April. Name change request to rename the Department of Kinesiology and Health Science to the Department of Public Health and Human Performance, and the request to rename the Department of Kinesiology and Health Science to the Department of Public Health and Human Performance are on the agenda for the Board of Regents this Tuesday.

Helen Taylor reported that the move to centralized advising is in process, and schedules have gone live. Thank you

to everyone involved in this transition.

Demi Brown asked Angie Pellerin to give an update on the progress of centralized advising. Angie Pellerin reported that everyone is working together and sending out information to students. They are currently piloting graduation checkout processes. 4 new positions will start in April and May, giving us a total of 13 advisors. Jorgi Jarzabek gave thanks to the centralized advising team for constant communication.

Devesh Sarda asked when advising/registration will start. Angie Pellerin stated April 6th

Demi Brown thanked the academic advising team for all their work.

Paula Atkins announced that the Dean of Students Office Ribbon Cutting and Open House will be on April 13th during common hour. Paula Atkins also mentioned that D'Andrea Brown wrote and received a small grant for their area.

Helen Wise reminded everyone to do the centralized advising survey. ACTS from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act requires that we provide 7 years of data on undergraduate and graduate students who applied and those admitted by March 25th. Chancellor Smith thanked Helen Wise and her team for pulling these data together.

Rob Lindsey announced we are expecting nominations for the Sue Kemp Richardson Award. The winner will be announced May 8th at the Staff Luncheon. Service Awards will be on April 30th.

Shelby Keith asked Rob Lindsey to report on Civil Service compensation. Rob Lindsey stated that we have made a request to award and recognize these employees with merit pay for their exceptional service.

Scott Hardwick asked everyone to keep a lookout for emails regarding accessibility training. Scott also asked all to make sure to look at emails more critically to avoid clicking fake links and giving out credentials to outside 3rd parties.

Erin Smith reported on the web accessibility progress. Scott Hardwick gave kudos to Erin Smith's team and talked about the importance of being compliant and accessible.

Jazmin Jernigan reported that Alumni Affairs has a team for the Shreveport Green Citywide Cleanup and requested volunteers. She also asked to send Alumni information and any highlights from your areas to share with Alumni.

Tibor Szarvas and Allen Grant reported on the hiring for their colleges.

Brian Sherman reported that the library is getting ready to roll out several new systems, including new searching software. Photo exhibitions and art shows are also in the works.

Sanjay Menon reported that 197 abstract submissions have been received for the Regional Student Scholars Forum and requested additional volunteer judges.

8. Off-agenda items

Devesh Sarda reported on the upcoming events for Spring Fling. He also noted Academic Awards Convocation is on April 8th and requested that faculty and staff attend to support students.

Angela Burton reported on Staff Senate, noting that 3 seats are now available and to please submit nominations.

9. Comments from the audience

10. Next scheduled LPC meeting: TBD

11. Adjournment