



Louisiana State University at Eunice  
 Strategic Planning Committee  
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**Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2025**  
**Mumphrey Room 127**  
**3 – 4:30 pm**

**Attendance**

Ms. Catlyn Lauret, Student Life Coordinator, Staff Senate Chair	Present
Ms. Kristie Broussard Leger, Interim Dean, Div of HSBT, & Public Protection & Safety	Present
Ms. Rachelle Brown, Instructor, Communications, Faculty Senate Chairperson	Present
Ms. Melonie Ceaser, Interim Director of Facility Services and Safety Coordinator	Present
Mr. Audwin Donatto, Associate Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs	Present
Ms. Amanda Dunlap, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Department Chair, Mathematics	Present
Ms. Alisha Fontenot, Director of Dual Enrollment and LSUE Academy	Present
Dr. Billy Fontenot, Interim Dean, Division of Arts and Sciences	Present
Mr. Gabriel Fontenot, President, Student Government Association	Present
Ms. Courtney Fruge, Human Resources Manager	Present
Ms. Jamie Funk, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor; Manager - Office of Business Affairs	Present
Ms. Ashley Green, Clinical Coordinator of Radiologic Technology	Present
Mr. Stephen Heyward, Director of Information Technology	Present
Ms. Carey Lawson, Associate VC of University Advancement; Exec Dir of the LSUE Foundation	Present
Ms. Felicia "Nikki" May, Assistant Professor of Business Administration	Present
Mr. Gary Reeves, Instructor of Communications	Present
Mr. Donnie Thibodeaux, Registrar	Present
Mr. Travis Webb, Director of Strategic Communication	Present
Mr. Jeff Willis, Director of Athletics	State function
Dr. Nancee Sorenson, Chancellor (Ex Officio)	Present
Dr. John Hamlin, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost (Ex Officio)	Present
Dr. Paul Fowler, Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation (Ex Officio)	Present

**Summary**

The Chancellor and Dr. Fowler introduced the strategic planning process, outlined the structure of the planning documents on the Microsoft Team, and discussed summer work plans. The group agreed to a collaborative approach to meeting facilitation rather than naming a chair, reviewed the vision, mission, values, and discussed the integration of workforce development into their current initiatives. The Committee also revised LSU Eunice's vision and mission statements; at this time, the revisions are considered as a draft.

## **Strategic Planning Process Overview**

The Chancellor and Dr. Fowler introduced the strategic planning process and explained that the group will meet twice a month and outlined the structure of the planning documents on the team's online platform and the strategic planning website. The Committee started by reviewing and refining the mission, vision, and values statements, aiming to have agreed-upon wording by the end of the semester. Emphasis on the importance of considering future academic programming needs over the next 3-5 years was noted including new programs such as physical therapy assistant and enhancing current ones. The use of labor market data tools like Lightcast will need to be used to justify new programs. Aligning with approval processes from the Board of Supervisors, Board of Regents, and SACSCOC was also noted as plans move forward.

## **Strategic Goals and Scholarship Framework**

Dr. Fowler discussed the existing strategic goals that include ensuring access, student success, developing partnerships, and continuous improvement. He mentioned that these goals have been in place since AY 2016-2017 and are under the umbrella of "On-Track". He noted the origin and purpose of the four strategic goals, which were given to him in spring 2016. Dr. Fowler also introduced the concept of "scholarship first", LSU's framework, and he showed different initiatives currently underway relating them to one or more of the strategic goals.<sup>1</sup> He emphasized the importance of future strategic goals and their alignment with both LSU's Scholarship First and the Pentagon priorities. Fowler also noted that any goals and their respective objectives must be measurable and trackable for accreditation purposes. The Committee suggested that the goals should be simplified, clear, and understandable, with the vision being aspirational. The Committee proposed aiming for national excellence, noting that some of the institution's programs are already competitive at a national level.

## **Rotating Chair for Meeting Facilitation**

The Committee decided not to elect a Chair in favor of a collaborative approach with a rotating facilitator. The group agreed to this approach, with Dr. Billy Fontenot volunteering to facilitate the next meeting on March 24, 2025 at 3 pm. The Committee also decided to meet on Mondays from 3 pm to 4:30 pm, and to continue working over the summer.

## **Workforce Development Integration Discussion**

The Committee discussed the integration of workforce development into their current initiatives. The Committee considered the role of internships, certificate programs, and continuing education in workforce development. They also discussed the potential for increased offerings in both workforce development and transfer programs. The conversation ended with a question about the level of specificity needed in their goals, whether to keep them broad or more intentional.

## **Revising LSU Eunice's Vision Statement**

The Committee discussed creating a vision statement and using the draft from 2020 as a starting point. They agreed to focus on making it concise, ideally one or two sentences long. The Committee agreed to make the statement more definitive and assertive along with expanding the scope from regional to statewide, reflecting the institution's broader service area.

Draft Vision Statement as of 3/10/24: Louisiana State University at Eunice will be Louisiana's leading two-year institution of higher education fostering academic excellence and workforce development through responsiveness, innovation, and partnerships.

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<sup>1</sup> See documents at the end of meeting minutes.

### **Revising LSU Eunice's Mission Statement**

The Committee suggested removing terms like "economic development" and "personal enrichment" and replacing them with more specific and relevant phrases. The Committee agreed on the importance of promoting academic excellence and workforce development, and considered adding phrases like "innovation," "responsiveness," and "partnerships" to the statement. They also discussed the need to showcase the university's role in preparing workforce development and its willingness to collaborate with various entities.

The Committee discussed focusing on the need to emphasize unique values such as student-centered learning and lifelong learning rather than stating facts about cost and admissions. They agreed to remove certain phrases and rephrase others to better reflect their purpose and values. They also considered using synonyms for "open admission" to convey the same message without the potential negative connotations. The team agreed to continue refining the mission statement to better represent their institution's identity and purpose.

Draft Mission Statement as of 3/10/24: Louisiana State University at Eunice provides accessible, affordable, high quality, high value programs in a student-centered learning environment. All who benefit from its resources have the opportunity to pursue lifelong learning and expand knowledge and skills.

### **Next Steps**

1. All committee members to review and reflect on the revised vision and mission statements before the next meeting.
2. All committee members to consider potential values statements for discussion at the next meeting.
3. Fowler to update the strategic planning website with the latest versions of the vision and mission statements and with any corrections in names or titles.
4. Billy Fontenot to facilitate the next strategic planning meeting on March 24th.

Materials presented at the strategic planning meeting on March 10, 2024 are in the meeting folder.