

MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE

- A) Shearman Fine Arts renovation and expansion
- \$12.8 million project.
 - Scheduled to begin last fall; however, the project should begin during this year.
 - Estimated increase in construction costs-\$2.8 million.
- B) Kaufman Hall Renovation and Repair
- \$1.8 million project.
 - Scheduled to begin last fall; this project is delayed due to the need for classroom and faculty office space.
 - Estimated increase in construction costs-\$500,000.
 - The project has been modified to include replacement of the HVAC system.

Supplemental funding for construction cost increases may require legislative approval.

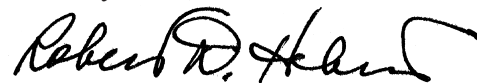
- C) Frazar Memorial Library Renovation and Repair
- \$6.2 million project.
 - In the planning phase.
- D) Alpha Hall Repair
- \$1 million in category 2 capital outlay funding.
- E) Frasch Hall Annex
- \$3 million in category 2 capital outlay funding.

MENINGITIS LAW

Beginning this semester, all incoming freshmen must be vaccinated against meningitis, or present a properly executed waiver, to enroll in any Louisiana public or private college or university. This requirement is in addition to the current immunization requirement.

College students are one of the most susceptible groups for the disease. This requirement is a result of Acts 251 and 711 of the 2006 Louisiana Legislative Session.

Sincerely,



MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

From the office of Dr. Robert Hebert
Hotline 475-5587

Fall 2006

Last year at this time, we were enrolling transfer students from universities damaged by Hurricane Katrina and we did not know what damage and destruction was in our future. On September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita delivered a direct blow to Calcasieu and Cameron parishes and Southeast Texas. Through the determination and dedication of the administrative and support staff, faculty, and students, the University reopened for classes 35 days later.

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Without a doubt the lingering effects of Hurricane Rita have impacted the University's enrollment.

- Fall 2005 total enrollment was 8,992.
- That was the highest in University history.
- It was the 14th consecutive academic semester increase.
- The total included 232 Hurricane Katrina transfer students and 200 students living in Burton Residence Hall.
- Total enrollment for Fall 2006 is 8,343.
- That is the lowest since Fall 2002.
- It includes 25 of the 232 Hurricane Katrina transfer students.
- Burton Residence Hall remains closed and on-campus housing is above 97% occupancy.

GOALS AND CORE VALUES

We begin each academic year with a review of the University's Core Values. The Core Values are the compass for the institutional long-range goals and are focused on strategies related to:

1. A Commitment to Academics
2. Student Success
3. Fiscal Responsibility
4. Community-University Linkages

The Core Values impact all areas of University operations including institutional planning, budgetary decisions, departmental plans, and progress reports. The most important of these is the commitment to academics. Retaining appropriate accreditation from nationally recognized accrediting agencies is critical to our commitment to academics.

ACCREDITATION UPDATES

The Southern Association for Colleges and Schools will visit McNeese in March 2007 to confirm the institution's accreditation. The reaffirmation process includes a comprehensive Compliance Report and Quality Enhancement Plan. Information about the Compliance Report is posted on the McNeese Web site at www.mcneese.edu/sacs.

The **Compliance Report** demonstrates our policies and procedures, assessment of student learning, and information documented in master plans that meet SACS Principles of Accreditation Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards.

The **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)** is a campus initiative focused on improving student learning. Reaffirmation of SACS accreditation requires an approved QEP. McNeese faculty and students are developing a concept that focuses on teaching students to write effectively and appropriately for their discipline. The QEP, "Writing to Excellence," will begin this year and will be implemented and evaluated over the next five years.

Pinnacle Excellence Awards for 2005-06 and 2006-07 will be used to support development of the QEP. Twelve selected faculty will use the awards to develop the Freshman Foundations Initiative and identify strategies for a Writing Center. The awards will be presented to faculty members from each college on November 1.

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NCAA RECERTIFICATION

The NCAA will conduct its on-site recertification review November 13-15, 2006. McNeese's Self-Study has been accepted by the Committee on Athletics Certification. Information on the process is posted at www.mcneese.edu/ncaa.

NCAA certification principles focus on the student-athlete's academic performance as well as compliance with NCAA regulations. Each sport is required to create and implement an Academic Improvement Plan designed to increase student athletes' academic success and graduation rates. At McNeese, each plan will include early intervention strategies for at-risk students.

Last year, nearly one-third of McNeese student-athletes were named to the Southland Conference Commissioner's academic honor roll. This honor requires the student to complete 12 or more hours with at least a 3.0 GPA each semester.

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION HIGHLIGHTS

These academic programs were reviewed in 2005-06:

- AASCB has reaffirmed accreditation for all programs in the College of Business.
- ABET has granted initial accreditation for the Bachelor of Science degree program in engineering technology, process plant technology concentration.

Upcoming accreditation visits include:

Oct. 17-19 Associate Degree in Nursing initial accreditation visit by the National League of Nursing.

Oct. 23-25 Bachelor's degree in computer science reaccreditation visit by the Computer Science Accreditation Board of ABET.

Apr. 17-19 The National Association of Schools of Music will review all music programs.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

McNeese received funding from the state to provide faculty pay raises. The 2006-07 Faculty Pay Plan provided faculty raises from 2% increase to 6.5% depending on merit level achieved.

- State appropriated funds were used to raise library and teaching faculty with average aggregate salaries below 90% of the comparable SREB average closer to the SREB average.
- The average faculty increase is 5.3%.

2006-07 Unclassified Pay Plan

Included in the University budget were pay raises for unclassified support staff. In 2005-06 faculty raises were implemented on August 1 and the raise for unclassified support staff scheduled for January 1 was canceled as a result of Hurricane Rita.

- Eligible unclassified employees will receive a 3.5% increase.
- Unclassified employees below 90% of the College & University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA) average will receive an additional 1.75%.

ACT SCORES

- The state ACT composite score average rose from 19.8 (2003-04 and 2004-05) to 20.1; perfect score is 36.
- 2,603 fewer Louisiana high school students took the ACT last year.
- The national average rose from 20.9 to 21.1.
- The Fall 2005 ACT average for McNeese freshmen was 20.3; McNeese has not received freshman ACT composite average for Fall 2006.

LOUISIANA TUITION OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS (TOPS)

Total TOPS recipients enrolled at McNeese for Fall 2006 = 2,081.

Total TOPS recipients enrolled at McNeese during Fall 2005 = 2,014.

This is an increase of 3.3%.

MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT

First-time TOPS recipients attending McNeese State University increased by 0.3%.

Fall 2006 = 686

Fall 2005 = 684

Continuing TOPS recipients at McNeese State University increased by 4.9%.

Fall 2006 = 1,395

Fall 2005 = 1,330

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

An aerospace project designed by a physics faculty member and five students was the only successful experiment at an aerospace testing project at the NASA National Scientific Balloon Facility. The project will move on to other competitions.

For the third consecutive year McNeese was invited to place a student intern at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

A junior chemistry major received a scholarship for excellence in chemistry from the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry.

The Ann Rosteet Hurley Center for Economic Education is designated as a Model Center for Economic Education for the state by the Louisiana Council on Economic Education. It is the first "model" center in Louisiana.

The University has entered into a partnership with the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana to document, revitalize, and preserve Koasati, the tribe's native language.

McNeese Foundation

- Total assets in the McNeese Foundation exceed \$43 million.
- This level represents a 9% increase over the previous year.
- Four new endowed professorships received state matching funds.
- Six new endowed scholarships established.

The MSU Foundation 2006-2007 budget includes funds for Shearman Research Initiatives, Doré Graduate Assistantships, 51 endowed professorships, and 22 endowed scholars for undergraduate student research.

BUILDING STORM DAMAGE UPDATE

The recovery process is proceeding very slowly. McNeese is a state university and is just one of many state agencies that sustained damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Funding for repairs comes primarily from FEMA and the Office of Risk Management.

Total estimated storm damage to campus and equipment is \$30 million. Many roof and building repairs are underway and will be completed this fall.

The following buildings remain closed or partially closed:

- Gayle Hall (agricultural sciences and family and consumer sciences)
- Drew Hall (engineering and engineering technology)
- Frasci Hall Annex (biological and environmental sciences)
- The Financial Aid Building
- Bulber Auditorium
- Recreation Complex/Memorial Gym
- Burton Dormitory