

President's Cabinet Meeting
September 16, 2008
President's Conference Room

Hurricane's Ike and Gustav—Davis:

\$3.5 million dollars worth of damage to campus

\$1.5 million dollars worth of damage to the Guidry stadium lights – the lights on the parking lot side are bent which is why the entire area has been barricaded off to the public – structural engineers determined that all four light fixtures will need to be replaced due to hurricane damage – will impact night games (Homecoming) which will have to be rescheduled at an earlier (daylight) time.

Some roof, some water but very little structural damage done to campus
Babington residence hall roof will need to be fixed – some water damage to that building

White and Polk halls: roofs need to be replaced due to storm damage
Roof at Barker Hall may have lifted causing some leaking and will have to be assessed and possibly replaced.

Terry Dupre: Risk Management dealing with FEMA and the insurance company

Davis mentioned that it took a long time to receive reimbursement money after Katrina; he does not anticipate the wait being as long for reimbursement from Gustav and Ike.

Campus hired a tree trimming company to take down fallen and broken trees around campus

McNeese, Northwestern sent maintenance crews to NSU to help with clean up and reopening

Southeastern and McNeese sent University Police officers to provide shift relief for our officers during the storm and clean up periods.

LA Tech housed over 100 NSU students and staff during Gustav
ULL sent large equipment to assist with clean up after storm

Emergency Communication: President Hulbert

Shelter Issue: Nicholls State University does not operate shelters. If the State wants to open a special needs shelter in Ayo Hall they can but it has nothing to do with Nicholls State University

Nicholls State University will formalize its future emergency role as a staging area for State Police, Electric Crews/Trucks, LA Wildlife and Fisheries personnel, Fire Departments, helicopter landing pad, etc. where trucks and equipment can be safely parked and left until needed.

President mentioned that bulletins from the city of Thibodaux were received on a regular basis but that none from the Parish were received until after Gustav and Ike had passed.

Davis, Clausen, Tucker, and Piper will meet to determine what we have learned from this storm, what we learned from Katrina and was applicable to Gustav, and which areas we as a University we can improve; one area is to make sure that all new staff who are not familiar with hurricanes and possible evacuations are informed of what is involved when you live in a hurricane prone area.

Nextel's did not work during the storm, the satellite phones did not work consistently during the storm – may need to use Nicholls State University radio station to get information out to local area

Sherry Rodrigue was extremely helpful to the University as she was the one who was able to post NSU information on the Blackboard system for everyone to read.

Fall Enrollment: Howell

Regular students; down 47 paid – up 24 registered

Dual Enrollment: when we count dual enrolled students we are up 103 paid students

As of 9/16 resignations are less than this time in fall 2007

Carol Blanchard is heading a committee specifically created to deal with students who want to resign due to storm related issues (e.g. money, homesickness, stress, fear). These committee members will speak to students about how their possible resignation will impact their Pell Grants, their TOPS awards, Grants in general, scholarships, etc.

In order to better determine who has returned to class and who is still not back, faculty have been instructed to take mandatory attendance in all classes, including junior and seniors. They are to then enter into the SIS system through an “Absence Tracking Form” each class’s attendance list. This way administration can track those students who have not returned to class – they can follow up with a call or email to find out what is going on so we reduce the number of students who just leave without speaking to anyone.

60th Anniversary: Piper

Renee Piper reviewed the celebration schedule

Everyone will receive a copy of the invitation to the 60th anniversary activities

New residence hall status: Davis

Weathered the storm extremely well

Contractor still working on completing “punch list” items

Landscaping for B & C will be completed in the next 2 to 3 weeks

Some sidewalks need to be replaced

LMDB faired very well, some water but no structural damage

Demolition of the Meade, Millet, Zeringue, and Long will begin in about 3 weeks

Wrecking ball demolition will take place

Asbestos abatement must be completed before any demolition

Ribbon cutting ceremony for new halls will take place on October 2, 2008 at Scholars Hall. Invitations will be sent via campus mail.

Mascot Status: President Hulbert/Lawrence Briggs -SGA

September 30th and October 1st: student focus groups will review and vote for their choice of mascot

October 2nd: faculty and staff will have their opportunity to review and vote for their mascot choice