The 2016 year saw extraordinary legislative activity.

The new governor was inaugurated on January 11th.

The Governor called for the First Special Session, which ran from February 14th to March 9th.

The Regular Session of the state legislature was held March 14th through June 6th.

A Second Special Session was convened June 6th through June 23rd.

Let me review some of the results of these legislative sessions.
Legislative actions have limited the TOPS program.

A new law capped future award increases, which means TOPS may not match future tuition rates.

In the event of future state budget shortfalls, another law requires all TOPS awards to be reduced on a pro-rata basis.

For this year, due to shortfalls of state funding, TOPS was not fully funded. TOPS was funded at 93% for this semester and is only funded at 47% for Spring 2017. That leaves many students, across Louisiana, having to make up the difference and has implications for University-funded scholarship offerings.
Louisiana state colleges now have the authority to set out-of-state fees. As noted on the chart, we had the highest out-of-state fees in the Gulf South.

Strategically decreasing out-of-state fees can help make us more competitive to attract out-of-state students.
The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, which coordinates TOPS, and the Louisiana University Marine Consortium, known as LUMCON, moved under the authority of the Board of Regents.
The Board of Regents was mandated to review the entirety of the higher education delivery system by the end of this calendar year. It will make the Fall interesting.

Management boards are now required to adopt policies to ensure full use of campus facilities and to develop future plans for distance learning.
A new law requires public hearings on capital outlay projects over $10 million before a funding request can be submitted.
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Other Legislative Actions

- New authority to set out-of-state fees
- LOSFA and LUMCON under the Board of Regents
- Comprehensive review of education system
- Public hearings on $10M+ capital outlay projects
- **Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act**

The Success for Homeless and Foster Youth in Higher Education Act requires universities to designate a liaison to assist students who are considered homeless youth under the age of 25, or who were foster children under the care of the Department of Children & Family Services prior to their 18th birthday.
Legislators passed a bill that will allow students to use their student ID as identification to vote in local, state and federal elections.

**University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

**Other Legislative Actions**

- New authority to set out-of-state fees
- LOSFA and LUMCON under the Board of Regents
- Comprehensive review of education system
- Public hearings on $10M+ capital outlay projects
- Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act
- **Voting with Student ID**
To address the state’s rising retirement costs, a constitutional amendment will be placed before the voters in November. If approved, it will establish the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund and allocate a portion of mineral revenues to the state’s long-standing debt on the retirement systems.
Also in the November election, higher education boards could potentially regain control of tuition from the legislature.

**University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

**Other Legislative Actions**

- New authority to set out-of-state fees
- LOSFA and LUMCON under the Board of Regents
- Comprehensive review of education system
- Public hearings on $10M+ capital outlay projects
- Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act
- Voting with Student ID
- Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund
- **Tuition Authority**
The state legislature approved a fee increase for university prestige license plates sold at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Now universities earn $50 per plate sold.

In UL’s case, the Alumni Association uses the revenue to provide scholarships for senior-level or graduate students, who need financial assistance to complete their degree.

Earlier this week, I attended a reception at the Alumni Center where they awarded more than 20 scholarships, and half-dozen of them were from the license plate revenues.
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Budget Review
By way of review, the last eight years have seen the most dramatic shift in revenue sources for higher education in Louisiana history.

The chart shows the shifts of funding for UL Lafayette.
Eight years ago, the university received two-thirds of its funding from the state. This year, the percentage of state support dropped below 30%.

This dramatic change in the funding paradigm created significant challenges.

But we met the challenges head on; we didn’t whine or whimper. We implemented strategies to increase self-generated revenues and protect the core academic mission of the university.
Finally, we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Here’s how the numbers break down for this year’s budget...essentially stable. But, there are a few caveats.

The Governor’s Office and the Division of Administration have instructed us to holdback five percent of our State General Fund in anticipation of a mid-year budget shortfall.

For us, that five percent represents approximately $2.3 million. Additionally, we have “mandated cost” increases for employee benefits of approximately $800,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Budget</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Funding</strong></td>
<td>$46.3 M</td>
<td>$46.7 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University-Generated</strong></td>
<td>$114.9 M</td>
<td>$114.9 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$161.2 M</td>
<td>$161.6 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unlike other institutions, we have not had furloughs and layoffs. And while it has not been enough, we’ve continued to do our best to grow our investment in faculty salaries.

### University of Louisiana at Lafayette

#### Investment in Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ULS School</th>
<th>Professor Salaries 2016</th>
<th>Change from 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UL Lafayette</td>
<td>$76.5 M</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholls</td>
<td>$25.4 M</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern</td>
<td>$31 M</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grambling</td>
<td>$25.2 M</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McNeese</td>
<td>$29 M</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULM</td>
<td>$35.6 M</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La. Tech</td>
<td>$36.2 M</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>$51.4 M</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WVUE Feb. 17, 2016
The chart shows the UL System total faculty headcount over the same period. In comparison, we’ve been able to maintain our number of full-time instructional faculty, whereas the system total has been down.

In fact, faculty headcount numbers are down at every university in the UL System, except for UL Lafayette.
And, despite a significant increase in student enrollment, we’ve been able to hold our student-to-faculty ratio steady at 22-to-1. It’s the same today as it was in 2008.
We will not know our Fall enrollment number until mid-September, but, initial tallies show more than 3,000 incoming freshmen. The freshman class will likely end up being one of our largest freshman classes ever.

This class is not just large, they also bring improving academic numbers. The freshman class has the best-ever, high school cumulative GPA – 3.39 – and highest average ACT composite score, 23.87. Last year’s freshman class, which had a cumulative 3.32 GPA and an average 23.4 ACT composite score, held the previous record.

Here’s my favorite statistic of this incoming class: it includes 160 high school valedictorians, a 44 percent increase over last years’ unsurpassed total of 111. Also, 626 first-time freshmen enrolled in the University’s Honors Program, which is 89 percent more than the 332 first-time freshmen who joined last year.

Kudos to our Enrollment Management staff.
One of the primary reasons that we have been able to maintain these investments is because of aggressive efforts to grow enrollment – in both quantity and quality.

Following a slight dip a few years ago caused by raising our admissions requirements, we’ve had solid growth.
Now, it is a lot less expensive to keep the students you already have than it is to recruit new ones.

Thanks to Orientation, SOUL Camp, First-Year Experience, UNIV 100, the Academic Success Center, Residential Life, Advising, caring and sensitive faculty, and many others, our retention rates from the freshman to sophomore year have continued to improve.

But, we can and must do better.

The simple truth is that retention is everyone’s responsibility. All of us should be helpful and courteous and supportive of our students.
More and more, we are being judged by our performance – a primary performance factor is graduating students. We’ve grown overall degrees awarded by 36 percent in the past 8 years.

Broken down: That’s been a 32 percent increase in undergraduate degrees, a 50 percent increase in master’s degrees, and a 69 percent increase in doctorates.
Another growing recruitment, retention and completion strategy, particularly for Millennials and working adults, is distance learning.

In 2010, we had one online degree program – a Master of Science in Nursing. And, we had a handful of online courses, including a few in arts and liberal arts.
We now have 11 online degree programs and 287 courses. We’ve tripled the number of online and hybrid sections offered in five years.

That is, in part, due to the efforts of several academic departments across campus, including 212 faculty members who have been certified to teach online and hybrid courses.

Kudos to the Office of Distance Learning.
We now have more than 5,000 students taking online or hybrid courses at our University.
Of those 5,000 students, roughly 1,300 students, are learning entirely online. About 80 percent of those are nursing students in the RN-to-BSN and MSN programs.

We need to expand the success we’ve had in Nursing to other disciplines.

This will help us to increase our market share in Louisiana and grow our brand around the United States.
We have focused on increasing graduate school enrollment.
In Fall 2015, we
• Increased Doctoral Fellowship stipends.
• Increased minimum stipends for doctoral-level Graduate Assistants.

This Fall 2016, we are
• Increasing Master’s Fellowship stipends.
• Increasing minimum stipends for master’s-level Graduate Assistants.

And, Tuition and Fee Waivers are protecting Graduate Assistants and fellows from increased tuition and fees.
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

K-12 Teacher Tuition Incentive

- Increased annual investment to $170,000
- Expanded with increased semester awards of up to $1,000

By increasing our investment, the University is expanding its commitment to support teachers and K-12 education administrators seeking graduate degrees and to increase our graduate enrollment.
Through the generosity of major donors and a new BORSF matching fund program, we’ve created our first **three BORSF Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships**. These new scholarships will soon provide added support for graduate students in Architecture, Advanced Computer Studies, and Nursing.

We’ve invested more than $100,000 in a Search Engine Optimization project. We’ve improved communications with applicants and recruitment materials. We increased our presence on sites like GradSchoolMatch.com and GradSchools.com.

At the request of the Graduate Council, we created the University Committee on Graduate Student Success and Retention, charged with improving retention and graduation rates.

In April, the University established the Doctoral Candidacy Recognition Ceremony to recognize doctoral students.
Facilities and Grounds
Maintenance and Improvement

Creating an attractive living and learning environment contributes to recruitment and retention.
Unfortunately, the state has not funded construction and maintenance projects recently, nor does it look like we can count on state capital outlay in the near future. So, we are developing our own in-house capital outlay program.

We have identified about $37.5 million in major repairs that need to be done across campus... Most of which is for Academic buildings.

Much of the improvements are about function rather than cosmetics. For example, we need to replace air conditioning units, windows and roofs, flooring, ceiling tiles and do lots of painting.
You may recall a few years ago, our student body voted to assess themselves a fee to contribute to campus improvements.

We are working with student leaders and architects to complete the unfinished area adjacent to the Student Union and Cypress Lake, where Guillory Hall used to be. The design calls for an outdoor amphitheater. We will improve the greenspace and lake border, as well as build out a better crosswalk across Hebrard toward Moody Hall.

We are looking into better wayfinding signage designs to improve visitors’ experiences on campus.

We also are investing in improved security lighting this Fall.
We raised $15M in private fundraising this past year, reaching our goal.

And, we increased the number donors in FY 16 by nearly 11 percent over the previous year.

Our success hasn’t gone unnoticed. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education recognized our university with a 2016 award for overall improvement in growing our donors and dollars.

That progress will continue.

Kudos to University Advancement.
We changed the name of the Research Division to the Office of Vice President for Research, Innovation and Economic Development, to better reflect its mission.
A recent impressive economic development venture was through our work with our partners on recruiting three IT companies: CGI, Perficient and Enquero. Those companies are committed to adding over 1,600 high-quality jobs to the region.

Our students now have opportunities for industry internships, capstone projects, and access to advanced software training. Our students are benefitting by gaining practical experience working alongside employees of CGI and Perficient. After they graduate, they have an option to remain here in our developing Silicon Bayou.

These partnerships are further diversifying our economy by creating hundreds of high-paying jobs in Acadiana. We are pleased to note that 40 percent of CGI’s workforce in Lafayette graduated from UL.
We continue to move the needle on NSF reportable R&D expenditures, which will impact our national rankings.

While our NSF-reported R&D expenditures in FY 2014 were $67.5M, in FY 2015, the amount increased to $78M. Through their efforts, researchers brought much-needed resources to fuel their research and support their graduate students.

We are placing an increased emphasis on federally funded research. The growth from $11M of federal funds in fiscal year 2014 to $16M in 2015 tells me that we are moving in the right direction.
We continue to build our intellectual property portfolio by filing a record number of patent applications and invention disclosures, and doubling the number of invention disclosures from the previous year.

In this past year, we received our highest level of royalties from licensing technologies for commercial development.

Dr. Emad Habib in Civil Engineering, and one of his graduate students, and Dr. Henry Chu, in Computer Science, were selected by NSF to participate in an esteemed federally-funded start-up development program.

Dr. Radhey Srivastava in Chemistry has been awarded both NSF and NIH funding and was issued a United States patent.

A start-up company, based on patent-pending technology invented by Dr. Arun Lakhotia in CACS, has received numerous regional awards, including one from New Orleans Entrepreneur Week.
I want to touch on at least a few of the highlights and updates across campus.
According to Washington Monthly’s 2015 College Guide, UL Lafayette is among the Top 100 national universities in the magazine’s social mobility category. We ranked No. 68 as an equalizer of opportunity, by helping lower-income students earn degrees.

According to the Education Trust, UL is among the nations Top 26 institutions for increasing graduation rates for underrepresented minorities over the last decade.

The University was recognized as a 2016 Military Friendly® School. The designation is awarded to the top U.S. institutions that embrace military students, and dedicate resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after they graduate.
We have one of the top 71 MBA programs in North America, according to CEO Magazine.

UL Press swept the category for “South: Best Regional Non-Fiction” in this year’s Independent Publishers Book Awards competition. Their nonfiction books earned gold, silver and bronze awards.
The University was recently recognized nationally for improving recycling, constructing more energy-efficient buildings, reducing food waste, and improving bicycle transportation on campus.

We were one of 11 universities to earn the prestigious 2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools designation.

Kudos to the Office of Sustainability.
Examples of some of the areas completed are noted on the slide.
Several projects are slated to start, complete or continue in the next 6-12 months.
We’ve established a Search Committee to find our next Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. I want to thank all the committee members, you see listed on the slide. We have a wide representation of faculty, staff, administrators and students, as well as a community representative.

I especially would like to thank Dr. Dianne Olivier, for her willingness to chair this committee.

In the meantime, we are fortunate to have a very capable and experienced Interim Provost, Dr. David Danahar.
SACSCOC

- 5th-year Follow-up Report and 5th-year Interim Report
- 10-Year Reaffirmation Report due in three years

Core SACS team

Spencer Black (GA)
Ellen Cook
Alise Hagan
Jordan Kellman
Fabrice Leroy
Robert McKinney

- SACSCOC has accepted the University’s 5th-year Follow-up Report with no requests for additional justifications.

- SACSCOC has also accepted the Fifth-Year Interim Report.

- I’d like to thank the core SACS team members: Ellen Cook, Alise Hagan, Jordan Kellman, Fabrice Leroy, and Robert McKinney, as well as graduate assistant Spencer Black and all the others who contributed to the successful acceptance of our five-year reports.

- The next Ten Year Reaffirmation Report due in 3 years will involve the all divisions of the university as SACSCOC accredits the entire university. A SACS Steering Group team and other committees will be formed to lead the effort to write narratives and gather supporting documentation that address the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, Federal Requirements, and the Quality Enhancement Plan.
Academic Updates

75 new faculty members

New programs under consideration
  • M.S. Informatics
  • M.S. Environmental Resource Science

New articulation agreements and memoranda of understanding

75 new faculty members

New programs under consideration by the Board of Regents, include an M.S. in Informatics and an M.S. in Environmental Resource Science

New articulation agreements with community colleges and new Memoranda of Understanding with universities abroad.