

## **Academic reorganization results in more staff cuts at ULM**

Officials at the University of Louisiana at Monroe announced the elimination of 25 positions in accordance with university reorganization due to recurring state-wide budget cuts over the last five years. Within the 25 positions, 19 jobs will be active employees and six positions are accounted for through retirements and unfilled vacant positions.

ULM President Dr. Nick J. Bruno understands the overarching negative impact that job cuts can have on the individuals, their families and our community. The continued strength of our university and its academic programs requires our actions, Bruno said.

Career counseling is being provided for those who have been displaced.

“This is not a fix,” he added. “It is only an adjustment. Every year we go in to a new fiscal year optimistic that this is the year that higher education in Louisiana will be stabilized and given more resources by the state. When that occurs, we are committed to reinvest in key areas.”

“Through 2016, the cumulative reduction will be approximately \$4 million with a negative economic impact of \$32 million on Monroe and Northeast Louisiana,” he added.

The reorganization will see the university’s five colleges consolidated into three: the College of Arts, Education and Sciences; the College of Health and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the College of Business and Social Sciences. The Graduate School remains unchanged.

The administrative structure is being adjusted to three academic colleges to facilitate some of these cost reductions. The reorganization reassigns five of those currently in administrative positions back to fulltime faculty.

The reorganization will discontinue the following academic programs: the Ph.D. in Pharmacy Administration, the B.A. in Sociology, and the B.S. in Medical Laboratory Sciences; as well as concentrations in photography and sculpture and geology courses. Juniors and seniors enrolled in the programs will be allowed to complete their degree. Freshman and sophomores will receive academic counseling to help determine their best course of action.

“These actions are consistent with our strategic plan,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Eric Pani. “Our ultimate goal is always to educate students and prepare them for the job market and we will continue to do that.”

Combined with five positions that were eliminated in early October, the overall reduction of almost \$2 million will be realized from ULM’s annual budget beginning in 2017.

Bruno originally informed faculty and staff of the plan to trim the budget during his State of the University address in August.