



The Spring meeting of the ULM SOC M Industry Advisory Council (IAC) took place March 19th- 20th of 2026 at ULM.

IAC Members Attending

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Joshua Kidd | 10. Ryan Kemp | 19. Jerry Fields |
| 2. Nick Spillers | 11. Aaron Vice | 20. Ty Barnhill |
| 3. Donovan Stewart | 12. Jordan Alford | 21. John Franklin |
| 4. Chandler Conrad | 13. Houston Carley | 22. Chris Thompson |
| 5. David Dorsch | 14. Todd Roberts | 23. Matt Nabholz |
| 6. Addison McDougle | 15. Steve Traxler | 24. Charles Poole |
| 7. George Kragle | 16. William Ray | 25. David Dumus |
| 8. Jeff Davis | 17. Khole Beaudion | |
| 9. Larry Favalora | 18. John Gentry | |

Honorary Members: Randy Alford, Ken Naquin, Shannon Knighten, Evan Roark

ULM: Dr Clint Martin, Greg Smith, Dr. Castille, Adam Traweek, Marshall Hill, Steven Stewart

Lunch/ Welcome/ Call to order- Josh Kidd

Josh Kidd, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm, on March 19, 2026, with 25 members present at ULM SOC M Rm 100.

Moment with the Director and Q&A – Dr.Clint Martin

- Spring 2026 enrollment – 185 up from Spring 2025 enrollment of 139 which is 33% increase.
- Updating curriculum with online courses being developed. Working on developing hybrid courses and innovative teaching methods such as projects in class to maintain relationships with students and manage cheating opportunities.
- Was able to obtain Lightboard for free.
- Current restroom floors are being repaired.
- Using donation from Diamond D Industries to procure surveying lockers.
- Practices Lab Update
 - Bid out with bids coming in under budget which may be able to include alternates of slightly larger footprint and mezzanine.
 - Discussed hands on opportunities lab will enhance.
 - Scheduled to break ground May 2026 with open for use Fall of 2027
- ACCE
 - Working on ACCE self-study and will be sending out requests for data collection



- Will be sending survey out to get feedback from employers
- We need to select an IAC member to take the lead on being the ACCE liaison. The next conference is in Cincinnati, where the IAC member needs to be present
- Will have site visit from ACCE during October 2026
- Do we as an IAC need to make a motion to address the university to increase faculty and increase salary for faculty.
 - Strategic plan committee will review and come up with a plan to discuss with the university.
- Little success with getting raises for current faculty.
 - Dr. Martin wants to present merit base raises to the university. Using that as encouragement to retain good people. This will also include cost of living raises.
- They have eliminated 5 programs on campus over the last few months.
 - Faculty from those programs are being let go and not relocated to other programs on campus.
- President Castille's KP1 Checklist
 - We were the only program to get 3 all the way across the board.
 - 3 is the highest you can get
- Dr. Martins' focus is on elevating the quality of students coming out of the ULM's program and not focusing on LSU or other programs
- Q&A with IAC
 - Will the faculty to student ratio affect the ACCE accreditation
 - Ken Naquin stated that we should not worry about this too as all schools are experiencing a faculty shortage.
 - Restroom renovations
 - Confirmed we have money allocated in strategic plan to renovate
 - Faculty office Upgrade
 - Need to get with Michael Davis on getting this work started and or funded.
 - Work to begin this summer
 - Michael has taken on a new role
 - AGC conference
 - Next week.
 - 8 students and 3 faculty
 - Golf tournament funds used to expense trip
 - Golf Tournament at Frenchmen's Bend
 - April 10th
 - Bayou Bash.
 - April 14th
 - Student vs Alumni jambalaya cookoff
- Ken Naquin
 - McNeese, La Tech, and LSU all have accredited CM programs



- Lafayette's program only has a concentration in construction It's not a degree. Currently It's a year and half program. They would like to have a full program by next year
- With all the University creating CM programs it will soon affect funding we receive from CTEF
- Need to keep accreditation to keep funding coming
- It's not uncommon to have more students than faculty. A lot of schools are experiencing this issue
- CETF does not give money to schools who get other funding
 - CETF (Money collected through fines from contractors)
- CETF will be broke in the future if their collection rate does not increase and/or commitments do not get under control. They raise over \$300k each year with more commitments than what is brought in.
- UNO's program is shutting down. They will merge with LSUs program
- Hammond has a 2-year program that focuses on safety
- Nichols has a program which focuses on surveying.
- Collections from voluntary funds are up.
- There will be an update this Fall to discuss how funds will be distributed to amongst all accredited CM programs
- LSU has roughly 1000 students in person and 1000 students online
- CETF – Has \$5K available for students to attend AGC conference. Dr. Martin to request from K Naquin.
- Todd Roberts
 - AGC national conference next week
 - It's going to be a good time with a lot of fun activities for the students

Mardi Gras Float Update- Favalora/ Traweek

- Students came in from TX to see the float. They were impressed and it was one of the selling points
- Larry Favalora and Steven Stewart put in a lot of hard work and dedication to make this a success.
- University wants the program to build a float for Rose Parade.
 - Dr. Martin and Faculty are still discussing
- The students designed and made drawings to build the float. With the help of Steven Stewart
- The trailer came late and so it required them to build the float on the ground
 - The students were then tasked with coming up with ways to get the float lifted and set on the trailer safely
- Some other IAC members helped with the rigging
- Theme for the float
 - Under Construction
- A lot of this was built outside of school and working hours
- Because of the snowstorm. The planned weekend for the electrician to come out and wire up the trailer fell through



- Students had to improvise and use extension cords.
 - Plans would be to have the electrician come out next year and have wired up for next season's parade
- There were a lot of logistical issues that had to be worked out prior to setting out with the float
- Had KNOE (local news) come out and do a full story on the students building the float from start to finish
 - Interview was played during the meeting
- Spent roughly 47k with a budget of 50k to get the float into parade ready condition
- Herc Rentals and Brown Painting were sponsors to help build the float
- Need to start now for next year
- Have one donor specifically for float construction.
- Need look at corporate sponsor.

Moment with the President- Dr. Castille

- Going to AGC conference next week In Orlando
- Her focus is still strengthening the finances of the University
 - Shared that in 2024 the University could not meet payroll
- Eliminated 5 programs based on performance
- Dr. Castille expressed her love on how the connected and involved industry members are within the CM program. SOCM is model for other programs.
- Sat on the Women In Construction panel
- META
 - Dr. Castille met with their leadership and 3 contractors onsite. One thing they are asking is how to incorporate AI into another program
- Mardi Gras Float
 - The Lt Gov. reached out and would like the CM program to build a float for the Rose Parade
 - Dr. Castille thinks it is a great idea. However, still working with Dr. Martin to confirm logistics and next steps
- To help the deficit
 - Reduced travel, cost savings, reduced faculty, went from 5 VP to 3.
 - Down ~100 FTE
 - All deans teach at least 2 classes, one teaching 4
 - Saved roughly \$4mill so far
 - Not looking to cut anymore
- Q&A:
- What type of Engineering degree do you have- David Dorsch
 - Dr. Castille noted she has a degree in Industrial engineering
- If the program were to Increase in enrollment what are the chances of getting more faculty- Larry Favlor
 - Until we see what enrollment looks like in the Fall they can't make any calls



- Overall enrollment - predicting to be down 143 students (International) we will lose ~\$1million
- Retention rate of students is a little over 50%
 - Advising is an important topic for student success
 - Need advisors giving the correct information to students and leading them down the path of success
 - There is no ACT requirement. If you have a 12 on your ACT we will accept you
 - We lose more students Sophomores and juniors. Need confirm how we can keep the students to graduation
- Efficiency and innovation
 - Controlling and focusing on spending and metrics to grow again
 - To help save money we withheld 40% on the front end of all programs budget
 - Focusing on not overspending
 - Bringing in more students and bringing in faculty to support
 - Having to treat this as a business. As much as she doesn't want to think of Education that way. This is the reality
- More info on the Float wanted by the state - Poole
 - Float requirements and expectations
 - Need a budget to build. Dr. Castile will follow up LT Gov
 - Float will be for ULM and travel around Louisiana to different parades
- The AG Building Use- Larry
 - The La Chamber of Commerce is looking to lease this building. If that happens, we will not be able to use this building in the future for Practices lab
- Dr. Castille was In DC last week advocating for the University and trying to find more ways to source additional funding
- Use of Buildings within the Community- David Dorch
 - Dr. Castille confirmed we do not have any connection with these buildings. This is for the city use only.
- Dr. Castille wants us to let her know how she can best support us
- What are the requirements for recruiting without university involvement? – C. Poole
 - Dr. Castille is working on this
- She's all in and committed to this program

Financial Report- Nick Spillers

- Reviewed financial report
 - Nick had the reports displayed on the projector as well as printed out copies for all IAC members to review
- Dues
 - Go into the IAC checking
 - You have the option to have your dues go into Potts fund if requested
- Nick expressed that getting money out of the foundation is not an easy process
 - Depending on what it's been used for
- How can we provide a pay raise to our faculty



- Can we create a sponsorship/ partnership with the university to use IAC funds to pay faculty?
- Members of the Executive and Strategic committees will take this task. Both committees will work together to come up with a plan to present to the Provost
- Someone mentioned that Andrew Barber talked to someone in the President's office to ask about doing another P3 program. They had no interest in participating. We need to see if they are willing to do a "one way" partnership/ sponsorship
- Strategic Plan
 - We can reallocate money in the strategic plan as needed
 - We can also add new line items as needed. Will need to be voted prior to making any adjustments
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Fundraising Update- Larry Favolara/ Addison McDougale

- Fishing Tournament- Favalora
 - Date for the event is May 29 -30th
 - 4 boats are already committed. Still have 5 more boats to fill
- Wild Apricot
 - More details and reminders are on Wild apricot
 - Need to create a QR code for students to be able to access the Website for all upcoming events and news regarding the CM Program and IAC
- Golf Tournament- McDougale
 - One sponsorship available (Maroon) - \$7,500
 - Date for the event is April 10, 2026
 - Lunch at 11 and Shotgun starts at 12:00pm
 - Tournament is sold out except for the Maroon Sponsorship
 - Will net ~\$44k if we don't sell this one out
 - Really good participation from industry and community
- Clay Shoot- Evan Raok
 - The event is on 3/20
 - lunch at 12:00pm Shooting starts at 1:00pm
 - Location is at Wild wings sporting club in Downsville La
 - All teams were sold out this year
 - The CSMA will raise over \$13k after expenses
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Subcommittee Breakout

- Executive Committee- Room 133
- Alumni & Industry- Room 123
- Enhancement- Student Lounge
- Curriculum & Accreditation Room 126
- Strategic Planning- Room 116



- Concluding Thursday Meeting at 5:00pm
- Student and Industry Dinner
 - Bayou Desired Country Club at 6:00pm

Friday March 20, 2026

- Subcommittee breakouts reconvened

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Enhancement – Chair Chandler Conrad

- Survey Monkey procured and used for survey.
 - Great feedback from students. Will share results with Dr. Martin.
 - Word of mouth is still one of the biggest recruiting efforts
 - Improve the IAC and student relationship
 - Chandler has committed and volunteered to be the local IAC member that will nurture this relationship. He plans to speak to some classes in the Fall to introduce IAC and provide students of who we are and how we can help
 - The survey indicated that we have a lot of transfer students
- Other topics discussed
 - New Chairs
 - Confirmed that the chairs in question were replaced last year
 - Update Middle Computer Lab keyboards
 - Using funds from \$1.3 to fund the new keyboards
 - Field trips
 - The students want more hands-on activities
 - Leverage the META site
 - OSHA Certification
 - Need to get an outside instructor to come in and teach OSHA.
 - Dr. Martin to review with faculty on who would be willing to receive the training so that we do not have to pay an out firm. However, to meet the immediate needs
 - Students want to graduate with OSHA 10 or 30
 - Dr. Martin to get cost to get an outside instructor to come
 - Does ABC or AGC offer these services?
 - OSHA offers an OSHA 10 online.
 - This can be implemented in the Fall.
 - IAC to review budget to fund the outside instructor
 - Update on practices lab
 - Students want regular updates on progress
 - Display progress on the digital board in the student lounge
- **No Motions**



Curriculum & Accreditation – Chair John Franklin

- Need an industry survey
 - The IAC purchased Survey Monkey to conduct surveys for both the IAC and the CM Program
 - John sends questions to Chandler, and he will send them out via Survey Monkey
- ACCE
 - We need at least one IAC member to be the liaison for ACCE
 - Larry Favalora and Donovan Stewart agreed to be the IAC representatives
- Note to add Residential class to the curriculum
 - Committee does not want to add a residential class. Much rather incorporate lessons into current classes
- Note to add Data Center focused classes
 - Committee does not feel the need to have a specific class on Data Center. Says we learn all the basics of building data centers in our current classes
- Note to Change the estimating class name
 - Name to change to Estimating 1 and Estimating 2
- Faculty ACCE Self Study
- Greg Smith and Marshall Hill to reach out to IAC if they need any help
- **No Motions**

Alumni & Industry – Addison McDougale

- Local chapter meet and greet
 - New Committee heads
 - Once dates have been selected for the meet and greets they will be shared with the group
- Outreach
 - Get in touch with other regions to keep everyone engaged
- Alumni engagement
 - Reunion by decades. Committee will start working on this however, nothing is in motion yet
- IAC and Students to start Cohosting events
 - Events can be viewed on Wild Apricot
- Wild Apricot
 - Need a CMSA drop down for all their events
- Allocation of Golf funds
 - \$15k was not spent that was intended to fund TEXO student competition. Committee will leave money in this line item and reassess in the Fall.
- **Motions**
- **See below.**

Strategic Planning- Larry Favalora

- Reallocating dollars as indicated below:
 1. S1.2 adding \$59K to purchase new scheduling software. Dr. Martin will explore options to get software for reduced/no costs



2. S1.3.1 added \$110 to balance account
 3. S1.3.3 funds will roll over into next year
 4. S1.3.4 will roll over into next year to be spent this summer, as this work is supposed to take place. This is per Micheal Davis (ULM Facilities Director)
 5. S1.4 reduce budget for this year to \$0.00
 6. S1.5 add \$5k for the next 3 years
 7. S1.6 add \$500 for the next three years
 8. S2.3 add \$1k to this years budget from S2.4
 9. S2.4 move funds to S2.3
 10. S2.8 add \$20k
 11. S2.9 add \$60k for next year to upgrade the float
 12. S3.2 Reducing this year's budget by \$59,110. Reduced the next 3 years budget by \$32K each year. May have to adjust if we get another faculty member
 13. S3.4 add \$5k to this line for faculty ACCE training
 14. S3.5 adding \$14k to this line item.
 - There is currently \$12k out for approval requested by Dr. Martin
 15. S3.6 Discussed increase the assistant to the Directors salary over the next 3 years.
 - Will be discussing with President and Provost
 16. S4.3 Need to add \$1k for this year. There will need to be \$1,500 added each year for the next 3 years
 17. S4.8 Need to hire a third party to assist
 - Dr. Martin to begin looking for someone to hire
- Faculty pay increase
 1. There Is ~\$85000 set aside for supplementing faculty pay increases
 2. Dr. Martin presented a proposal to have faculty salaries increased to the Dean which was in turn denied.
 3. We will present another plan to the Dean and provost hoping for it not get denied. We will re-word the proposal
 - 10% increase beginning next year and 3% thereafter for all faculty
 - 5% increase beginning next and 3% thereafter for Directors Assistant
 - Mardi Gras float
 1. Spent roughly \$47K
 2. Allocate \$60k for next year to enhance the float
 3. Henry Heir pledges \$1k to go towards next year's float
 4. S. Traxler pledged \$2k
 5. Get sponsorships
 - IAC to set up a bank account to house all funding for Mardi Gras Float sponsorships
 - Do we put another line item for sponsorships?
 - Motions
 1. See below.

Executive- Josh Kidd



- Worked with Strategic to help reallocate funds
- Nick working with Dr. Martin to help disperse funds to the CM program and CMSA
- Need to figure out we get professors paid using IAC funds
 - Committee will continue to work closely with the Strategic committee to help push the needle on getting faculty pay increases.

Speaker Presentation- Henry Thornton: META (Community Development Regional Manager)

- Largest infrastructure facility in META history
- Building the future of human connectivity is their motto
 - Making the tech possible from anywhere in the world
- Fun Facts
 - There are 320000 businesses who have a FB page
 - 98% are small businesses.
 - 28% are rural businesses
 - META has 30 data centers around the world
 - 27 in the US
 - 3 in Asia
- Richland Parish Data center broke ground in 2024
 - Investment of \$10+B
 - An additional \$10+B was spent on expanding the underground infrastructure
- 6 things that brought META NE Louisiana
 - Partnership
 - Speed
 - Network
 - Economics
 - Locations
 - Power
- Energy Usage
 - For every megawatt they put out they will provide a clean source of energy
 - Net zero by 2030
 - LEED Gold Certified
- Water Usage
 - Same commitment to replace any resources used 1 for 1.
 - They have an agreement with Ducks Unlimited
- META is seeing great success from our students working at the site
- META Jobs Needed
 - They already have roughly 4,500 jobs filled.
 - 5k total to build the facility
 - 500 plus operational jobs
 - 5000 trade partners working on the site
- Wants to be the best neighbors when building a data center



- One of METAs' biggest commitments is making an impact.
 - Already Invested ~\$3mill in offsite project
 - Fixing infrastructure and roads
 - Over 300k in revitalization in Richland in improving public spaces
- Partnering with Richland parish and NELA
 - Supported the workforce development program
 - Community action grant
 - Will continue even after the project is completed
- META is excited to be here and plans to be here for a long time
 - All their execs are talking about this project
- Henry shared a QR code to view more about what they are doing at META across the entire company
- **Q and A**
- Someone asked if the facility was the size of Manhattan
 - 18% the size of Manhattan closer to the same size of Central Park
 - Site is roughly 2,500 ACRES
 - 4 million sqft
- Would building tiny homes for the Community qualify for a grant to help to fund these- Larry Favalora
 - Henry said this would be something that would qualify for a grant. IAC members to work with Dr. Martin to provide a plan to submit to META for funding.
- Someone asked What % complete are you
 - Henry did not know specifics, however first phase to turn over in 2028
 - Be complete by early April 2031
- How many people will you employ- David Dumas
 - Over 500 people
- There was a question regarding the Budget of \$10 billion
 - Henry confirmed he could not share the exact budget, but it is over 10 billion
- Is the cost of the (2) power plants included in \$10billion budget
 - No, those are separate projects
 - The people working this project is not included in the 5k number
- How many META people are working on this project
 - Over 100 people on the design and construction
 - These people are local
- Are there still opportunities for sub-contractors to do work
 - Henry answered Yes
 - You can visit Richland parish. Com for more information
 - Also Source. Com you can find more information

AGC- Introduction, Association & Industry Update- Randy Alford

- Reestablishing the AGC presence in Monroe, Shreveport, and Alexandria



- New Job opportunities local
 - New Amazon plant in Shreveport
 - Met with the execs to see how AGC can get plugged and help
 - Labor force needed to help run these projects
 - Randy Is in connection with the 2 GC selected to build the facility
 - EC Reed and Hasel
- AGC is working with local Work force development.
 - Looking at qualified prime GCs
- Upcoming local AGC events
 - April 8 Monroe crawfish boil
- AGC young professional leaders
 - Looking forward to starting this program back up soon
- He wants AGC to be a part of the CM crawfish boil this year.
 - Dr. Martin and Student Faculty to give them enough time in advance
- AGC has posted a Job org on their website for
 - These jobs are listed by Contractors who have job openings
 - AGC is not hiring
 - If your company has any opportunities they would like to post, please contact Randy
 - In the next month. Contractors will be able to post any job openings on AGC website and students can go there and insert their resumes.

MOTIONS BY COMMITTEE

Enhancement – Chair Chandler Conrad

- No motions

Curriculum & Accreditation – Chair John Franklin

- No motions

Alumni & Industry – Addison McDougale

- Motions
 1. Restructure the IAC meeting- Awards luncheon would move to the Thursday night dismiss at noon on Friday and go support the CMSA clay shoot. Move the student dinner to Fall. Need to coordinate with the CMSA faculty to ensure dates are the same.
 - To discuss at fall meeting. **Motion did not move forward.**
 - Scholarships from Golf Funds
 - Change the (2) 2,500 scholarships to (10) \$500 scholarship
 - Moved by David Dorch
 - Second by Ryan Kemp
 - All in favor

Strategic Planning Committee – Chair Larry Favalora



- Motion

1. From Strategic Plan Line Item I2.2- Pay the Directors Assistant over the summer to help with 60th Anniversary, pending University approval.
 - 5% on her base salary and 3% thereafter.
 - Moved by Jerry Fields
 - Second by Addison McDougle
2. New Executive Officers
 - Donovan Stewart to become the next Chair. Nick Spillers will continue as Treasurer. A vice chair was not selected. The Strategic Planning committee will work over the next few weeks to get a vice chair and will be voted on electronically
 - Moved by David Dorsh
 - Second by Steve
 - All in Favor
3. Approved reallocated Strategic plan per attached sheet and as noted above.

No further motions.

New Business - Upcoming Events & Other Business:

- Membership dues are due in Oct.
 - Nick will send out a reminder email to make sure everyone is aware
- Student Clay shoot
 - 3/20/26
- ULM SOC M Pelican Classic Golf Tournament - Contact Addison McDougle – amcdougle@a-p.com
 - 4/10/26
- IAC Thurman Potts Fishing Tournament, Barataria, LA, Sponsorships available. Contact Larry Favalora 504-444-3403 or lfavalora@favcondesignbuild.com
 - 5/29-30/26
- Fall IAC meeting
 - September 25th
 - Meeting will be from 7:30am to 2:00pm
- 60th Anniversary
 1. September 25th from 5-10pm
 2. Save the Dates will be sent out soon
- Homecoming game with Student Tailgate
 - September 26th
- All events can be found on the ULM IAC Wild Apricot Website

Special thanks to Lillian Sims for setting up and coordinating the event



Meeting adjourned at 11:00am 3/20/2026

Respectfully submitted:

A blue ink signature of Josh Kidd, written in a cursive style.

Josh Kidd, IAC President

Signed,

A blue ink signature of Dr. Clint Martin, written in a cursive style.

Dr. Clint Martin, Director