

State budget cuts present bad sign

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PRINT EDITOR

After Governor Bobby Jindal released his Fiscal Year 2016 Executive Budget for Louisiana late last month, hopes and fears have grown in the vacuum of potential budget cuts.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2016, which begins July 1, aims for \$24.5 billion, and would reduce spending on state services by 4.7 percent, or \$1.2 billion, and would eliminate 727 state positions.

Jindal's FY 2016 has quickly worried many citizens for its proposed cuts in various places. The business community would be hit hard in the Executive Budget, with many in the community voicing their displeasure publicly and on Twitter.

To fill more than a third of the revenue hole, Jindal would revamp tax credits to raise \$526 million, which would mostly come from inventory tax. This is what angered the business community.

However, another major function of Louisiana that will have to pay is higher education. Colleges and universities have been hit by significant cuts already making it hard to keep courses and programs. LSU Shreveport has been forced to make many cuts by this point, more restriction will only exacerbate the situation.

In a message from LSU President F. King Alexander, he says, "The Governor's office released its FY 16 Executive Budget today to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. The proposed budget includes \$567 million in State General Fund reductions to higher education, equating to a historic 78% cut to Louisiana's public colleges and universities."

Most of the cut is meant to be offset by reworking the \$526 million into tax credits. However, in a message from LSUS Chancellor Clark, he says, "Different media accounts of the proposed budget project the net estimated budget cut to state higher education at a much lower number, near \$140M, based upon projected new dedicated tax credits. However, these credits are neither now law nor assured."

To attempt to alleviate some cuts, Jindal's proposal contributes to a few higher education programs like a \$30 million investment to the Workforce Investment for a Stronger Economy Fund initiative, which was created last year to enhance programs in high-demand fields, and an increase to



Photo by Alexandra Meachum

State budget cuts don't bode well for a school already on the ropes

the TOPS fund by \$34 million.

In the proposal, Jindal says that he hopes to avoid major cuts to higher education with a possible solution. Increased fees to students are the proposed solution to protecting higher education from major damage. The idea is to give higher education a chance to raise fees on its own to cover part of the state's reduced contribution.

"While we support the Governor's proposals to help offset much of the reductions, we also have to take the initiative to identify and support LSU-specific solutions so that we remain nationally competitive. It is clear that the proposed higher education budget cut requires that we accelerate efforts to change our funding model," Alexander said.

It hasn't had a warm reception to staff and faculty working in higher education. It is very possible that, if an

alternate solution to further cuts isn't found, jobs will be cut to keep schools in business.

As another possibility to reduce cuts to higher education, the proposal suggests increased taxation to cigarettes.

Jindal has tried to avoid too much backlash for the massive cuts, likely to keep his chances for campaigning for president possible. Hurting too many divisions of Louisiana would only hurt himself.

"Unfortunately, it will take time before we will know what is going to happen as the state legislature does not convene until April to begin deliberations on next year's budget. A better solution must be achieved," said Clark. "Now is the time for us to make clear to our supporters how critical LSUS is to the education, health and vitality of this region, especially to our students."

Triumphs in LSU Shreveport Sports:

The Almagest catches up with our sports teams courtesy of Mark Cantrell...

Lady Pilots earn bid to national tournament

By winning 13 of their last 15 games of the season, including the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament, the LSU Shreveport Lady Pilots earned their 5th trip to the NAIA National Tournament, a 32-team single elimination tournament. This is the first season that the post season event will be held at the Independence Event Center making it closer for schools that have two teams in the tournament.

The Lady Pilots' first round game will be on Thursday, March 19th, at 4:30 p.m. against the no. 1 seeded Campbells-

ville Tigers who enters the tournament with a 29-3 overall record. The Lady Pilots enter with a 20-11 record as they making their first trip since 2013 when they fell 60-55 to Lee in the first round.

The matchup favors the Lady Pilots on paper as they average 75.5 points per game and 45.5 rebounds per game while

Campbellsville counters with 72.3 points per game and 42 rebounds per game. LSUS has three double-digit scorers

while Campbellsville has only one.

Of the three losses this season by Campbellsville none were by more than seven points.

The last time these two schools met was at the 2010 National Tournament as Campbellsville prevailed 64-55.

The first 30 games of the national championship will be video-streamed live on <http://www.naianetwork.com/>, the NAIA's official video-streaming platform powered by Stretch Internet.

The Almagest would like to extend an opportunity to students to write news and feature stories about the LSUS campus, professors, and student life. We would like to work alongside students to generate more content for the student body and to inform them of important events, issues, and legislative decisions that will affect them. Email us at almagest@lsus.edu to work with the editors on new content.

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Pilots make 11th straight trip to Kansas City

The LSU Shreveport Pilots will head to the NAIA National Tournament, a 32-team single elimination tournament, for their 11th straight trip to Municipal Auditorium where they hold an 8-10 overall record.

The Pilots will play the 5th overall seed Campbellsville Tigers on Thursday March 19th in the first round matchup at 8 p.m. in what will be the first-ever meeting between the two schools on the hardwood.

Campbellsville enters the tournament with

an overall record of 28-5 while LSUS brings a 21-10 record to the dance.

Campbellsville narrowly defeated Cumberland (Ky.) 72-69 in their conference championship game and are winners of six straight games that snapped a two-game losing streak.

The Pilots match up well against the Tigers as LSUS averages 80.1 points per game thanks to four double-digit scorers while the Tigers have just three double-digit scorers and have averaged 77.2 points per game. The Pilots also hold the

lead in the rebounding category averaging 42.7 rebounds per game so far this season while Campbellsville has 42.3 rebounds per game coming into the National Tournament.

All of the national championship action will be video-streamed live on NAIANetwork.com, the NAIA's official video-streaming platform provided by Stretch Internet. Don't miss the live HD-quality video stream of all of the action running from March 18 - 24.

Cormier named RRAC pitcher of the week

Trent Cormier of LSU Shreveport (La.) received the Red River Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week award for the dates of March 2-8. This is the sixth set of weekly awards for the 2015 baseball season.

Cormier tossed 8.2 innings of no-hit ball while guiding the Pilots to a 17-inning win over in-state rival LSU Alexandria (La.) on Saturday to even their series. The sophomore from Carencro, La., retired the first 21 batters before surrendering a two-out walk in the bottom of the 16th inning. He didn't allow another base runner for the rest of the game as LSUS scored to clinch a 5-4 win. Cormier also pitched a scoreless inning of relief work in the second game of the series. The Pilots are 6-2 in the RRAC and 11-4 on the season.

Kade Billeaudeaux of LSUS and Connor Kalisky of Our Lady of the Lake University (Texas) were additional player of the week nominees.

David Marte of OLLU and Elias Novelo of JCC Shreveport (La.) were nominated for pitcher of the week.

Previous Winners:

- Feb. 2 Mike Fredeboelling, LSU Alexandria (La.)
- Feb. 9 Cade Thomason, Texas College (La.)
- Feb. 16 Carlos Andrade, Jarvis Christian College (Texas) (La.)
- Feb. 23 Bond Babin, LSU Alexandria (La.)
- Feb. 23 Adam Michel, LSU Alexandria (La.)
- March 2 Alex Montero, LSU Shreveport (La.)
- March 2 Oliver Christensen, LSU Shreveport (La.)

Pitchers of the Week

- Feb. 2 Marcus Jones, Jarvis Christian College (Texas)
- Feb. 9 Emmanuel Pantaleon, Wiley College (Texas)
- Feb. 16 Adam Hines, LSU Alexandria (La.)
- Emmanuel Pantaleon, Wiley College (Texas)
- Feb. 23 David Diaz, LSU Shreveport (La.)
- Rynn Touchet, LSU Alexandria (La.)
- March 2 Jared West, LSU Shreveport (La.)

LSUS | Student Activities & Recreational Sports

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 8-Ball Doubles Pool Tournament 11 a.m. UC Game Room	3	4 ThinkFirst Presentation 11 a.m. UC Theater Intramural Softball and Soccer Captain's Meeting 5 p.m.-Softball 5:30 p.m.-Soccer UC Pilot's Room <i>Entries and team/free agent fees due</i>	5	6 Pilot Preview Day LSUS Campus	7
8	Student Appreciation Days		11 Goodie Bags and Sand Art 11 a.m. UC Lobby	12	13 Student Organization Council Meeting 11 a.m. UC Ballroom	14
15	16 Rockwall on the Mall 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. UC Steps	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 Karaoke Common Hour 11 a.m. UC Port	19	20 Paintball Excursion 1 p.m. O.F.F. Limits Paintball (\$20/LSUS students) <i>Sign-up by 4 p.m. on 3/19.</i>	21
22 Easter Egg Hunt Week March 23 - 27 LSUS Campus <i>More details at facebook.com/sabatlsus.</i>	23 National Chip and Dip Day 11 a.m. UC Lobby	24 Frisbee Golf Tournament 2 p.m. Bickham Dickson Park <i>Sign-up by noon on 3/24.</i>	25 Evening Students' Event 7 p.m. UC Port	26	27 Video Game Friday 11 a.m. UC Art Gallery	28

Calendar is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, all events are FREE to LSUS students with valid ID. Questions? Email studentact@lsus.edu or call 797-5393.
*Register online at www.lsus.edu/recsports for Rec Sports events or sign-up in the UC Office.



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