

Cavanaugh Lecture

Shaping Up or Shipping Out: The Future of Higher Education in Louisiana

“Have you ever wondered what the future of expertise in Louisiana might be? Are those beautiful kudzu-covered halls going to be in place forever? What will higher education look like in ten years? Visit with three Louisianans who have made a difference in the way that our colleges and universities are shaping up and, with luck, not shipping out.”

March 18

7:00 P.M.

ZOOM Link Provided Below

<https://lsua.zoom.us/j/91082576960?pwd=R25BTW9uUFd0bGs0dHJMR09MaVdMQT09>

Drs. Matthew Butkus (McNeese State University Department of Social Science), Kevin Cope (LSU Department of English), and Jim Robinson (LSUE Division of Liberal Arts) will lead off the Spring Cavanaugh Lecture Series on March 18 at 7:00 pm with a special Zoom session in which they discuss and assess the state of higher education in Louisiana. Butkus has a wealth of empirical knowledge about faculty and their morale. Cope has an extensive knowledge of both funding and the retirement system. Robinson has an extensive knowledge of the inner workings of LSUE and the LSU System. Together, they will examine the impact of budget cuts, the emphasis of workforce training and STEM courses, the de-emphasis of the humanities, the growth of online degrees, and the increasing reliance on contingent faculty.

Presenters



Dr. Matthew Butkus

Dr. Matthew A. Butkus, a Professor in the Department of Social Sciences at McNeese State University, teaches courses in applied ethics and healthcare regulation and law. His research interests include biomedical ethics, neuroethics, artificial intelligence, and public policy. An active member in the Association for Louisiana Faculty Senates, he has helped author two statewide surveys of faculty who are employed by the LSU system, the Southern System, or the University of Louisiana System. He also has helped plan and facilitate town halls at which students, faculty, and local community have met to discuss ways in which to preserve and promote higher education in the Lake Charles area.



Dr. Kevin Cope

Kevin L. Cope, the Adams Professor of English Literature and a Member of the Comparative Literature Faculty at Louisiana State University, is an active scholar whose body of work includes an array of essays and three books, *Criteria of Certainty: Truth and Judgment in the English Enlightenment*, *John Locke Revisited*, and *In and After the Beginning: Inaugural Moments and Literary Institutions in the Long Eighteenth Century*. He also created and to edit the annual journal, *1650–1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era* while also serving as the General Editor of *ECCB: The Eighteenth-Century Current Bibliography*. President of the LSU Faculty Senate for ten years and a former member of the Governing Council of the American Association of University Professors, Cope enjoys a second career in the area of university governance and is a regular guest on radio, internet, and television talk shows.



Dr. Jim Robinson

Dr. Jim Robinson, a Professor of Sociology in the Department of Liberal Arts supplements his Ph.D. with a Masters' Degree in Criminal Justice and background in applied statistics. He has been teaching at LSUE for 43 years and has served as the LSUE Director of the Honors Program and is now serving as Site Coordinator for dual enrollment at the LSU Lab School. He has served as President of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates for 10 years, served as Vice Chair for the LSU Board of Supervisors Faculty Advisory Committee for 13 years, and chaired the LSUE Faculty Senate for 13 years. He has written about "Academic Boards Without Faculty Oversight" and has won and implemented grants, including one for the Big Brother/Big Sister Program.