

Personal Statement Regarding the Louisiana Legislative Auditor Report

I am issuing this statement in my personal capacity to provide context regarding the recent Louisiana Legislative Auditor report. This statement reflects my views alone and does not represent the position of the University of Louisiana or its Athletics Department.

First, I want to make clear that no individual involved in the matters discussed in the report personally benefited from any of the expenditures in question. The events referenced were official and approved recruiting activities conducted on behalf of the university and its football program.

I fully recognize the importance of compliance, accountability, and proper stewardship of public resources. The audit identified concerns regarding the documentation, approval, and reimbursement of certain recruiting-related expenses.

At the same time, I believe there is important context that is not fully reflected in the public report. The recruiting events themselves were legitimate university activities, and many of the expenses associated with those events were allowable expenditures when purchased through the appropriate university funding source. The primary dispute centers on how certain expenses were documented, coded, reviewed, and expensed.

During almost 30 years at the University of Louisiana, I witnessed numerous changes to procurement, compliance, and reimbursement procedures. While those changes were occasionally designed to strengthen accountability, they also created situations where employees were required to navigate increasingly complex processes especially as it relates to purchasing items that would be coded to foundation. In this instance, I believe there were shortcomings in training, communication, and oversight that contributed to the issues identified.

As evident by the football program's organization chart my role was not as the daily supervisor, but as the administrator for the overarching budget, and I accept responsibility for my role in that oversight. Leadership requires accountability, and I understand that responsibility ultimately rests with those of us charged with supervising a university program's operations.

While I may disagree with certain conclusions, characterizations, or interpretations contained within the report, I respect the role of auditors and recognize their responsibility to identify areas where institutions can improve. My hope is that the lessons learned from this process will lead to clearer procedures and stronger training.

As I conclude my career after almost three decades of service to this university, I remain proud of what we accomplished together. The University of Louisiana has provided

extraordinary opportunities for students, student-athletes, faculty, staff, and our community. Our university and our community have done a lot of winning and learning together and I look forward to what is next for both of us. My commitment to this institution will never waver.

The fact of the matter is I would do anything for my university including accepting the consequences for all of this mess. While I wasn't given a choice in whether I had to leave... I have a choice in how I am leaving, and the elevation of the road I am taking into retirement. As far as the future of my beloved university... THE University of Louisiana will only regain its prominence if our alumni and community step up to support it, especially through this particularly challenging time. While we live in the greatest region of Louisiana we are not a regional institution... We are THE University of Louisiana!

Geaux Cajuns!