Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA) Patricia Cottonham administers all non-academic student programs, facilities, and services. The various offices of the Student Affairs area strive to ensure the welfare of all students and to enhance the quality of student life. The VPSA oversees student affairs, housing programs, Student Union programming, student publications, student health services, and student government, among other programs and functions. She has 32 years of experience at the University, previously serving as Interim Dean of Students, Associate Dean of Students, Director and Assistant Director of the Office of Financial Aid, and Financial Aid Counselor. She earned a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology (1979), and a master's in Rehabilitation Counseling Education (1998) from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. She is currently admitted to doctoral candidacy, having completed 54 hours in the Ed.D. program, concentrating in higher education leadership at UL Lafayette.