

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

9:30 AM, Friday, February 21, 2025

Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order

LSU Ag Faculty Chair, Carol Friedland, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Attendance

In-person

William Afton, Giovanna Aita, Kai Aryana, Mike Burnett, Carol Friedland, Greg Lutz, Donnie Miller, Maddox Miller, Prashant Jha, Sara Shields (Maddox Miller).

Online

Chris Dunaway, Bruce Garner, Becky Gautreaux, Claudia Husseneder, Michael Mamp, Brittney Newsome, Vinicius Moreira, Jonathan Richards, Mark Schafer, Rich Vlosky, and Brett Wolfe.

Absent

Jennifer Duhon and Kevin McCarter.

A. Remarks and Items from Dr. Matt Lee, Vice President of Agriculture/Dean, College of Agriculture

Dr. Lee could not participate in the February 2025 LSU Agriculture Faculty Council because the LSU Board of Supervisors meeting was held at the same time.

B. Approval of Minutes

Donnie Miller made a motion to accept the January 21, AFC meeting notes. Kai Aryana seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Guest Presentations

There are no guest presentations at this meeting.

D. Chair's Report

- a. *Distribution of bylaws* – physical copies were made available to those in-person, and a link was provided to those participating online.

Carol met with Dr. Matt Lee prior to the meeting to discuss AFC moving forward. Carol mentioned the bylaws to reiterate the scope of AFC.

1. The council will represent the faculty as a whole.
Dr. Lee encourages council members to reach out to their constituents to learn of issues and to disseminate information. AFC membership is designed so that everyone is represented (on campus, off campus, agent ranks, professor ranks, etc.).
2. To serve as a formal advisory council to the Vice President of Agriculture.
The council will provide formalized advisory recommendations upon request or generated by the council.
3. A formalized means for faculty input on actions.
Dr. Lee relies on AFC to review policy statements. He also would like AFC's input on the new strategic plan.
4. Informal sounding board.
AFC will provide input at earlier stages so Dr. Lee can disseminate that information to the administration.

Carol disinvited the Director of Extension, Director of Agriculture Experiment Station, Director of Human Resources, and Director of Information Technology to monthly AFC meetings to shorten overall meeting length and let the council be more active in their purpose as an advisory council to the office of Vice President of Agriculture.

- b. *Committees* (suggestions from Dr. Lee).
 - Executive Committee – officers, past chair, 2-4 members. This is the only committee found within the AFC bylaws document.
 - Bylaws Committee – keep AFC functioning properly by revising bylaws to sync with council operations and other similar groups.
 - Policies Committee – work directly on PM, PS, policy review and input. Dr. Lee relies on the council to provide input on policy statements.
 - Strategic Plan Committee – Louisiana Solutions, Global Impact. Dr. Lee specifically asked for this committee to look at plan implementation, metrics, and communication.
 - Work Environment Committee – institution culture and working conditions. A way to talk about issues that faculty are facing and present in a way that the AFC can help do something about it.
- c. *Vision of 2025 AFC* – Greater involvement, greater impact

E. Committee Reports

Committee reports will begin at the next meeting on March 21, 2025. Work in the interim until the next meeting.

F. Other Agenda Items

- a. *Confirm Kevin McCarter as the Council representative to the Board of Supervisors, Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates, and the LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors (Bylaws Article I. D.)*

Carol Friedland, Kevin McCarter, and Will Afton held an executive committee meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, to discuss nominating Kevin for this position. Kevin agreed and accepted the nomination.

Greg Lutz made a motion to confirm Kevin McCarter as the LSU Ag Faculty Council representative to the Board of Supervisors, Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates, and the LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors. Mike Burnett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. *Elect alternate faculty member for LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors (CoFA) ([LSU PM 24, II.](#))*

Every LSU Campus has two members, the member and the alternate member. AFC bylaws state that either the Chair or Vice-Chair can be the AFC representative (the member), but there is no description for the alternate representative (the alternate member).

Greg Lutz commented that this issue should be tabled for the next meeting so that a council-wide email can be sent to members with a job description for the AFC Alternate CoFA representative and request nominations.

Donnie Miller made a motion to table the election of an Alternate AFC CoFA representative until the March AFC meeting. Mike Burnett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. *Committee Formation.* There is no limitation on committee membership. There is no information in AFC bylaws about committee chairs, their function, and what they do. Committees are expected to self-organize with the understanding that each will give a report at the March meeting.

- Executive Committee Nominees (Bylaws Article IX, 2.)
Carol Friedland, Kevin McCarter, Rich Vlosky, Will Afton, Giovanna Aita, Maddox Miller, Donnie Miller, and Kai Aryana.

Kai Aryana made a motion to accept nominations for the executive committee membership. Greg Lutz seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

- Bylaws Committee: seeking volunteers
Nominations: Bruce Garner, **Mark Schafer**, Carol Friedland, Vinicius Moreira.
- Policies Committee: seeking volunteers
Nominations: **Jonathan Richards**, Claudia Husseneder, and Sara Shields.
- Strategic Plan Committee: seeking volunteers
Nominations: Greg Lutz, Brett Wolfe, Prashant Jha, and **Donnie Miller**.
- Work Environment Committee: seeking volunteers
Bruce Garner, Becky Gautreaux, Brittney Newsome, **Giovanna Aita**, and Mike Burnett.

Giovanna asked the council about what is expected with respect to committee meetings and reports. Carol responded with several suggestions.

Carol created an MS Teams group with subgroups for committees to facilitate AFC communication.

The executive committee has agreed to meet once a month in between council meetings and Carol, the committee member in bold above, will schedule those meetings. Other committees can design their schedule.

Committee reports will be given to the council during council meetings. Reports can include things like issues identified, things we work on, and plans of action. The council can provide input on other issues not mentioned.

The policy committee can schedule meetings with Dr. Ashley Gautreaux to discuss upcoming policy documents.

The Strategic Plan committee will hear more from Dr. Lee to set work for committee.

G. Introduction of New Business

Administrative updates.

Recent councils have become accustomed to hearing updates from each administrator. The AFC bylaws (Article IV, Section 3) provide a structure for AFC meetings. The administrative update is provided by the Vice President of Agriculture/Dean of the College of Agriculture.

Some council members look forward to hearing updates from other administration members, such as the Director of Extension, Director of the LAES, Director of IT, and Director of HR.

Some council members feel that the AFC is a way for faculty members who work off-campus to be heard. Off-campus faculty members work with local government

officials and need to be briefed on current organization matters when conversing with their stakeholders.

Carol is going to post a document in the AFC teams group that asks council members what they want to hear and who they want to hear from. This way, the council can make requests for specific reports directly to Dr. Lee. The council can still invite guests to present at meetings.

2025 Meeting Dates – 9:30am-12:00pm/Room 212 Efferson Hall or Teams

The next AFC meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 21, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM in Room 214 Efferson Hall. Dr. Matt Lee will provide remarks. The meeting focus will be to present committee reports, and to elect the Alternate AFC Representative to BoS and CoFA.

Dates-Planned for 3rd Friday of Each Month. Meeting invitations sent.

~~January 17~~

~~February 21~~

March 21

April 25

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December ?

Adjourn

Maddox Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kai Aryana seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM