

February 3, 2022

Dr. William F. Tate IV, President
Louisiana State University
University Administration Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Dr. Tate:

On behalf of all faculty members of the College of Agriculture (COA) and the LSU Agricultural Center (AgCenter), the Agricultural Faculty Council (AgCouncil) welcomes you to LSU and wishes you success in your endeavors as the new President of the LSU System and Chancellor of the LSU A&M Campus.

The AgCouncil is the representative body for COA and AgCenter research, extension, and teaching faculty members on the A&M campus, at research field stations, and at extension offices in Louisiana. The AgCouncil provides a formal structure to serve as an advisory entity for the Vice President of Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture. In addition, the AgCouncil provides faculty input on actions, procedures, and policies and serves as a nexus between faculty and administration.

The current AgCouncil priority focusses on Agriculture Administration. While Dr. Luke Laborde has admirably undertaken the leadership role as Interim Vice President and Dean, the AgCouncil suggests that the myriad facets of agriculture and the critical contributions LSU agricultural personnel provide to Louisiana clientele and the state economy require that permanency in agriculture administration be established as soon as possible. In addition, the AgCouncil strongly urges that the Vice President of Agriculture and the Dean of the College of Agriculture be held by two separate persons as has been the case throughout most of the history of these two units.

We are hopeful that the Vice President of Agriculture/Dean of Agriculture search committee(s) be created as soon as possible with the Chair of the AgCouncil being a member of the search committee(s).

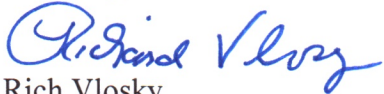
Further, the AgCouncil strongly urges that only candidates that are full professors worthy of tenure in an agricultural department or station and have administrative experience in managing departments, complex budgets, and obtaining support funds be considered for these positions.

Other leadership attributes include a strong vision for the LSU COA and AgCenter; a critical thinker with outstanding interpersonal, written and oral communication skills; respect for diverse views and opinions; willingness to make changes; ethical, trustworthy, credible, and transparent; respectful of shared governance principles; ability to build a competent and trusted leadership team; a perspective and knowledge of the nuances of agriculture; and political acumen with clientele and government personnel.

The AgCouncil is committed to contributing to overarching LSU strategies and goal achievement that fall within our role, scope, and mission. Finally, we would like to extend an open invitation for you to provide remarks at our monthly meetings. Thank you for your consideration.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Rich Vlosky
Chair, Agricultural Faculty Council

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