

April 17, 2022

Dear Matt,

I'd like to ask that you and President Tate review the key take-away points from our meeting last Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. *I want to make sure that what I report to the Agricultural Faculty Council meeting on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is accurate.*

The following is excerpted from the February 3, 2022 letter from me to President Tate on behalf of the Ag Faculty Council, with my observations/meeting interpretation.

Please comment and feel free to add anything I missed or that he wishes to convey to the Council.

Thanks.  
Rich

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*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.*

>>> Agreement that the search process will take place in a timely manner. No firm dates or deadlines were provided.

*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.*

>>> This was communicated by me at the meeting but no discussion or commitment specific to having these positions remain combined are held by two people.

>>> Although future organizational structure scenarios weren't discussed, we all agreed that one person couldn't be effective as Vice-President of Agriculture, Dean-College of Agriculture, Director-Agricultural Experiment Station, Director-Louisiana Extension Service, and Director-4H Programming.

>>> We agreed that some model of CoA/AgCenter organizational integration could potentially take place with the goal of maximizing efficiencies, value-addition, and stakeholder interaction for the LSU enterprise.

*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).*

>>> No discussion of timeline for establishing search committee(s). Agreed that Chair, Ag Faculty Council would be 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.*

>>> Agreed by President Tate that candidates for these positions would indeed be full professors worthy of tenure in an agricultural department or station and have administrative experience in managing departments, complex budgets, and obtaining support funds. The additional attributes are a given for any person being considered for these positions.

*Finally, we would like to extend an open invitation for you to provide remarks at our monthly meetings.*

>>> No date was set but we do hope arrangements can be made for Dr. Tate (and you) to visit with us at a monthly Council meeting, perhaps in the fall.