

July 13, 2022

Good Morning Colleagues,

I apologize for not being able to join you all this morning for the Ag Faculty Council meeting. I have a conflict this time, but very much look forward to joining you all for future meetings. I anticipate we will have a strong and transparent working relationship as we seek to advance the overall agricultural enterprise at LSU. We need to work together to ensure we are fostering conditions that allow the faculty to conduct their important work unimpeded. To accomplish this we will need to have open lines of communication and a high degree of transparency. This you can expect from me.

As I appreciate it, two central questions folks have right now as we prepare for me to transition to the interim VP and Dean role are, Who is this guy, and what is the plan? I can answer these in a fairly straightforward way. At heart I am a scholar, coming up through the faculty ranks as a social scientist with expertise in rural crime, public health and community resilience. I know and understand the faculty role, and admire the work ethic and innovative spirit faculty demonstrate to drive our mission. You all do great work and the role of administrators is to get out of the way and make the path ahead as smooth as possible.

I have been in a variety of administrative positions over the last 12 years, serving as the associate vice president for research, vice provost for academic programs, and most recently as the interim executive vice president and provost. I have worked with various parts of the agricultural enterprise over the years in all of these roles. Through this work I have concluded that in its totality, the ag enterprise at LSU is probably the strongest and most impactful piece of our diverse organizational portfolio. This is something that we all should be immensely proud of and energized by!!

In the coming weeks and months, the main thing you can expect from me is to listen intently and hear from you all and the professional staff and students what we are doing well and where we have opportunities to enhance our impact. The agricultural enterprise is a core component of the emerging strategic plan, and I believe we can make this a huge year for us. I look forward to working with you all and many others to make that happen.

Thank you for all you do.

Matt

LSU

Matt Lee

Interim Executive Vice President & Provost

Office of Academic Affairs
156 Thomas Boyd Hall
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803; Phone: +1 (225) 578-8863