

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 AM, Friday June 17, 2022
Room 212 Efferson Hall



Call to Order

Invited Guests

Question Posed to Dr. Laborde-Answered by Dr. Lepley:

For FC, can you mention to Dr. Laborde that there is a concern with 4-H state office personnel. For the state office personnel to be effective they should communicate in a timely manner, have leadership skills, and send the agents guidance and information to share with their members. I have been told by several agents that those things are not happening. Just last week there were issues with 4-H online and the contact for the enrollment system left the AgCenter and no communication was sent out on why calls and emails were not answered. I see there is a larger disconnect on the 4-H side of the state office compared to the FCS side.

RESPONSE:

I would first like to address the issues concerning 4HOnline. The 4HOnline system is a new management (enrollment and event registration) system that everyone is adopting and learning this year in Louisiana 4-H. The person who was overseeing the system roll out and support did move (did not leave) within the AgCenter. The 4-H Program established a 4HOnline email for questions as well as the person moving did provide a contact phone number for staff to call if they had questions. The 4-H Office identified a new contact to help serve as the help desk until a permanent replacement can be hired. Additionally, the primary person who moved is still assisting with questions and issues even as they are no longer part of the 4-H unit. If calls and emails were not answered I would respectfully request that individual(s) who experienced that to please reach out to me directly and myself and Dr. Tarifia will address it. I will admit we should have sent out an email notice of the transition and will communicate the help desk process.

As for the 4-H office not communicating in a timely manner, having leadership skills, and sending guidance to the agents is very interesting, and concerning to me. We would be glad to have a conversation with these “several agents” to see what we can do better. Currently, the 4-H State Office distributes a weekly news and updates on opportunities and updates about 4-H (populated by information from administration as well as 4-H specialists), we host quarterly administrative updates, we have quarterly professional development days on the regional basis, which many include 4-H Specialists who attend and provide training or updates on program opportunities, and the state office schedules professional development/update opportunities throughout the year to ensure that agents are knowledgeable about the happenings of Louisiana 4-H. Also, the 4-H Unit host either an annual update days in three locations across the state or our professional development conference (virtual in 20 and 21) which is two days of professional development and updates. Additionally, Dr. Tarifa and myself have maintained an open door policy that any agent, parent, volunteer, or youth can address their concerns directly with either one of us.

Thanks for the opportunity to address this concern and I would most definitely like to communicate directly with any agent that may have a concern about the units communication, leadership or guidance. I realize fully that the 4-H office is support unit to, and for, the parishes and we can only be as strong as the work and communication we have between our groups.

Toby L. Lepley, Ph.D.

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Ashley Gautreaux-Assistant Vice President, Human Resource Management, LSU AgCenter

1. Proposed changes to AgCenter policy statements.

Dr. Fred Piazza-

1. Overview of IT organizational structure, function, mission.
2. Key activities that promote faculty productivity, streamline processes, and generally support this primary IT client.
3. Plans on the near-term and long-term horizons that that will positively influence the way the AgCenter provides information and utility to internal and external stakeholders.
4. Intranet has not been updated in a decade; what is required to support internal client?

“You're not missing anything. This is the current LSU AgCenter intranet. It has not been updated in well over a decade. AgCenter IT and Communications have not had the available staff to properly update and maintain it.”

5. CMS is a failure. Plans to develop utility to outside (and internal clients)?
6. Dynamics is a failed utility-Now being replaced. With what? What was cost to develop Dynamics and its replacement?
7. Will the new Extension reporting system mandate a new performance evaluation platform? (Since the current ones “talk”); If not, will there be a need to restructure the performance evaluation system to accommodate the new reporting system?
8. Dr. Laborde stated that there are 75,000 attempted hacks to the AgCenter system daily. Please elaborate.
9. We are all able to get a free copy of Microsoft Office for ‘personal use’. However, with OneDrive and the need to log on through LSU to use the software, OneDrive and hence LSU has access to anything we do on a home computer – financial, etc.; Is this the case?, and can it be circumvented?
10. Can faculty members also have a drop box in addition to their one drive?”
11. Other Q&A

Organizational Matters (7 Responses)

- 1) Communicating with constituents.
 - a) Monthly staff conferences]
 - b) I sit down with my parish chair and inform them of the high points of our meetings.
 - c) Faculty meetings and FCS meetings
 - d) I report in faculty meetings, when we have them, and I may occasionally send an email to my colleagues in my department, but my efforts are not at all systematic and fall far short of an adequate constituent feedback loop.
 - e) Just in faculty meetings
 - f) I do give updates in our 4-H Quarterly meetings. I sometimes mention them in our NE Regional Administrative meetings which include Parish Chairs, Regional Coordinators (4-H & FCS), and Regional Director.

2. Representation on search committees.

Old Business

1. May minutes approval.

Reports

1. Diversity Council Update (Mark Schafer)
2. Council of Faculty Advisors/Board of Supervisors Meeting-Today/June 17, 2022

Announcements

1. LSU Faculty Senate Elections for College of Agriculture Update

Discussion Items

1. Unit Head Performance Survey Status- Rich Vlosky (Holding at 37% response rate)

New Business

Next Meeting Friday, July 15, 2022

Adjourn