

**LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-Agenda**  
**9:30 AM, Friday February 17, 2023**  
**Room 212, J. Efferson Hall**



**Call to Order**

**Invited Guests**

**Dr. Matt Lee**, Interim Vice President of Agriculture/Dean College of Agriculture

1. Administrative Update
2. Unit Head Performance Survey (UHPS)

**Dr. Tara Smith**, Interim Executive Associate VP and Director for the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

1. Administrative Update

**Ashley Gautreaux**, Assistant Vice President ; Department, Human Resource Management

1. Policy project update

**Dr. Mike Salassi**, Interim Executive Associate VP and Director for the La. Agricultural Experiment Station

1. Administrative Update

**Dr. Wade Baumgartner, J.D.**, Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

1. Update on comparison of proposal numbers and research expenditures year-to-date compared to last year.
2. Global Network is in middle of registration for the joint Food Symposium with MENDEL and Univ of Life Sciences, Warsaw.

**Dr. Fred Piazza**, Chief Information Officer, LSU AgCenter

Dr. Piazza was not able to participate in person. He submitted typed Update and Response to AFC Questions

**Updates:**

1. **CMS Development** – We are in the planning phase to upgrade our existing CMS to the newest version. We are continuing to work with SiteCore, our CMS vendor, to establish the new development environment on which the upgraded system will reside. This upgrade is not a simple task and will likely take up to a year to

complete. Once done, we expect some stability issues to be corrected, as well as an easier user interface for employees to use to post and maintain web content.

2. **LSUAgCenter.com Restructure** - In addition to upgrading CMS, the new Directors of Research and Extension have indicated that they would like to begin restructuring sections of LSUAgCenter.com to better align with the institutional efforts of LAES and LCES. IT and Communications have been working with each of them to begin this process.
3. **AgCenter transition to a TEAMS phone system** – We are continuing to work with BR Campus to migrate existing telephone lines on campus to Microsoft Teams calling lines. We expect this migration to be completed by late summer. Each unit will be notified in advance of the migration. Training will be offered as needed.
4. **Intranet utility for internal customers** – A new intranet portal look and feel is on the wish list, but there is no timeline for completion.
5. **Security** – We are continuing to draft policies and procedures to bring the LSU AgCenter in compliance with LSU PM-36.
6. **Purchasing** – We have developed a list of common IT-related items that are pre-approved for AgCenter employees to purchase without additional IT approval. This list was ready to transfer to our website for faculty and staff to use. However, to comply with internal auditing procedures we were required to make a workflow process around this list that captures some use-case information. This has delayed the launch of the list by a few weeks. We should have this completed by the end of February if there are no further delays.

### Questions/Responses:

1. *Is it still the case that AgCenter employees can't initiate a Zoom meeting but can participate in one?*

That is correct. The LSU AgCenter does not own an institutional license of Zoom. The AgCenter does own an institutional license for Microsoft Teams which provides the same basic functionality as Zoom. LSU AgCenter employees are prohibited from using the free version of Zoom to **host** meetings and events due to its lack of security and its lack of public records requirements as mandated by the State of Louisiana. However, LSU employees are allowed to use the free online version of Zoom **to attend meetings and events hosted by other institutions** that do have an institutional license of Zoom.

2. *Our understanding is that AgCenter devices are susceptible to infiltration via unsecured Wi-Fi. If yes, how are wi-fi connections at airports, doctors' offices, other universities, etc. to be handled?*

This is correct. The risk of an unprotected/insecure wireless connection is that any traffic that is not otherwise encrypted can be read by any malicious entity on that network, and if there are not sufficient other safeguards and a system is already vulnerable, then it could be compromised. Generally speaking, open/unsecured wireless should be avoided if possible. If there is no alternative, then making sure that your systems are up-to-date and ensuring that the local firewall is enabled and properly configured is a first step. Also, when using unsecured networks, it is advantageous to limit what you access to systems and services that have some level of encryption (e.g. HTTPS for websites) and pay attention to any security warnings that may appear when trying to access systems and services, like those indicating that a connection is not secure or that a certificate does not match.

3. *How many instances of phishing or attempted entry into AgCenter IT systems monthly?*

In the last 30 days, the following threats have been identified:

- 127 emails with confirmed malicious payloads.
- 27,213 suspicious emails, of which over 3,000 were identified with high confidence as phishing
- On our cloud environment, 19,128 verified malicious sign-in attempts were blocked with another ~9,000 suspicious failed sign-ins
- There were another 20,000+ sign-in events "of interest/concern"
- While I don't have stats on the LSU A&M perimeter, I do have stats on our firewall hosted at the State of Louisiana Information Services Building which services our off-campus locations. This firewall detected approximately 562,000 suspicious connections/session attempts.

### **Organizational Matters**

1. AFC Website: <https://faculty.lsu.edu/ag-faculty-council/index.php>
  - Contains archives of: Meeting agendas, Meeting notes Meeting documents.
  - Let Rich know of any pertinent information that should be displayed on the council website.\*\*
  - Share website with constituents!!

**2. Council Members: Duties, Expectations, and Responsibilities.**

- a. In past years, a considerable amount of membership has not shown up to meetings causing official quorum issues. **We made a commitment-Attend!**
- b. *All members represent certain ranks on and off campus.* All colleagues within the same rank and designation are your constituents. Talk, gather ideas, bring forth their concerns to AFC meetings.
- c. Please attend meetings either in-person or online. If you are completely out-of-pocket then have another member be a **proxy**.

**3. Alternate Needed** April 21, 2023 Council of Faculty Advisors & Board of Supervisors meetings at LSUA in Alexandria.

**Old Business**

- Motion to accept the minutes from the January 2023 LSU AFC meeting.
- Dr. Maddox Miller was inadvertently not listed as a new Council member in the December 2022 meeting minutes.

**Reports**

**Discussion Items**

- VP/Dean Search Update (Rich Vlosky)

**New Business**

**Meeting dates for LSU AFC Meetings in 2023\* *NOTE CHANGES DUE TO CONFLICTING MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES***

- ~~January 20~~
- February 17
- March 17
- April 21
- May 26...~~May 19~~ Conflicts with Commencement
- June 16
- July 21
- August 18
- September 15
- October 20
- November 17
- December 18, 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Current and New Members)...~~December 15~~ Conflicts with Commencement

**Adjourn**