

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-Agenda
9:30 AM, Friday, June 14, 2024
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order

Attendance

In-person

Online

Absent

Invited Guests

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

1. Legislative update
2. Stakeholder Question: Are there any temporary near or on-campus accommodations for visiting scientists or short-term internship students coming from abroad? Most of them have minimum funding but not enough to afford a hotel stay. Many universities have designated housing accommodations for such situations.

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

1. Policy updates

Dr. Mike Salassi, Exec. Assoc. Vice President & Director LAES Administration

1) Faculty Positions:

- Precision ag candidates – 3 position offers being drafted, 1 additional candidate interviewing
- Sugarcane Quantitative Geneticist – Sugar Research Station – position offer being drafted

2) FY24 Community Project Funding – Ag Conservation through Precision and Digital Ag Technologies

- \$5 million request for precision ag research/extension (\$3.8 mil in equipment)
- Selected for funding at \$1 million – working to develop proposal through NRCS
- Working with precision ag faculty to develop project(s)

3) President Tate has acquired the services of Huron Consulting Services to review the research program of LSU over the next several months. Campuses participating include LSU A&M, LSU AgCenter, Pennington, and Health Sciences Centers in New Orleans and Shreveport. Large volume of preliminary data requests is currently being assembled by LAES staff.

4) LSU AgCenter Field Days Held/Forthcoming:

- Climate Smart Rice Field Day – Tues., June 11, Kaplan, LA
- Rice Station South Farm Field Day – Wed., June 12, Crowley, LA
- Rice Station Field Day – Tues, June 25, Crowley, LA
- Sugarcane Field Day – Wed., July 17, St. Gabriel, LA
- Soil Fertility Field Day – Thurs., July 25, Winnsboro, LA
- Sweet Potato Field Day – Thurs., August 29, Chase, LA

Dr. Tara Smith, Exec. Assoc. Vice President & Director LCES

LCES Updates

- Associate Director of Youth Development is advertised and closes July 15th.
- FFA Executive Director is advertised and closes July 15th.
- Ms. Olivia Phelps begins work June 15th as a Program Development and Evaluation Specialist.
- Soils Specialist Position - offer in hand with top candidate.
- Vegetable Specialist position will be readvertised.

4-H Youth Development and FFA

- 4-H University is scheduled for next week with more than 1,300 4-H members and adults attending. Thanks to all the departments and faculty for their assistance in making it a great opportunity both in experience and recruitment for LSU.
- 4-H Camp is underway at Camp Grant Walker and so far it has been a great summer for the kids and camp. We are in the process of going through our accreditation process this summer with the American Camping Association (ACA) which are standards focused on health, safety, and risk management, and are used as benchmarks by government entities. ACA accreditation provides public evidence of a camp's commitment to the well-being of campers and staff.
- National 4-H Shooting Sport team is preparing to defend their national championship in Nebraska at the end of the month so we wish them luck to bring home another national championship.
- FFA Convention wrapped up last week with over 1,300 participants. FFA members will be attending National FFA conference and several camps throughout the summer.

ANR

- Mr. Bryan Gueltig is coordinating with specialists and other faculty to develop recordings / modules that can be used to study for the pesticide safety commercial applicator exams. These recordings will be available later this summer. Anyone applying or handling pesticides as a requirement of their work with the AgCenter needs to be certified or trained depending on the level of involvement etc. It is expected that all ANR agents will become commercially certified due to the nature of work we do.
- The Specialist and Researcher contact list has been updated and was sent to the field. I am currently working on edits and will send out again once updated.
- The ANR onboarding guide has been updated and is with Communications for formatting.

AWARDS

- Dr. Trey Price is the recipient of the LCAAA and NACAA Distinguished Service Award
- Dr. Ashley Edwards is the recipient of the LCAAA and NACAA Achievement Award
- Drs. James Villegas and Dr. Raj Singh submitted a USDA-NIFA proposal entitled, IPM extension implementation for Louisiana, to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s (NIFA) Fiscal Year 2024 CPPM Extension Implementation Program (EIP). The proposal was recommended for funding at the \$281,116 level.

Dr. Fred Piazza, Chief Information Officer

Assistant Director for IT Support:

Due to the retirement of Davis Dautreuil, AgCenter IT is in the process of seeking a new Assistant Director for IT Support. This position will lead the on-campus help desk staff as well as the efforts of our field service technicians. Members of the Faculty Council are invited to attend presentations given by the top two candidates. The presentations for each candidate will take place on Thursday, June 20, 2024, and will last for approximately 60 minutes each. Full information on times and location for each of the presentations can be found here: [Assistant Director for Information Technology Support Presentations](#)

PC Refresh:

AgCenter IT is in the process of distributing a new round of PC replacements for faculty and staff who have aging primary use computers with standard computing needs. Distribution of these new computers is expected to be completed by mid-Fall.

AgTelecom (Teams phone services) for Campus:

The Teams phone migration for campus-based employees is nearing completion. There are only two campus departments remaining: Plant Pathology and SPESS. All other units on campus have been completed. Plant Pathology migration is nearing completion, and SPESS will be focused on in late June.

Old Business

1. Motion to accept the minutes from the May 10, 2024 LSU AFC meeting.
2. Reminder: Service unit faculty satisfaction survey will be part of overall employee satisfaction survey. Survey will be conducted in Fall 2024.
3. LSU Faculty Senate Election-College of Agriculture. Correction: TWO open positions to be filled:

Lisa Fultz	School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences	Agriculture	2024
Kevin Ringleman	School of Renewable Natural Resources	Agriculture	2024

Rich Vlosky (LSU AFC Chair) and Carol Friedland (LSU AFC Vice-Chair) will manage election process June/July 2024.

New Business

2024 Meeting Dates

~~January 19~~
~~February 16~~
~~March 22~~
~~April 19~~
May 10

~~June 14~~
July 19
August 16
September 13
October 18

November 15
December 13 (Current
and New Members)

Adjourn