

LSU Ag Center Faculty Council Meeting held on 12/18/2002

Lee Southern led the meeting initially prior to election of officers. He provided some background information on the formation of the Ag Center Faculty Council and referred us to the Faculty Council home page for minutes and reports to the Chancellor from their committee meetings. He described the ranks of the newly elected council members and how the numbers of each rank (on and off campus) were chosen.

All members were in attendance. After this brief discussion by Lee, officers were elected. The newly elected officers for 2003 are as follows:

Chair: Bill Branch

Vice-chair: Steve Harrison

Recorder: Cathy Williams

After election of officers, Chancellor Richardson met with the council to discuss to areas he wants us to address.

The first area is faculty welfare. There are a number of issues that need attention.

The second area is promotion and tenure. Although this is part of faculty welfare, it is a separate issue that needs to be put toward the top of the list. The Ag Center faculty members need to know what to expect.

The third area deals with the existing Ag Center policy statements. As we organize, Dr. Richardson wants us to go through and decide which ones are good, bad, or need to be modified or changed. There are many policy statements from the past 25 years, and there is no telling what is there or what is being followed. We should have as few policies as needed, and they should be used.

The fourth area was choosing a faculty representative to the Board of Supervisors. We currently have one representative (Jim Griffin) and no alternate. The representative has previously been chosen by the Ag Center, rotating between research and extension. Dr. Richardson will now turn the selection of the representative over to the Faculty Council. A representative and an alternate should be selected. This representative will attend the faculty affairs committee meeting held on the Thursday prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting. It is very important for the Ag Center representative to attend this committee meeting.

After discussing his four major areas, the Chancellor mentioned setting up committees within the council. He and his staff will work with us. The Faculty Council should look at all types of things the Ag Center does. Our council shouldn't just mirror the campus faculty senate.

He also discussed communication between the council and him. He will come to our meetings and wants to be included on our agenda. Feedback is important, so don't wait until the meeting if we need to communicate with him. No major decisions will be

made by the Ag Center or by the council without discussing with each other first. Issues must be dealt with professionally as they arise.

Dr. Richardson said that he will be making departmental, regional, and experiment station visits to discuss how programs fit the mission of the Ag Center. Discussions won't be pleasant. He will close stations and/or units as needed. There are no "sacred cows."

He also said that the Ag Center maintains a good relationship with the Board of Supervisors. We are one of few agencies that communicate with them.

The Chancellor closed his part of the meeting with some comments concerning the attitude of the council as we approach issues. We are working in the best interest of the Ag Center. We must keep communicating with him. The Ag Center is a diverse organization, and people watch us closely. The Chancellor also made some comments about the LSU Flagship Committee. The Ag Center chose not to become reamalgamated with campus.

After Chancellor Richardson concluded his portion of the meeting, the council determined a rotation system for the first 3 years. Since all members are newly elected, some must rotate off of the council after 1 or 2 years. After this initial election and rotation, all newly elected members will serve 3 year terms. Lee Southern presented a possible system to determine 1, 2, and 3 year terms at each rank. It was moved and seconded to accept Lee's suggestion. Each council member drew a number (1, 2, or 3) which would indicate his/her term. Those who got 1 or 2 year terms by this method can run again if they wish. The Council members and term lengths are as follows:

Full Rank On Campus:

Bill Branch – 3 yr
Steve Harrison – 3 yr
Chris Clark – 2 yr
Paul Wilson – 1 yr
Lane Foil – 1 yr

Full Rank Off Campus

Don Boquet – 3 yr
Jerry Whatley – 3 yr
Nona Fowler – 2 yr
Allen Hogan – 2 yr
Kenneth Sharpe – 1 yr

Associate Rank On Campus

Kurt Guidry – 3 yr
Carl Motsenbocker – 2 yr
Marybeth Lima – 1 yr

Associate Rank Off Campus

Rebecca Kelly – 3 yr
Denyse Cummins – 2 yr
Deborah Bairnsfather – 1 yr

Assistant Rank On Campus

Krishna Paudel – 3 yr
Cathy Williams – 1 yr

Assistant Rank Off Campus

David Lanclos – 2 yr
Arthur Villordon – 1 yr

Lee Southern mentioned some final business items prior to his departure from the meeting. These included: 1. email had been set up for the group; 2. a list serve is set up

for the faculty. We must decide who should receive messages. It is our duty to report to the faculty. Mike Carl will work with us.

The council thanked Lee (and his committee) for their efforts in setting up the council.

The Ag Center Faculty began their first meeting. Several issues had to be taken care of to get things started and in place for the next meeting.

1. Jan 10 was tentatively set as the date for the next meeting.
2. Selection of representative to board of supervisors. It was moved (by Jerry Whatley) and seconded (by Allen Hogan) that the representative be the chair of the faculty council, with the vice-chair being alternate and recorder being second alternate. All approved, and the motion carried.
3. Formation of an executive committee. It was moved (by Steve Harrison) and seconded (by Allen Hogan) that the executive committee consist of the 3 officers and 2 additional members (1 from on campus, 1 from off campus) elected by the council. The executive committee will meet twice per month, will communicate with the Chancellor, and bring information back to the council. The vote was unanimous in approving this motion. Lane Foil (campus) and Kenneth Sharpe (off campus) were elected to serve on the executive committee.
4. Promotion and Tenure will be a major issue for discussion at the next meeting. A committee will be formed. A question was raised (by Cathy Williams) about assistant rank members serving on the P and T committee. Council members clarified this, saying that it is up to us to decide procedures and that this committee would not actually be the promotion and tenure committee for the Ag Center. Therefore, any council member could work with this committee.
5. A committee will be needed to sift through the policy statements.
6. Importance of the faculty council was stressed. Two questions were asked concerning the purpose of this committee. 1. Will this council be the faculty voice or will it be the "puppet" of the Chancellor? 2. Will our actions be binding or will they be recommendations? In response, the statement was made that we are the channel of the faculty for bringing recommendations. We have an opportunity to have impact on the organization (Ag Center).
7. For next meeting, the council was asked to come back with a list of suggested committees. These committees will not all be standing committees.
8. Policy handbook is on the Ag Center web site. We should look at them and decide upon the important ones to address first. (The promotion and tenure policy statements will be among those). A hard copy of the policy statements will be provided for the council members.
9. Agenda for next meeting will include Chancellor Richardson. It was suggested that he come in at the beginning after roll call. Also included at the beginning of the meetings will be invited faculty or other guests with issues to present.
10. Mike Carl from the Ag Center computer services will be invited. We need to work with him to set up a way to get meeting notices and information to all faculty.
11. It was moved and seconded (Don and Jerry) that we adjourn.