

LSU AgCenter Faculty Council
Minutes of meeting held May 27, 2003

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. Members in attendance included:

Paul Wilson	Chris Clark
Cathy Williams	Stephen Harrison
Arthur Villordon	Bill Branch
Becky Kelley	Allen Hogan
Debbie Bairnsfather	Kenneth Sharpe
Donald Boquet	Carl Motsenbocker
Kurt Guidry	Denyse Cummins
Jerry Whatley	Lane Foil

2. Approval of minutes from March 28 meeting:

- a. Minutes were reviewed by council members
- b. It was moved (by Jerry Whatley) and seconded (by Allen Hogan) that the minutes be approved as handed out. The motion carried. The minutes will be posted on the Faculty Council's web site.

3. Old Business

- a. Discussion of policy statement PS 42:

Jerry Whatley provided most recent revisions to PS 42, and extensive discussion of additions/changes/corrections ensued. These changes had been uploaded to the Share Point web site and had also been emailed to the faculty council for review. The entire document was covered by sections, and final suggestions and recommendations were sought from the council members present. One particular topic that received much discussion was the question concerning scientists in the same discipline but outside the unit in the review and approval of a faculty member in the promotion and tenure process. Additionally, criteria for selection of potential reviewers were discussed. After this extensive discussion of PS 42 was completed, Steve Harrison moved that we accept PS 42 as amended and after 1 week, if no further comments were received, the amended document will be accepted and sent to the Ag Center. Cathy Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- b. Proxy voting was discussed. The following amendment to the bylaws, to be added as article XI, was proposed by Steve Harrison and revised by the council:

Article XI. Each Faculty Council member has one vote on resolutions and other business items under consideration by the Faculty Council. Faculty Council members may assign a proxy vote to another Faculty Council member under the following circumstances. The Faculty Council member must have had the opportunity to consider and discuss the item for which a proxy is assigned.

1. A proxy may be designated if the Faculty Council member can not attend a meeting, and an item that was discussed at a previous Faculty Council meeting is scheduled for consideration and vote.
2. A proxy may be designated if the Faculty Council member must leave a meeting early, before a vote occurs on an item that has been discussed during the meeting.
3. The Faculty Council member must designate his/her proxy by sending an email to the Faculty Council prior to the meeting listing the proxy or stating in the meeting that he/she must leave early and assigns a proxy to a given Faculty Council member.

The council will vote on this proposed amendment at the next meeting.

- c. Meeting schedule
 - i. The council discussed a meeting schedule for the remainder of the year and agreed that setting a schedule for the year was not feasible.
 - ii. At the next meeting, the council will vote on changing the bylaws which require that a schedule of all meetings be established at the beginning of the year.
- d. Evaluations
 - i. The evaluation for vice chancellors and unit heads was sent by email to Council members.
 - ii. Comments from the Faculty Council received before the April 30 deadline were forwarded to the Chancellor.
 - iii. This evaluation process will be discussed further at the next meeting.
4. Chancellor Richardson had the following comments to the council:
 - a. The state budget situation is changing by the minute. He discussed the federal tax cut, reduced funding for higher education, no funding for professorships, and the uncertainty of library and scientific equipment funding. He also said that funding had been increased for community colleges. The next several weeks will be critical.
 - b. Dr. Richardson asked the council for advice on the following items:
 - i. Renovation of web sites: He handed out a proposal for us to review and make suggestions. This may need to be addressed in next year's budget.
 - ii. GIS: What are departments doing in GIS? We need to determine what is being done, how to use existing resources, and identify our needs.
 - c. The Chancellor answered questions from council members.
 - i. Ag Center staff council has been appointed and has met once. There are no research associates or extension associates on this council. There has been a lot of interest from field staff.
 - ii. Efferson Security System: The proposed security system was recommended based on several breeches of security that have taken place and for safety issues related to the serial killer.
 - iii. Annual reviews: Dr. Richardson asked us to summarize problems and give him a list.

5. New Business

- a. Next meeting will be held July 31.
- b. Annual Conference feedback: Comments concerning annual conference should be sent via email. These will be summarized and sent to the Ag Center by Bill Branch.
- c. Departmental reviews:
 - i. Many have been completed and others remain to be conducted. Council members commented on reviews conducted since the last council meeting.
 - ii. Horticulture and Animal Sciences summits have taken place. Council members present at those summits gave a brief report.
 - iii. A question was asked concerning feedback from the reviews. How do the unit heads get feedback? Will the Chancellor distribute results (strengths, weaknesses, other comments)? Faculty would like to know the outcome of these reviews.
 - iv. Faculty would like to know what other summits are to be held.
 - v. The council will ask the Chancellor about reporting outcome of reviews and future summits.
- d. The executive committee will meet within the next 2 weeks to further discuss the following items:
 - i. 5 Year Plan
 - ii. Feedback on Annual Conference
 - iii. New Ag Center web page
 - iv. GIS Advisory group
- e. Efferson Hall security:
 - i. Communication had been sent to AgCenter employees describing a new security system for Efferson. This system will restrict entrance to one end of the building. There will be a receptionist by this entrance, and visitors will have to sign in and out. Each person will be escorted to the office they are visiting.
 - ii. Faculty council discussed the need for this new system. Security is needed all over campus, not just in Efferson Hall. Council members felt that this suggestion for a security system was excessive.
 - iii. Chancellor Richardson will get a copy of his proposal to us, and the council will make recommendations if needed.
- f. PM 12
 - i. Jim Griffin sent a copy of the proposed changes to PM 12 and the resolution recommended by the LSU Shreveport Faculty Senate. The current PM 12 is a tuition waiver policy for staff and is not available for faculty or dependents. The University of Louisiana and Southern Systems have tuition reduction benefits in place for faculty, staff, and dependents. The Faculty Advisory Committee to the LSU System has voted to support a system-wide tuition waiver for faculty, staff, and dependents. The resolution from LSUS Faculty Senate recommends to the LSU System a change in PM 12 to incorporate the changes proposed by the Faculty Advisory Committee. This resolution has been sent to President Jenkins.
 - ii. A motion was made by Jerry Whatley and seconded by Allen Hogan that the LSU AgCenter Faculty Council encourage our Chancellor to support this change to PM 12. After brief discussion, it was decided that a

resolution be written and sent via email to the Faculty Council. The council will vote at the next meeting, and a letter will be sent to Dr. Richardson.

- iii. The motion was tabled until further notice via email.
- g. Master Gardener Program
 - i. The committee met last week, and a recommendation was made.
 - ii. Administration has not moved forward pending input from faculty.
- h. PS 35: Student Wage Guidelines
 - i. Policy currently states that student workers cannot be paid more than \$1 over the minimum wage. Many faculty members feel that they should be able to pay wages needed to keep good student employees. Many excellent student workers leave because of insufficient wages.
 - ii. It was proposed that we amend the PS 35 document.
 - iii. Steve Harrison will send a copy of the proposed changes to PS 35 via email. The discussion was tabled until next meeting.
- i. Distinguished Fellow Award will be discussed by the executive committee at their next meeting.
- j. LSU Master Plan
 - i. This plan will affect the Ag Center more than the A & M Campus. A permanent subcommittee will be formed in the Ag Center to address the issues of the Master Plan that involve Ag Center facilities.
 - ii. Carl Motsenbocker agreed to chair a faculty council committee to address problems and keep the council informed on issues with the Master Plan. Suggestions will be sent to Jim Griffin, the current Ag Center Representative to the LSU Board of Supervisors.
 - iii. Committee report will be given at the next meeting.
- k. Motion by Jerry Whatley, seconded by Donald Boquet, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.