

Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting
23 April 2004

Steve Harrison called the meeting to order at 10:00a

Members present: Don Boquet, Chris Clark, Denyse Cummins, Nona Fowler, Kurt Guidry, Steve Harrison, Allen Hogan, Clayton Hollier, Becky Kelly, Debbie Melvin, Troy Menard, Carl Motsenbocker, Jerry Whatley, Paul Wilson.

Old Business:

Job Descriptions PS: Nona Fowler gave a report on revisions to Appendix C for the Job Description PS. Allen suggested changes to Section 'F' to describe service activities in more detail. The Council agreed to change so as to read the same as in Appendix A. Clayton Hollier and Allen Hogan suggested changing research associate to extension associate in Appendix B. Don Boquet will verify the correct title for associates in extension and change if needed. The Council approved the PS with changes. Don Boquet will make the changes and send to Steve Harrison for final review.

PS 39: Nona Fowler reported on PS 39. The Council agreed to two minor changes and PS 39 was given final approval. Nona will send the completed PS 39 to Ann Coulon.

LAES and LCES Priority Reports: Steve reported on the Council responses to the LAES and LCES Prioritization Reports. The Council reports were sent to the Chancellor but are not yet posted on the AgCenter Web Page.

Paul Wilson questioned why unproductive faculty was a problem mentioned only in the LAES Report and not mentioned in the LCES, Administrative Structure and Service Reports. After discussion, it was decided to add a general statement on the need to assess productivity of staff in all units in the Council Responses to the Administrative Structure and Service Units Prioritization Reports.

Debbie Melvin pointed out that the LAES Report sent to Simone Kramer might not have been the final edited version and needed to be re-sent. Don Boquet will re-send the last version to Simone.

Troy Menard stated that he and some agents were opposed to increasing 4-H dues as recommended in the LCES and Council reports.

New Business:

Steve Harrison brought up for discussion as requested by Linda Hooper-Bui the assignments of the State Livestock Show Leader. The Council agreed that this was a good move in agreement with the Prioritization Reports that would save money.

Administrative Structure Committee Report: Carl Motsenbocker presented the first draft of the Council committee (Carl, Allen Hogan, Linda Hooper-Bui). The Council discussed and revised the Committee Report. Steve Harrison will e-mail the report to Council members for additional input as needed and write a final report by 29 April.

Report by Chancellor Richardson to the Council:

The Budget situation seems to be improving. The state found \$270,000,000 in the health care budget to fill in the deficit. The state report on estimated income will be complete between 1 and 15 May. It is not yet known how much money will be in the budget. The AgCenter may be looking at a smaller budget cut of only ½ million dollars.

The dairy fee (tax) on dairy products proposed by Francis Thompson is strongly opposed by retailers and is not likely to pass.

The AgCenter Administration has begun to brief legislators on the LAES and LCES reports to keep them informed so they will not be surprised by later actions.

Southern University wants to have a research station in St. Landry Parish for small farm research and has received \$750,000 to buy land. Some legislators are now questioning the need for a station. Southern has not presented a plan but seems to want to have their own facilities rather than share with the LSU AgCenter.

Question and Answer Session with the Chancellor.

Jerry Whatley asked if financial exigency was still being considered?

Yes. This will be decided in June.

Allen Hogan asked if needed changes can be made without financial exigency?

This depends on the route we decide to go. Some things can be done without exigency. Letting personnel go will require exigency.

Steve Harrison asked how close the administration was to completing a plan?

The Chancellor has met three times with the vice-chancellors. The report is 1/3 to ½ half complete. They are planning for three scenarios: 1) full budget, 2) small budget cut, and 3) large cut requiring financial exigency. The timing for announcing actions is important. Done too early and other universities may use the opportunity to step in to take over programs that are terminated.

Steve Harrison asked if there will be money for salary increases?

Yes, there may be some money for salary increases.

Troy Menard asked if there will be opportunities for state-wide special initiatives?

We have to be careful with initiatives. The Board of Regents will oppose and lobby against them. Rural development (proposed by Francis Thompson) and forest products are potential areas for funding.

End of Chancellor's Session.

Steve Harrison requested that Council members address the Support Services Report by e-mail. Send all written paragraphs to Don Boquet who will edit paragraphs with Carl Motsenbocker and Steve Harrison to have a Council response put together by 29 April.

Discussion of the PS on Grievance Procedures was postponed until the next Council meeting.

Kurt Guidry volunteered to chair a committee with Krishna Paudel to develop a survey to assess faculty satisfaction/dissatisfaction with AgCenter service units.

Don Boquet moved to adjourn. Paul Wilson seconded the motion.

The Council adjourned at 2:30p.