

Minutes of the 18 March 2005 Faculty Council Meeting

Meeting called to order by Steve Harrison at 10:00a

Members present: Don Boquet, Bill Branch, Denyse Cummins, Kurt Guidry, Steve Harrison, Allen Hogan, Clayton Hollier, Linda Hooper-Bui, Joan King, Brian Leblanc, Debbie Melvin, Ken McMillan, Krishna Paudel, Markaye Russell, Cynthia Stephens, Todd Shupe, Jerry Whatley, Paul Wilson.

Members absent: Becky Kelly

Old Business

Minutes of the 25 February FC meeting – Linda Hooper Bui moved to accept as presented, seconded by Clayton Hollier. Minutes were approved.

Board of Supervisors – reported by Jerry Whatley

The Chancellor of the Medical School has brought up the possibility of declaring financial exigency also.

LSUE has looked at the level of pay raises for faculty and civil service. Civil Service raises averaged 4% per year each year. Academic personnel have averaged 6 raises in 20 years, about 2% per year.

According to the Board of Regents formula funding, the AgCenter is funded at 98% of the Southern Region average. The AgCenter, however, excels in development of intellectual property and is above average.

Policy and Procedures for the Service Unit Advisory Committees – reported by Steve Harrison.

The policy has been approved by the Chancellor. The FC will recommend a change to Section 4.2 to say that the Chair of the Advisory Committee may not be a member of the service unit.

Chancellor Richardson's report to the FC.

Budget issues – There was a 1.75% mid-year cut for 2004-2005. Next year the 1.75% goes back into the budget, but there is no funding for mandates, which will be \$4.1 million or about 5% of the total budget. Another \$659,000 must be annualized for last year's pay raises.

The governor has proposed taxes on tobacco to give teacher pay raises. Higher Education may or may not be included. The AgCenter already gets about 4 million from cigarette taxes.

The oil revenue is as yet undecided but the increase in prices seems to be permanent, but won't know until mid May how much the increase in revenue will be.

The Prioritization Committees will be reconvened before the 1st of April. The ACE committees chairs have met and are working on prioritization.

Questions for the Chancellor

Brian Leblanc. Have the Regional Directors have been convened for their input?

A. Not as a group, but individually.

Steve Harrison. Will the Prioritization Committees will have the information from the ACE Committees.

A. Yes.

Joan King. Explain the reorganization of Dairy Science?

A. The AgCenter cannot afford to have three dairies. The Hill Farm Dairy is being closed. Field Agents are being asked to do more dairy work and there will be more concentrated extension efforts in SE Louisiana.

Brian Leblanc. Do the politicians have a problem with an AgCenter declaration of exigency?

A. Legislators are not too concerned until constituencies are affected. The governor is opposed. Commissioner of Higher Education Savoie thinks the AgCenter is 10 million over funded.

Joan King. Will doing business with Cuba would benefit Louisiana Agriculture?

The 15 million deal is not much in overall Louisiana Ag Industry and not considered earth shattering.

Allen Hogan. Some field agents think they are not well represented in prioritization planning. They would like for every faculty member to have input on what is important.

A. I thought the agents were represented well and have broad representation on the ACE committees.

Jerry Whatley. ACE chairs did send out emails to everyone on priority planning. However, agents are generalists and don't seem to fit into specific programs.

A. We will look into it.

Brian Leblanc. In the present process, there seems to be horse trading going on to preserve certain programs. It would be better for the Administration to make the decisions and inform everyone.

Allen Hogan. Agents are concerned about local needs and are naturally protective of their parish programs. Could the Chancellor send an email to all faculty stating they should become involved? Agents are not certain of what their involvement should be.

A. This has been going on for more than a year. All should be aware by now. We will pull something in an email.

Jerry Whatley. What can be done to make the Board of Regents accountable? They use average figures and may not reflect our needs to produce quality programs?

A. The Board is a unique organization. The Regents staff runs the show. The Regents do not look over the budget very well. We have to go directly to and educate board members as to our needs. We have to have legislators call board members on our behalf.

Todd Shupe. Does Southern University still plan to put in an Experiment Station in St. Landry Parish?

A. The last thing we need in Louisiana is another research station. Money was appropriated but they have not gotten approval to spend it. They are looking for land – from the AgCenter if possible. If necessary we will provide the land. The retirement of the Southern president has put this in a holding pattern for now.

Joan King. Do you and the vice chancellors have an idea of how you will look at prioritization reports?

A. Nothing is firm yet. Once we see what the budget is we will sit down and plan. Right now we want as much input as possible. The FC will get our report.

Brian Leblanc. Is the planning for the long-term or short-term?

A. Yes, we are looking and planning long term.

Joan King. Are we going to be a smaller AgCenter after this summer?

A. We don't know. Our concern is that we will be smaller, but be faced with the same set of problems.

Brian Leblanc. This could go on forever.

A. A big problem is that health benefits are eating our lunch.

Debbie Melvin. Are recommendations of Priority Committees going to be re-visited. ?

A. Yes. We need to continue to look at all of those.

Steve Harrison. On the nominations for the Diversity Advisory Committee, why did Gerald Roberts replace Glen Daniels?

A. I don't know. There was no agenda there. I thought it was supposed to be Roberts.

Joan King. Are there any other buildings in the planning stages?

A. No. We have a priority list. Animal Science is all that is now going on. There is a possibility of a large bond issue so we have loaded our list up just in case this happens to make sure we are not left out.

End of Session with Chancellor.

Discussion with Kappie Mumphrey.

Steve Harrison. Explain the AgCenter Spam system.

A. The AgCenter system is relatively inexpensive, a one package system that has one set of settings for the entire system. The Spam system is second to the anti-virus system. There is a trusted list i.e. all emails ending in edu goes through without any editing. Non trusted sources do not come through – we subscribe to a service who screens using a key word filter (basian filter).

Linda Hooper-Bui. Why do all emails from health care providers come in as Spam?

A. This is considered to be not business related. This is decided on an individual basis. The auto reply probably needs to be reworded.

Steve Harrison. Can we rent the LSU system?

A. It would be way more expensive.

Denyse Cummins. Some people don't know they have a Spam Folder?

A. We will send out an email to remind everyone. All Spam is delivered, nothing is deleted.

Linda Hooper-Bui. Why are Zip files blocked?

A. Viruses, especially new viruses, are often Zip files. An easy way around that is to change Zip files to anything else.

Steve Harrison. Why are Spanish emails automatically blocked?

A. Not automatically. May not be business related. There is a written state policy that prohibits use of state funds for personal use. This can be easily fixed by adding the address in as a trusted source.

Steve Harrison. We should be able to identify trusted sources.

A. This would take a lot of time if everyone asked for this service.

Ken McMillan. Why can we not look at what is in the Spam folder but can read them on the intranet?

A. You are not on Outlook. We are working to get everyone on Outlook.

Linda Hooper-Bui. We need to have training available on how to use email.

A. We can do that.

End of Session with Kappie Mumphrey

Linda Hooper-Bui asked about the progress in evaluating Chancellor Richardson.

Steve Harrison said the Chancellor will be evaluated by the Board of Supervisors and AgCenter Faculty Committee. This is not a FC evaluation although the FC did recommend nominees for the committee.

Jerry Whatley noted that President Jenkins conducts the evaluation.

Ken McMillan said that some people have distributed a form to get peer input for the Chancellor's evaluation.

Linda Hooper-Bui. Does anyone have problems using the Exxon card?

No one indicated they had any problems.

Report on the Faculty Senate meeting by Paul Wilson.

Several changes will be made in traffic regulations. A parking garage will be built near the union, but it will not look like a garage. A second parking garage will be built near Parker Coliseum. Streets coming off of Highland Road will be closed. There will be a post manned by a guard to control vehicle entry.

Service Unit Survey reported by Kurt Guidry and Mike Dunn.

A copy of the proposed survey was distributed to FC members by email previously. The survey must still be approved by the Chancellor and sent to the Service Units for their comments. Ann Coulon will supply a list of faculty for the mailout.

The FC approved the revised survey.

Pre notification will be sent out by email one week before the survey. A reminder will be sent one week after the survey is mailed. The survey will be mailed 1 April with a 1 May deadline.

PS42 update by Don Boquet and Allen Hogan.

PS42 has been revised to address three problems noted during the last year.

1. How to merge the Appendices of PS 42 with the AgCenter and Campus Instructions for Review Request so they provide a consistent format for all candidates to use in document preparation.

2. Developing a system for the External Reviews so that all return the same type of information in the same type of format.

3. Clarifying the intent of the "Outside of Unit" voluntary review so that regional directors and unit heads do not view this as a mechanism to overturn the unit review.

The revision will be available before the April FC meeting.

New Business

ACE Groups Prioritization Criteria for program areas - reported by Steve Harrison.

Seven criteria to evaluate programs were established by the ACE Committee chairs:

1. Contribution to the Land Grant Mission
2. Opportunities for Economic
3. Development Uniqueness/Duplication
4. Candidate for regional consolidation
5. Potential audience and/or growth
6. Possible coverage by private sector
7. Synergistic possibilities

Debbie Melvin noted that some programs are not covered by ACE Committees.

Jerry Whatley suggested that the FC council email the vice chancellors, regional directors and unit heads and ask how FCS or other programs not in ACE groups can have input into the prioritization process.

David Boethel joined the FC for discussion and noted that the seven criteria were from discussions of the ACE Committee chairs and not from the vice chancellor's office. This was designed to be a mechanism for faculty input. It was a good starting point and other criteria would be added. A standardized reporting format was not necessary. It was up to the leadership of the ACE groups to set up meetings and have agendas to develop priority areas.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00p.