

## **LSU AgCenter Faculty Council Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2006**

Attendees: Joan M. King, Jerry Whatley, Denyse Cummins, Troy Menard, Markaye Russell, Cynthia Stephens, Roberto Barbosa, Wayne M. Gauthier, Todd Shupe, Allen Hogan, Donnie Miller, Debbie Melvin, Paul Wilson, Clayton Hollier, Miles Brashier, Stephen Harrison

Absent: Ken McMillin, Dale Pollet, Rich Vlosky, Brian LeBlanc, Linda Hooper-Bui

1. Call to order at 9:30 AM by Stephen Harrison

2. Comments by Chancellor Richardson

Jim Richardson an economist with the Business School estimated that there was a \$1 billion problem for the Louisiana and the chancellor is looking for information from him. The next Revenue Estimating Conference was planned for the end of January or beginning of February.

The LSU System was asked to cut \$25 million and the systems office decides what to cut with suggestions.

The LSU AgCenter target cut was 5.8% of state appropriations. This includes a 5% cut on statutory dedications, i.e. like the tobacco tax for a \$2.5 million cut. Self funds were cut by 5%. This added up to about a 6% cut of \$75 million or a cut of \$5 million.

LSU AgCenter was given guidelines to develop budget for 2006-2007 at 92% of 2005-2006 budget minus the cuts already made. This is 92% of \$71 million which results in a 14% decrease from 2005 to 2006 in budget or a cut of \$10.9 million. Board of Regents given plan for 6.5% cut by LSU AgCenter, most of which came from one time money and vacancies, also 5% cuts from units and other little amounts of money. Business plans would be different for 6% cuts vs. 14% cuts.

LSU AgCenter administrative services will also be affected. LSU AgCenter Administrators went through all the priority reports and emails from all departments and stations to make plan for 14% cuts. AgCenter changes will occur at earliest April 1<sup>st</sup> and latest July 1<sup>st</sup>. Employee issues involved. There will be no furloughs. LSU AgCenter administrators are looking into return to part time work policies after retirement, financial incentives to retire, and charging fees for various services. The worse case scenario would be to have to give up all vacancies and anything that comes up before July 1. It is estimated that the average salary is \$45,000 to \$50,000 and 100 people are involved. If Vice-Chancellors want to fill positions they have to find another one to take. The money has to come from somewhere.

Other state agencies were recommended to cut 20% of their budgets, like Wildlife and Fisheries and hospitals. LSU AgCenter may get higher cut if state agencies can't cut

anymore. There was no request from the Board of Supervisors and some think that the Flagship university should not be cut.

LSU AgCenter put in brief report on how to meet cuts of 5 to 6%. If cuts are more than 6%, LSU AgCenter will ask for financial emergency probably in March. Time frame for emergency would be April 1, 0026 to June 2007. LSU AgCenter getting more help with this issue than in the past. The Board of Supervisors is reading the AgCenter plan. There are issues with AAUP guidelines and medical school for faculty cuts. Chancellor Richardson is the advocate for campus faculty since we have no constituency in the legislature. We had a mid year cut of 5 to 6% and are looking at another 8% this coming year for a total of 14% budget cuts.

The Board is getting more active in setting agendas for meetings and wants more substantive items to discuss.

Regarding desegregation issues with Southern, the consent decree ended December, 31, 2005. Dr. Richardson is opposed to Savoie's recommendation that had duplicate items that the LSU AgCenter is doing. Two to 3 years ago the settlement was discussed. The Board of Supervisors has new recommendations now.

### 3. Elections were held for new officers

Results:

The new officers are:

Chair: Clayton Hollier (new Chair assumed operation of the meeting at this point)

Vice-Chair: Jerry Whatley

Secretary: Joan M. King

Other Executive Committee Members: Cynthia Stephens, Allen Hogan,  
Markaye Russell, Steve Harrison

It was discussed and unanimously approved that the Past Chair will serve on the executive committee of faculty council and that is Steve Harrison.

5. November 18, 2005 minutes were approved.

### 6. Service Unit Advisory Committees

Committees that needed replacements were covered.

The faculty council reps for Sponsored Programs will be Todd Shupe and Rich Vlosky will replace Steve Harrison. For Accounting Services Dale Pollet will replace Bill Branch. For Information Technology the reps will be Paul Wilson and Jerry Whatley. For Communications the reps are Debbie Melvin and Troy Menard. For Facilities

Planning the reps are Joan King and Donnie Miller. For International Programs the reps will be Denyse Cummins and Miles Brashier. For Human Resource Management the reps will be Denyse Cummins and Cynthia Stephens. For Diversity the reps will stay the same as Clayton Hollier and Linda Hoper-Bui.

## 7. Meeting Dates

Meetings time will be 9:30 AM approximately every 4th Friday of each month in Sullivan Conference room. Next meeting: February 24<sup>th</sup>.