

**LSU AgCenter
Faculty Council Meeting
November 16, 2007
Sullivan Conference Room**

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Chancellor to Meet with LDA&F Commissioner-elect Strain (II 4)
- LSUAC in Pursuit of National Prominence (II 5)
- Ben Hur Road Problem Likely to Intensify (II 8)
- Politics and Livestock Shows (II 10)
- I-69 Could Destroy Pecan Research Station (II 11)
- Ombudsperson: Could be LSUAC Employee (II 13)
- More Employee Wellness Topics Coming (II 14)
- Portfolio, By Itself, Not Enough to Justify an Award (II 16)
- Request Made to Delay Change Agent State Participation (II 17)
- Diversity Office Delivers on Promise (II 18)
- Disability Awareness Impacts Everybody at Some Level (II 19)
- Questioning Veracity as it Applies to Claims of Survey Anonymity (II 20)
- Who Hires New Agents? (II 21)
- Satisfaction & Issues Survey Coming (II 23)
- Hogan, McMillin, Stephens: Recognized for Time Served on Council (II 25)
- Jindal Could Replace Four to Six LSU BOS Members (II 27)
- Constraints on Unit Heads Relative to Advisory Service Unit Boards (II 29)
- Council Not A Mouthpiece for Service Units (II 30)
- LSU Faculty Senate Declares LSU More About Academics Than Athletics (II 31c)

Members Present: David Blouin, Deniese Cummins, Wayne Gauthier, Mary Grodner, Mike Hebert, James Hendrix, William Hogan, Collins Kimbeng, Joan King, Donna Lee, Donnie Miller, Ken McMillin, Dale Pollet, Phillip Stouffer, Rich Vlosky, and Jerry Whatley.

Members Absent: Miles Brashier, Roberto Barbosa, Clayton Hollier, Markaye Russell, and Cynthia Stephens

Guests Present: Diane Sasser and Denise Zeringue

Call to Order

1. Chairman Vlosky called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on November 16, 2007 in the Sullivan Conference Room. He extended welcome to all, but especially to the two guests who had recently been elected to the LSU AgCenter Faculty Council (Council). A roundtable of self-introductions followed. Later, the entire

group posed for a picture on the interior steps leading into the arena of the John M. Parker Coliseum. (See Below)



Approve October 26, 2007 Minutes

2. Allen moved that the minutes of the October 26, 2007 meeting be accepted. The motion was seconded by Grodner and passed on a voice vote.

Chancellor's Report

3. Chairman Vlosky invited Chancellor Richardson to speak. The chancellor identified a number of changes that were underway with had implications for the LSU Agricultural Center.
4. Similar to Governor-elect Jindal, Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry-elect Mike Strain has begun the transition process. To that end, Chancellor Richardson and Louisiana Farm Bureau President Ronnie Anderson are scheduled to meet with Dr. Mike Strain. Among other initiatives, they will seek to work with Commissioner-elect Strain to establish an agricultural liaison position within the Governor's officer. The objective is to create a more cohesive group to represent Louisiana agricultural interests in both the Governor's office and the legislature. The Chancellor observed that a former Ag Center employee, Trey Williams, was serving on Governor-elect Jindal's staff.
5. The LSU Agricultural Center's 2008 budget has been submitted. The change in administration means that we will be getting a new Commissioner of Administration. The Chancellor observed that Governor-elect Jindal has made reference to a need to review the formula funding for higher education. It remains to be seen how this change in the process will impact upon the LSU System and the LSU Agricultural Center in particular. To that end, an initiative is underway to assess how well the LSU Agricultural Center is funded relative to other

comparable agricultural institutions throughout the nation. The Chancellor underscored “comparable agricultural institutions throughout the nation” and not “comparable agricultural institutions throughout the south”. He indicated that LSU President Lombardi agreed with the concept of comparing the LSU Agricultural Center to comparable institutions at a national level because that is the competitive level that the LSUAC needs to strive towards. The identification of comparable institutions is based on such criteria as enrollment. Institutions considered comparable to the LSUAC include Florida, Georgia, Texas A&M, Maryland, Michigan, and the University of California-Davis. The good fortunes of the relatively high oil prices and their implications for the state’s budgets suggest that now is the time for the LSUAC to seek national prominence.

6. The Farm Bill may get done before the Christmas holidays. At this time, no one appears to be in the know as to what will happen with the earmarks of the past which are significant to the funding of the LSU Agricultural Center. Since 2008 is an election year, the issue of farm subsidies will be a prominent issue as evidenced by a Wall Street Journal illustration. Farm subsidies are of global concern as they impact upon both domestic and international welfare as evidenced by the disputes filed against the U.S. by Brazil and other nations through the World Trade Organization.
7. Chancellor Richardson agreed with McMillin’s observation that the Computer Management System (CMS) should be as responsive to an individual faculty member’s need to transmit a statewide alert regarding soybean rust as it is to an accommodation of a chancellor’s e-mail message across the state.
8. Chancellor Richardson observed that the master plan for the Ben Hur road was an offshoot of the master plan for the main campus. Ben Hur road is of interest to a diverse audience because of its location relative to the bend in the Mississippi River. Motorists familiar with the road use it as a shortcut to access Staring and Essen lanes and their use creates unsafe conditions for LSUAC employees and assets. However, the road doesn’t belong to the LSUAC. It either belongs to the state or to East Baton Rouge (EBR) parish. Current plans for future highway construction in EBR parish will extend Kenilworth Parkway all the way to the Mississippi River which will include a portion of Ben Hur road. There are 2000 houses planned for the area that would be opened up by the extension of Kenilworth Parkway. The opening of a casino in the surrounding area will only work to aggravate the problem of safeguarding LSUAC people and property. The real problem will be to get the railroads to construct crossings over their tracks.
9. McMillin observed that an auditorium to accommodate 200-300 people for presentations needed to be constructed at the Ben Hur facilities.
10. McMillin requested that the Chancellor explore with Commissioner-elect Mike Strain a clearer delineation of LDA&F and AgCenter duties, responsibilities, and

policies regarding tampering at livestock shows and violations of the livestock tampering laws.

11. Existing plans for siting I-69 will destroy the Pecan Research Station if they are allowed to stand. Hopefully, the change in administration will provide for a change within the unit responsible for highway construction and those responsible for siting the road will have an appreciation for the significance of time in the creation of a pecan grove and that the existing grove is irreplaceable as a research asset for the present and future generation of pecan scientists.
12. Gauthier's suggestion that reading of the council's minutes could identify problems worthy of the attention of the higher LSUAC administration generated a discussion regarding such topics as the trade-off in good-will lost when charges are made for LSUAC publications.
13. The chancellor has the Human Resource Management (HRM) report regarding the ombudsperson position and is ready to fund the new ombudsperson position. In addition to the LSUAC Faculty Council, the chancellor indicated that the LSUAC Staff Council also needed to get involved in the process of identifying the first ombudsperson for the LSUAC. The ombudsperson will be housed in Baton Rouge in some place other than Efferson Hall, but will be required to travel throughout the state. Employees of the LSU Agricultural Center will be eligible to apply for the position provided that they have or are willing to develop the unique skills training required of an ombudsperson.

Human Resources Update (Ms. Ann Coulon)

14. Ms. Coulon indicated that Human Resource Management (HRM) has had positive feedback from some of their topics of special interest to LSUAC employees. Their plans are to present more sessions in the future addressing financial, physical and mental health topics.
15. Ms. Coulon distributed PS-8 that addresses the employment of transient employees such as student workers. HRM is now being audited on transient employees. Hogan asked whether there was an upper limit on pay levels for transient employees.
16. According to Ms. Coulon, Vice-Chancellor Coreil wants more than just a portfolio to be used in identifying award recipients. Dr. Coreil wants the submission to reflect the essential essence(s) of the nominee's contribution over a significant period of their career. He also wants a submission that reflects effort on the part of the submitter. There was agreement that if a portfolio is turned in as part of the documentation for an award, it shouldn't include comments by the nominee's supervisor(s). Comments of supervisors are considered privileged communications.

17. Ms. Coulon indicated that her office had requested, by letter, that the LSUAC be allowed to wait two more years before participating in the change agent state program being sponsored by a federal agency. They have yet to hear back from that agency on that request.
18. Mike Hebert advised Ms. Coulon that Ms. Freeman did follow-up and provided him with the requested Spanish language support needed to meet the needs of all persons present at his function.
19. Ms. Coulon reported that the speaker on disability had made a good presentation. She advised those members of the Council who teach classes that they would be well advised to add a note in their syllabus that accommodations will be made for people with disabilities. It was observed that such a note is common practice in the LCES as evidenced in their announcements of meetings and other events. Additional discussion suggested that having such a note in the syllabus might prevent some students from thinking that undue special privileges were being extended to other students. It was observed that being sensitive to the need to communicate and asking the question of how does or would a particular disability impact me or one of my loved ones are good practices to adopt. Facility Services was the response given to the question of who is responsible for insuring that buildings are in compliance with disability requirements.
20. Whatley raised the question of how to respond to those random requests to complete questionnaires in order to provide the seekers of advanced degrees with the data that they need for their analyses. He observed difficulty in reconciling pledges of anonymity with the subsequent requests to non-respondents to complete the survey.
21. Whatley said current practices and written procedures were not clear as to who was responsible for conducting the interviews of new agent hires. The district agent appears to be the final authority in the hiring decision. However, some of those district agents don't participate in the interviews and depend upon the parish chairperson's assessment and recommendation. There are written sets of interview guidelines that have to be followed such as having to ask the same set of questions to all candidates for a position. There is also a need to insure that the advertisement for the position matches the description of the position. It was noted that current policy dictates that no people outside of the LCES can serve on any of its search committees.
22. Gauthier, Grodner and King volunteered to serve as members of the LSUAC committee to identify an individual for the ombudsperson position. It was observed that the job description can contain the note that if a half-time appointment does not provide sufficient time for the ombudsperson to serve all of the employees of the LSUAC throughout the state, the incumbent can request that the appointment be changed to that of a full-time position.

Old Business

23. Vlosky observed that the Council's Satisfaction and Issues Survey has been pre-tested and is ready to be sent out to LSUAC employees. King asked how much time was going to be allowed for responses. An observation was made that the survey cannot be anonymous because it is web-based. Vlosky was advised that if the survey was not distributed before the Christmas holidays, it should be postponed until mid-February. Vlosky indicated that it would be sent out on Tuesday, November 27, 2007. Vlosky maintained that anonymity would be preserved and he would pursue the option of presenting results at the annual conference.
24. Note was taken of the need to update the membership rosters of the various faculty Council's advisory committees.

New Business

25. Prior to his departure, Chancellor Richardson participated in a low-key and brief ceremony with Chairman Vlosky in which LSU AgCenter Faculty Council members rotating off the Council were recognized for their years of service with a Certificate of Appreciation. Faculty members rotating off the Council included Allen Hogan, Ken McMillin, and Denyse Cummins. (See Below)



Board of Supervisor Meeting Report: Jerry Whatley

26. Whatley reported that the Council of Faculty Senates was to meet with Dr. John Lombardi, President of the LSU System. It appears that there will be less frequent LSU Board of Supervisor meetings in the future. Dr. Fred Creasi has been hired to manage the hospital system and it appears that he has a firm grasp on managing teaching hospitals and Health Sciences.
27. Governor-elect Jindal could conceivably appoint from four to six members to the LSU Board of Supervisors during his term of office.

Advisory Committee Reports

28. Faculty council members were advised that if their advisory committee meetings are not called, they advise the Chair of the Faculty Council as well as the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors of the LSUAC.
29. Vlosky will request that Chancellor Richardson move the advisory committee link from the Council's website to the Chancellor's website in order to enhance the visibility and significance of the advisory committees. Hogan noted that no head of an administrative service unit could serve as head of an advisory service committee after December 31, 2007 according to a recently adopted document entitled "Recommendations on the Organization and Structure of Advisory Service Committees".

Other Business

30. Grodner made reference to meeting minutes of the International Programs Committee in which it was recommended that its director, Lakshman Velupillai, contact the chancellor for an additional staff person to promote an internship program. Subsequent discussion provoked the sentiment that the Council was not a mouthpiece for any service unit. McMillin observed, however, that it is legitimate for the Council to get involved whenever there is a faculty linkage.
31. McMillin rendered a report on LSU Faculty Senate Meetings (Senate).
 - a. The Senate's Athletic Council representative presented a good summary report as to how well the LSU-BR athletic department has been in complying with NCAA requirements. Coach Saban did well in making the creation of an athletic learning center a condition of his employment at LSU.
 - b. McMillin reported on the case of a student government officer who realized at some point that the university administration had cultivated him to the point that he became a "mouthpiece" for the administration. He went public with his epiphany. Currently there is a Faculty Senate resolution under consideration that would require the Senate Executive Committee to report whenever they receive favors from the administration.
 - c. The Senate took exception to the dominant role being assumed by the athletic department in the formulation of the plans to celebrate LSU's historical centennial and declared that LSU was about academics and not athletics. Furthermore, the historical centennial committee was to include the LSUAC and the Law Center in its plans. It was noted that the nation's first corn club, the forerunner of the 4-H clubs, was established in Moreauville, Louisiana and that 4-H was celebrating its 100th anniversary. These observations are integral to LSU and its historical centennial. For these reasons, the LSUAC needs to

have a representative on LSU's Historical Centennial Committee and that a reference to the Historical Centennial Commission should be on LSU weblinks.

Adjourn

32. A motion to adjourn received a second and a positive voice vote at 1:15 p.m. on November 16, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Gauthier
Secretary