

**LSU AGCENTER FACULTY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2009**

Members Present: Joan Almond, David Blouin, Wayne M. Gauthier, Dianne Glasgow, Andrew Granger, Mike Hebert, James Hendrix, Jeff Hoy, Natalie Hummel, Collins Kimbeng, Joan King, Donna Lee, Johnny Saichuk, Diane Sasser, Philip Stouffer, Ed Twidwell, Deniese Zeringue, Adrienne Vidrine and Richard Vlosky.

Members Absent: Mandy Armentor, Mary Grodner

Proxies: None

Guests: Chancellor William B. Richardson, Vice-Chancellor and Director David Boethel, Vice-Chancellor and Director Paul Coreil.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Chancellor Encourages Participation in Governor Jindal’s Town Hall Meetings (3)**
- **Impacts of a Mid-Year And Other Budget Cuts on the LSUAC (4, 6,7, 10)**
- **Timeline of Revenue Estimating Committee Budget Projections (5)**
- **Areas and Magnitudes of Budget Cuts Unknown (6)**
- **LSUAC Needs Its Friends to Use Their Influence (6)**
- **Unit Heads to Vaguely Document Impacts of Varying Levels of Budget Cuts (7)**
- **Forget “Holding On” for Early Retirement Incentive Package (7)**
- **Very Last Resort Option: Declaration of Financial Exigency (7)**
- **Tuition Increases Likely (8)**
- **LSUAC: Rare LA Institution of Higher Education Serving Rural Areas (9)**
- **LSUAC: LA’s Only Institution of Higher Education Not Receiving Tuition (9)**
- **Chancellor Doesn’t Favor Strategies Employing “Across the Board Cuts” (10)**
- **REC Projects Reduced Revenues From All Sources of State Income in 2009-10 (11)**
- **Low Completer Academic Programs Have Implications for LAES (12)**
- **Jindal’s Scheduled Town Hall Appearances to be Made Known (13)**
- **Vision Presently Focused on Survival & “Putting Out Fires” (14)**
- **LSUAC Needs to Keep Her Friends Close and Detractors Closer (14, 19)**
- **Boethel Identifies Grantsmanship As Future Source of LAES Funding (15)**
- **Young Farmers and Ranchers Program Created in 2008 Farm Bill (16)**
- **Saichuk Articulates Systemic Problem With Grant Funding (17)**
- **Sometimes it Takes State & Other Sources of Money to Access Grant Money (18)**
- **1890 Institutions Now Eligible for McIntyre-Stennis Funds (18)**
- **Question Regarding the Posting of ACE Meeting Minutes (19)**
- **PS-16 Governing the Conduct of Research Being Revised (20)**
- **LSU-BR Chancellor Keeps Promise and Provides Written Responses (21)**
- **Incoming Chairperson to Initiate Invitation to President Lombardi (22)**
- **Regretting Vacant Ombudsperson Position (23)**

- **LSU-BR Gate Passes for Off-Campus Personnel (24)**
- **Despite Hiring Freeze, People Can Be Hired Under Grant Funds (26)**
- **Update IT and the CMS Infrastructure Issue (27, 28, 29)**
- **Need for Chairperson to Make Assignments to Service Unit Committees (29)**
- **Observations About the 2008 Annual Conference (30)**
- **Identification of Tasks for Council Officers and Support Personnel (31)**
- **2009 Council Officers: King, Chair; Vidrine, Vice-Chair; Gauthier, Secretary (32)**
- **Donna Lee and James Hendrix volunteered to serve on Executive Committee (33)**

Call to Order

1. Chairman Vlosky called the meeting of the LSU Agricultural Center Faculty Council (Council) to order at 9:30 a .m. on January 16, 2009.

Approval of November 21, 2009 Minutes

2. The minutes of the November 21, 2009 minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Chancellor Richardson's Report

3. Chancellor Richardson began his report by noting that Governor Jindal was holding town hall meetings throughout the state. The Chancellor indicated that the majority of these meetings are open to the public. Chancellor Richardson encouraged LSU Agricultural Center (LSUAC) employees to attend the meetings in their area, to bring their constituents and to encourage those constituents to ask questions relevant to support and funding of the LSUAC.
4. Chancellor Richardson reported that before the Christmas holidays, the LSUAC's budget was reduced by \$ 6.4 million dollars or by 7.6%. Prior to that cut, the LSUAC had negatively budgeted salary savings; that is, a situation in which the LSUAC had begun its July 1, 2008 fiscal year with a deficit which was expected to be erased by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2009, as a consequence of normal attrition due to retirements and resignations. That situation was created so that the LSUAC could fund its July 2008 raises. The mid-year \$6.4 million dollar budget cut has created a major problem for the LSUAC. Part of that reduction is being absorbed by a reduction of \$1.5 million dollars in contingency funds allocated to the Chancellor's office. As a consequence, there is now a reduction of \$3.6 million dollars (3.4%) in the LSUAC budget and the LSUAC remains under a hiring freeze. For the time being, the plan is to continue working under the present budget.
5. Chancellor Richardson presented a forecast of how events were likely to unfold in the immediate and short term time frames. By law, Governor Jindal needs to submit the executive budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year (FY) thirty (30) days before the legislature convenes on April 27, 2009. Budget cuts will be based on revenue projections made by the Revenue Estimating Committee (REC). In mid-May, the REC will release another sets of projected revenue estimates. This last set of projected estimates will be critical to determining the budget that will be passed by the legislature.

6. Chancellor Richardson indicated that there is a need to have “shovel-ready” projects identified even though there will probably be a budget cut. He just doesn’t know the areas of the budget that will be cut nor the magnitude of the cuts that will be levied against higher education and the LSUAC specifically. Chancellor Richardson expects to attack reductions to the LSUAC budget from two directions. He characterized the first direction as a “street fight” as various interest groups, both internal and external to the higher education community, seek to minimize their cuts by shifting it unto the LSUAC. The second direction is to use members of the LSUAC commodity groups as ambassadors to legislators and key policy makers in arguing for minimizations of any cuts to the LSUAC. Chancellor Richardson warned that there will be those who will try to personalize the cuts.
7. Chancellor Richardson reported that department and unit heads are to provide, within two weeks, assessments of the impact of a 15% budget cut to their organizations. He indicated that they were to be as vague as possible and to commit very little to writing. Everyone understands that budget cuts are detrimental to people’s lives and careers. Administrators have not been into the numbers yet. The mid-year cuts were across the board. A second round of budget cuts are also likely to be “across the board” except for Pennington and the Community College System. Richardson really doesn’t know about how a third round of budget cuts would be distributed. He fully expects that the LSUAC will experience a budget reduction next year. However, it is too early to panic and he seeks to rally the troops. Chancellor Richardson indicated that he will not do any early retirement programs because the gains from such programs are only realized in the third year after the program’s implementation. Chancellor Richardson will be looking at contracts. He seeks to create options. The Chancellor indicated that a declaration of financial exigency will be a last resort option.
8. Chancellor Richardson indicated that tuition was likely to be raised particularly for out-of-state students and that he expected the tuition for in-state students to increase by five percent (5%).
9. Chancellor Richardson is in the process of trying to gauge what’s happening throughout the country. Arkansas went into its legislative session with a flat budget. Richardson indicated a need for Governor Jindal to not dismantle higher education. The LSUAC is only one of the two higher education agencies that works on economic development in rural America. Richardson wants to know of LSUAC employees contacts with legislators. Richardson observed that legislators tend to forget that the LSUAC doesn’t get tuition. Furthermore, 63% of the LSUAC’s appropriations are derived from state government which makes the LSUAC the most dependent all of the state’s institutions of higher education upon state appropriations.
10. Chancellor Richardson indicated that “across the board” cuts will not be the strategy used to deal with budget reductions.
11. The price of oil has a significant influence on the overall state budget. However, its price is quoted in ranges. Director Boethel indicated that Kurt Guidry had reported Department of Energy (DOE) oil price projections at \$45/barrel. REC projections were being based on \$80/barrel. Furthermore, the REC was projecting that all revenue streams would be down in

2009. He also reported that it was upsetting to have a mid-year budget cut and then come up to the end of the year with a surplus.

12. In response to a question as to how low completer academic programs might impact the LSUAC, it was observed that if the LSU-BR campus were to eliminate a program, its impact would be felt more heavily by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station (LAES) than by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES). In response to a question regarding the elimination of low completer programs relative to graduate programs, Director Boethel indicated that students who are at midstream or beyond in their programs would be allowed to complete, but their department would be prohibited from recruiting any new students. What happens to the faculty under conditions of low completer programs remains an open question.
13. A mechanism is to be set-up for notifying people of Governor Jindal's scheduled appearances throughout the state.
14. The vision statement for the LSUAC is now on hold. The focus is now on how best to survive. Chancellor Richardson indicated that he will be needing input, but for the time being, he is trying to not create any panic. He indicated that there will be a role for the Council at some point. At the present time, he is busy putting out fires. He reported that there is a movement to uncover the state's entire budget so that budget reductions can be distributed across all state agencies so as to avoid disproportionate cuts to higher education and health and hospitals. However, there are interests seeking to pit the LSUAC against other state agencies.
15. Budget cuts are going to impact the equipment budget. Director Boethel expressed his concern for maintaining formula funding specifically for long term projects such as breeding programs. Director Boethel suggested that the LSUAC was well suited for competing in the specialty crops programs and in integrated research programs. He urged the faculty to get to know national program leaders as they sit on the panels that award research grants. Director Boethel intends to support faculty participation in grantsmanship workshops because the LAES will become more dependent on grants for its funding in the next ten (10) years. Boethel indicated that members of the LSUAC faculty need to serve on grant panels for a variety of reasons ranging from interacting with people who make awards to observe what it takes to write award winning grants. Members of the faculty also need to serve on grant workshops. Boethel concluded his remarks by noting that funding agricultural research through grants is now the new game.
16. Boethel mentioned that there were provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill creating a Young Farmers and Ranchers (YFR) Program and that it had a strong extension focus.
17. Saichuk identified a problem that comes with employing people on grants. The problem surfaces when a grant terminates and the people being paid with it begin to be paid with state appropriated monies. In effect, an additional expenditure is created to fund an activity without any offsetting revenue stream. Saichuk suggested that faculty members shouldn't be chasing grant dollars, but should be pursuing grant funding only if it fits into their ongoing research and/or extension programs. Note was also made of the matching requirements often

required by outside agency grants. There is a problem when people are using funds on a current grant to seek yet another grant.

18. It was observed that there will be a declining opportunity to participate in matching federal grant programs under conditions of declining state dollars. The 2008 Farm Bill now gives 1890 institutions the authority to spend McIntyre-Stennis funds. It now means that the LSUAC will need to share this source of money with Southern University. IPM funds are neither competitive nor guaranteed. The LSUAC stands to lose \$270,000 in funds earmarked for work in coastal plants, aquaculture, tillage, environmental and blackbird control. Although U.S. Senator Vitter obtained a \$200,000 appropriation for the LSUAC, there was still a fifty percent (50%) reduction in this source of funding from last year.
19. A question was raised as to whether minutes of the ACE meetings were to be posted. Director Boethel believes that the various commodity groups will support the efforts of the LSUAC in maintaining its funding.
20. It was observed that PS-16, the policy statement that governs the conduct of research, had been rewritten to comply with directives from Health and Hospitals. The rewritten version is now more consistent with campus and federal requirements and is now being reviewed by attorneys.

OLD BUSINESS

21. Dr. Michael Martin, Chancellor of LSU-BR, had met with the Council on November 21, 2008. At that meeting, he did not have time to respond to all of the written questions presented to him prior to the meeting. He, however, kept his promise to respond in writing. His responses were attached to the set of November 21, 2008 minutes.
22. A question was raised as to whether LSU System President John Lombardi could be presented with a series of written questions and invited to answer those questions at a Council meeting. Blouin spoke in opposition of the idea at this time as he thinks the Council should follow a chain of command and let the next chairperson of the Council make the decision as to whether to invite President Lombardi to a meeting of the LSUAC Faculty Council.
23. It was observed that it would have been good to have had the ombudsperson position filled at this time because of the upset that people are experiencing as a consequence of the economic situation.
24. Hebert asked about the status of the gate passes for agricultural center field personnel who need to get through the LSU campus gates. It was observed that these passes are available at Efferson Hall. There was support for having at least one LSU gate pass in every parish office. The problem is that people can get through the main gate, but not to specific lots on the LSU campus. There is also the problem of getting into Efferson Hall after hours. A specific problem cited was the drop-off of soil samples. Vlosky volunteered to check on the

number of wands in Efferson Hall. He indicated that more wands might be needed to facilitate deliveries and pick-ups.

NEW BUSINESS

25. Since the faculty council elections and expired terms had resulted in a changed set of faculty council members, Vlosky invited all members to participate in an around the room set of introductions.
26. Vlosky announced that Ann Coulon would not be attending today's meeting. She did send word, however, that people can be hired under grant funds even now.
27. The only advisory committee that had met in recent times was the Information Technology (IT) Committee. The IT committee met to address the Computer Management System's (CMS) infrastructure issue identified in the November 21, 2008 minutes. That meeting substituted for the committee that Director Coreil was going to put together to address the CMS' infrastructure issue. The IT committee is only advisory to Fred Piazza, the head of IT. A number of issues and suggestions surfaced during the meeting. Recommendations were advanced regarding putting content on site, ease of site navigation, creation of categories, establishing time frames for turning around documents and mandatory contributions from designated reviewers.
28. CMS claims that not enough time was allocated at Annual Conference. Some improvements have been noted in the navigation of their websites and in moving products through the system.
29. The IT committee has a set-up to advise heads/directors of service units. It meets periodically to discuss issues that arise. The Council has a representative on each service unit committee. A task for the incoming chair is to update and assign council members to the various committees.
30. A discussion ensued about the 2008 annual conference. Some of the major points included:
 - (a) Some designated parking spaces were unavailable on both days;
 - (b) A post annual conference evaluation was not done. Such evaluations were done years ago. Post conference evaluation could be valuable in discerning what the faculty really wants from their participation in annual conferences. Vlosky suggested that such an evaluation be done to answer questions as to how annual conference can best be modified; and
 - (c) There were questions as to where the money comes from to cover the costs of annual conference, whether those funds represent a possible cost saving measure and whether there are earmarked funds to support annual conferences that come from other than state appropriated monies.

31. Prior to conducting the election of officers for 2009, Vlosky identified the duties incumbent upon the elected officers of the Council. He also identified a set of logistics associated with making arrangements for the meeting room and for providing refreshments and lunches to members of the Council. In addition to establishing the agenda, conducting the meeting and handling all duties incumbent upon the chairperson, Vlosky identified key personnel that support the Council. Lunches and refreshments are paid for by the Chancellor with a LaCarte card. Linda Jeansonne has been placing the orders for the lunches and making arrangements for the refreshments. Dwayne Nunez takes care of the coffee and refreshments. Ms. Tanya Ruffin posts the minutes of the meeting. Granger suggested that the chairperson may want to delegate some of these tasks to the vice-chairperson. The vice-chairperson attends the Board of Supervisors meeting.

32. The following nominations were offered from the floor and were accepted by acclamation:
Chairperson: Joan King; Vice-Chairperson: Adrian Vidrine and Secretary: Wayne M. Gauthier.

33. Donna Lee and James Hendrix volunteered to serve as members of the Executive Committee.

34. Joan King accepted the motion and its second to adjourn at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Gauthier, Secretary