

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

Members Present: Joan Almond, Mandy Armentor, David Blouin, Wayne M. Gauthier, Dianne Glasgow, Andrew Granger, Mike Hebert, James Hendrix, Clayton Hollier, Natalie Hummel, Collins Kimbeng, Joan King, Johnny Saichuk, Diane Sasser, Philip Stouffer, Ed Twidwell, Deniese Zeringue,

Members Absent: Jeff Hoy, Donna Lee, Adrienne Vidrine, and Richard Vlosky.

Proxies: None

Guests: Chancellor William B. Richardson, Dr. Mike Strain, DVM, Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDA&F)

HIGHLIGHTS

- . **Implications of REC's Mid-December Meeting for Budget Cuts (1)**
- . **Projected State Budget Shortfall Could Translate Into \$3 Million Cut to LSUAC (1)**
- . **Uncertainty Continues to Characterize All Projections and Plans (1)**
- . **Political Considerations Trump Economics (2)**
- . **Early Retirement Numbers Between 55-58 at Estimated Costs of \$1.2 Million (3)**
- . **Status of Animal Sciences Complex (4)**
- . **Richardson Not Anticipating Any Campus Closures (5)**
- . **Only One Legal Cooperative Extension Service in LA (6)**
- . **Grant Monies Increase 30% Under National Institute for Food & Agriculture (7)**
- . **LSUAC Constituents Becoming Aware of Vacancies (8)**
- . **Continuation of Retirement Program Possible (9)**
- . **Richardson Advocates Careful Use of Internet, Twitter and LaCarte Cards (10)**
- . **LDA&F is Louisiana's Largest Regulatory Agency (12)**
- . **LSUAC Valued by LDA&F (12)**
- . **Mobility of Populace Increases Spread of Diseases and Pests (13)**
- . **Commissioner Strain "Cuts Don't Matter Until There Is A Crisis" (14)**
- . **Consultant's Recommendations For the LDA&F (15)**
- . **Significance of LDA&F Activities (16-17)**
- . **Trade Mission to Cuba Being Assessed (20)**
- . **LDA&F Commissioner: Manager, Lobbyist and Advocate for Agriculture (21)**
- . **35 Nominees and 30 Candidates for LSUAC Faculty Council Positions (22)**
- . **Instructors, Service Unit Personnel and Ext. Associates Lack Representation (23)**
- . **Retirement Plan Options Resolution From Sister Campuses Presented (27)**

Call to Order

Chairperson King called the meeting to order at 09:33 a.m. in the Sullivan Room of the John M. Parker Coliseum.

Approval of September 18, 2009 Minutes

The minutes of the September 18, 2009 were approved with noted corrections.

Chancellor William B. Richardson

1. The Revenue Estimating Committee (REC) is scheduled to meet in mid-December to issues its projections and forecasts regarding the correspondence between the state's revenues and expenditures. By law, the state is required to have a balanced budget. If the projection is for a shortfall, then mid-year budget cuts are likely to be ordered throughout all state agencies. Currently, there is speculation that the estimated shortfall for the state is around \$960 million dollars and that the reduction to the higher education budget would be \$146 million. This represents a six to seven percent (6-7%) cut to higher education. The Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSUAC)'s share of the reduction, if the process of budget reductions were to work as before, would be approximately \$3 million dollars. The Chancellor emphasized that until the REC issues its projection, all we have is uncertainty. He observed that at the August 2009 REC meeting, no changes were made in the budget numbers.
2. Chancellor Richardson has requested a meeting on December 8, 2009 with Dr. Jim Richardson. Earlier meetings with Dr. Richardson have proven useful to LSUAC leadership in the formulation of its contingency plans for coping with budget reversals. Chancellor Richardson observed Dr. Richardson's caution that there are political issues as well as economic issues. As a consequence, it is sometimes best to not elaborate.
3. It appears that somewhere between 55 and 58 people are going to retire from the LSUAC on or before November 13, 2009. The cost of implementing the early retirement program is \$1.2 million dollars. It is estimated to provide a savings of \$600,000 in the current 2009-10 fiscal year (FY). The funding for its implementation will come from depleting one of the Chancellor's operating accounts. There is a need to backfill some positions in order to address priority matters.
4. The only capital outlay project within the LSUAC that is being discussed with the Jindal administration at the current time is the Animal Science Complex. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has assigned it a 4 ranking. The Board of Regents (BOR) has given it a 7 ranking. There is a need for the administration to put money into capital outlay. Private funding is also being sought.
5. The State Streamlining Committee is advocating a smaller government and it has punted issues associated with higher education (HE) to the Tucker Commission. The State Streamlining Committee needs to make its report 45 days prior to the start of the 2010 legislative session. Chancellor Richardson doesn't expect any campus closures to be among the set of recommendations from either committee.
6. Chancellor Richardson observed that there is only one legal cooperative extension service in a state. The LSUAC has had productive meetings and good working relationships with Southern University. There was a change in the allocation process of McIntire-Stennis (Forestry) money from the federal government that necessitated meetings between both institutions. Institutional requirements provide for LA Tech to get 30% of the McIntire Stennis allocation of money.
7. Chancellor Richardson reported that grant money would be up 30% through the National Institute for Food & Agriculture.

8. The LSUAC is starting its constituent meetings around the state. He observed that people are now asking questions about the filling of positions vacated because of the retirement incentive program. The hiring freeze and the release of vacant positions helped the LSUAC cope with mid-year budget cut and the appropriation reductions in the 2009 to 2010 budget.

9. Chancellor Richardson reported that the retirement program could be carried forward in successive years.

10. Chancellor Richardson indicated that all LSUAC employees need to be careful about their use of all communication mediums such as the internet and tweeter as well as the LaCarte cards.

11. Chancellor Richardson suggested that the Council plan its December meeting, if there is one, after December 8-9, 2009.

Dr. Strain, Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, (LDAF), DVM

12. Commissioner Strain indicated that the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) is the largest overall regulatory agency in the state. It depends heavily upon the work being done within the agricultural center in the areas of policy management, economic development and issues of the day. He also indicated that all agricultural activities within Louisiana fall within the purview of three organizations: the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation (LFBF), LDAF and LSUAC. Everything agricultural is the responsibility of the LDAF except research and extension. Dr. Strain and the LDAF relies upon the LSUAC for data and statistics. Dr. Strain noted that it was essential to keep the LSUAC. He also observed that it was necessary for agriculture to grow throughout the state and that strategic investments in agriculture needed to be made. He cited economic development as an area to be pursued in accomplishment of agriculture's mission today and in the future.

13. Commissioner Strain indicated that the LDA&F personnel are seeing more pests today because there is a greater movement of people. Dr. Strain cited numerous examples ranging from the introduction of a new species of tilapia to the presence of SODA Apple, TODA, and tick fever in Louisiana. The elimination of containment zones on Mexican trucks was responsible for the introduction of some of these diseases and pests. The threats to Louisiana agriculture and forestry posed by these pests and diseases mean that it has become critical for the LDA&F to have immediate access to information.

14. Commissioner Strain, in responding to a consultant's report commissioned by the Streamlining Committee, observed that "cuts don't matter until there is a crisis". Dr. Strain offered perspectives regarding consultants' recommendations regarding various divisions, offices and programs within the LDAF.

15. Some of the recommendations in the consultant's report included: (a) stripping the Soil and Water Conservation Office from the LDAF and putting it into the Department of Natural Resources' Office of Conservation and (b) putting the Weights and Measures division into the Department of Commerce. The consultants also recommended that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries be dissolved and that fisheries be placed under the LDAF.

16. The Office of Forestry employs 250 people and has responsibility for all fires in Louisiana except for building fires. Timber alone is a 7.5 billion dollar industry. The AES office has responsibility for structural pest control and uses a pesticides advisory committee. The LDAF also tests water, nurseries and addresses disease outbreaks.

17. Examples of services performed by the AGRO Consumer Services Office includes audits of grain elevators, monitoring of milk sales and the setting of scales throughout Louisiana. There are 27 boards and commissions such as the Livestock Brand Commission which protects the property rights of the owners of livestock. Other agencies identified by Dr. Strain included Weights and Measures, Egg Commission, Strawberry Commission, Board of Animal Health, Grain Commodity, Seed Commission, and Horticulture Committee.

18. In Dr. Strain's assessment, the threat from the West Nile virus is not as great as a planned attack.

19. In his testimony before the Oversight Committee, Dr Strain observed that Forestry came to LDAF from the Department of Natural Resources.

20. The LDAF does international work outside of SUSTA. The LDAF is attempting to put together a trade mission to Cuba.

21. In closing, Dr. Strain observed that his position corresponds to a three legged stool. In addition to managing the LDAF, he has to sell the message about agriculture's contributions of a vibrant economy and high quality of life for a nation's citizens. He observed that term limits had cost the LDAF friends and institutional memory. He observed, however, that agriculture does have strong friends who understand its contributions to society.

Chairperson Joan M. King

22. King reported that of the 35 people nominated for a position on the LSUAC Faculty Council (Council), 30 accepted. A motion providing for council members to represent the people in the ranks that they were elected to even though they get promoted out of that rank was made, seconded and passed on a voice vote. King is to draft up changes to the Bylaws to reflect that fact. Ms. Salazer, as Assistant HRM Director, identifies people into the appropriate categories for nomination and voting. Johnson, in Computer Management Systems (CMS), is then advised as to which people are allowed to vote in given categories.

23. It was noted that instructors are not represented on faculty council. King advised research associates to form their own association.

24. There are other situations where people in the service units hold professorial ranks, but they aren't represented. It was also observed that extension associates cannot qualify for teacher's retirement because they work on year to year contracts.

25. The Council voted to have all six faculty members serving on the Service Unit Advisory Committee chosen by the Faculty council and to delete the three members chosen by the vice-chancellors. (Item 7 on Service unit and International Programs Advisory Committee Policy).

27. Resolutions from LSU-BR and LSU-Shreveport titled “Retirement Plan Options Appropriate for Higher Education Professionals” were presented to the LSUAC Faculty Council.

Chairperson King adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m. on October 16, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Gauthier, Secretary