

**LSU AgCenter  
Faculty Council Meeting  
February 5, 2010  
Sullivan Conference Room  
9:30 a.m.**



**Members Present:** Joan Almond, Mandy Armentor, Wayne M. Gauthier, Dianne Glasgow, Andrew Granger, Clayton Hollier, Jeff Hoy, Natalie Hummel, Joan King, Nicole LeMaire, Guy Padgett, Ross Pruitt, Johnny Saichuk, Dianne Sasser, Ed Twidwell, Adrienne Vidrine, Richard Vlosky, and Deniese Zeringue

**Members Absent:** none

**Proxies:** Vidrine for Benoit; Vlosky for Dozier

**Guests:** Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor, LSU Agricultural Center (LSUAC); Dr. David Constant, Interim Dean, The Graduate School, LSU-A&M; Chantel Collier, Assistant to Interim Graduate Dean

### **Call to Order**

Chairperson King called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on February 5, 2010 in the Sullivan Room of the John M. Parker Coliseum.

The minutes of the January 15, 2010 meeting were approved subject to the review comments of individuals appearing before the LSU Agricultural Center Faculty Council (Council).

### Highlights

- **Flat Funding is Projected Best Case for Higher Education (HE) (1)**
- **Flat Funding Constitutes Reduction in LSUAC's Budget (1, 5)**
- **Jindal Favors Single Board for Higher Education (2)**
- **Stimulus Monies Cease June 30, 2010 (3)**
- **LSUAC Seeking All Possible Efficiencies (4)**
- **Fees, Unlike Tuition, Are Tops Neutral (4)**

- **LSUAC Likely To Experience \$300,000 Reduction in Cigarette Tax Revenue (5)**
- **LSUAC Expected to Retain Its Revenue from Oil, Gas and Timber Sale Revenues (6)**
- **Questions Surround Repeat of Grassroots Meetings (7)**
- **LSUAC Down 350 Employees Since 2008 (8)**
- **Chancellor Not Fan of Nine Month Appointments. No Plans for Furloughs (8)**
- **Early Out Is Option With Negative Consequences for Core Programs (8)**
- **Details of LSUAC's Buyout Program Sought by Other Institutions (8)**
- **Exigency Declaration: Required for Program Elimination, But Possible For Program (8)**
- **Status of Draft Document for Evaluating Unit Heads (9, 25)**
- **Criteria for Defining Core Programs Still Being Drafted (11)**
- **Graduate Faculty Status Driven by Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (12)**
- **SACS Accreditation Necessary For Securing Federal Funds (13)**
- **With Approvals, Affiliate Graduate Faculty Can Serve on Graduate Committees (14)**
- **Components of Active Research Program: Graduate Faculty Decision Criterion (14)**
- **Need for Dialogue with Academic Affairs (15)**
- **Necessity for Meeting of Chancellors Regarding Graduate Faculty Status (16, 21)**
- **Tenure Track Appointment Required for Graduate Faculty Status (16)**
- **Frequency of Review Policies for Faculty Holding A Graduate Faculty Rank (17)**
- **Acknowledged Failure to Recognize LSUAC's Support of Graduate Students (18)**
- **Emotional and Perceptual Consequences Associated With SACS' Mandate (19)**
- **Graduate School Transitioning Into "Paperless" Mode to Enhance Efficiency (20)**
- **Commitment to Informal Session on Graduate Faculty Status Policy (21)**
- **Service Unit Advisory Committee Membership Updates (22-24)**
- **Hierarchy of Utility to Faculty of Service Unit Committees (24)**
- **Chancellor's Commitment Vital to Service Unit Committee's Effectiveness (24)**
- **No Action Taken on LSU-BR Faculty Senate President Cope's Letter (26)**
- **Cursory Review: LSUAC Recipient of Greater Funding Increases Than Select Others (28)**

## **Chancellor's Report**

**Dr. William B. Richardson**

1. Chancellor Richardson reported that the Governor's executive budget was to be presented in a public hearing on February 12, 2010. The rumor is that the budget will, under best case conditions, only provide for flat funding. The chancellor observed that flat funding constitutes a real cut because unfunded mandates inherent in civil service raises, increases in health insurance premiums and other employer costs effectively reduce monies available for operations and initiatives. Thus far, there has been a cut of \$146 million dollars to higher education in the last 13 months. Hearings on the governor's executive budget are scheduled to begin on March 2, 2010. Higher Education is scheduled to make its presentation to the legislative appropriations committee on

March 26, 2010. Chancellor Richardson observed that the only group which can appropriate money is the Louisiana House of Representatives.

2. The PERK committee voted 5 to 4 to create two boards to govern higher education in the state of Louisiana. One board would be for community colleges and the second board would be for the remainder of higher education. Governor Jindal favors one board. In-state members of the PERK committee voted against that proposal. The earliest possible time that Louisiana voters would get to vote on that recommendation would be October, 2010.

3. The executive branch is trying to lessen the burden on higher education. The driving concern is how state government best might address the projected \$1.3 billion dollar shortfall in FY 2010-11. Stimulus monies that have been provided to Louisiana by the federal government will no longer be available in 2011.

4. The leadership of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSUAC) is internally seeking all possible sources of efficiencies. The chancellor mentioned the present number of regions and alluded to possible other adjustments within the LSUAC. Chancellor Richardson observed that LSU Systems President Lombardi has been very supportive publicly of the LSUAC. Chancellor Richardson observed that there will be a push in the legislature to give higher education's management boards discretionary authority to set fees because fees, unlike tuition, is a TOPS neutral source of revenue for the institution. The chancellor observed that observations regarding our current reality are always subject to change.

5. Chancellor Richardson observed that a flat budget is the best case situation for the LSUAC at the present time. He also speculated that there will be pressure on the LSUAC to not push for any additional funding. The chancellor indicated that the LSUAC is likely to lose \$300,000 due to an anticipated drop in cigarette tax revenues during the 2010-2011 FY that begins July 1, 2010. He reported that the LSUAC had been receiving \$2.5 million annually from the cigarette tax.

6. Chancellor Richardson indicated that, thus far, the LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) allows revenues derived from oil and gas leases and timber sales from lands controlled by the LSUAC to stay within the LSUAC's general budget.

7. There was a question as to whether the LSUAC will still have its grassroots meetings and, if so, then what will be its message.

8. Chancellor Richardson reported that the LSUAC now has 350 fewer employees than it did two years ago. Chancellor Richardson indicated that he is not a fan of nine (9) month appointments and he doesn't have any plans for furloughs. He indicated that the administration has talked about early buyouts, but that the problem with that option is that the decision makers don't get to control who leaves which creates a problem in maintaining core programs. Richardson reported that the LSUAC has had six inquiries from other campuses about the implementation and effects of its 2009 buyout program. The chancellor indicated that the LSUAC would have to declare exigency in order to eliminate a program, but that exigency can be declared in a program without a declaration of a system wide exigency. Chancellor Richardson indicated that the LSUAC could give raises by reducing the number of employees.

9. Chancellor Richardson is working on the draft of the proposed document for evaluating unit heads.

10. Chancellor Richardson indicated that there were changes to the January 2010 minutes that needed to be made.

11. The chancellor indicated that the creation of criteria for core programs was still going forward.

**Dr. David Constant, Interim Dean, The Graduate School, LSU A&M and  
Chantel Collier, Assistant to Interim Graduate Dean**

12. Interim Dean Constant began his remarks by indicating that he had come to discuss and not to defend the memorandum from the graduate school denying graduate faculty membership to any faculty who did not have a 100% appointment on the LSU-BR campus. Interim Dean Constant indicated that the memorandum originated between the Graduate School and Academic Affairs and was being driven by a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation requirement advocated by the community colleges. Furthermore, the memorandum was not being driven by any other issue between the LSU-BR and LSUAC campuses. SACS is scheduled to make its next accreditation visit in 2014. SACS wanted the Graduate Faculty list to reflect its requirement that only full members of the graduate faculty have 100% appointments on the LSU-BR campus. Interim Dean Constant admitted that there were communications issues surrounding the memorandum.

13. Interim Dean Constant observed that SACS accreditation of a university is a prerequisite for that university to secure federal research funding. If an institution fails to secure and maintain its SACS accreditation, it experiences a DO loop of not being able to

obtain federal funds until it gains or regains accreditation but then not being able to do the research that merits accreditation without access to federal funding.

14. Interim Dean Constant maintained that the graduate school doesn't want to impede anyone's research. He observed that affiliate status on the Graduate Faculty still allows a faculty member to chair and serve on committees with approvals from the appropriate authorities. Dean Constant identified the elements of an active research program to consist of (1) a flow of money into that program, (2) publications and (3) events and activities happening as a consequence of the research. An active research program is critical to a positive decision for attaining full graduate faculty status and chairing a graduate committee.

15. Dean Constant indicated that there is a need to continue the dialogue regarding graduate faculty status with the Office of Academic Affairs. He indicated that the graduate school now has a new system for coding which should enhance efficiencies.

16. Dean Constance observed that there is a need for both Chancellor Richardson and Chancellor Martin to address the issue of the levels of graduate faculty status to be accorded LSUAC faculty since they do not have a 100% appointment on the LSU-BR campus. A criterion for full graduate faculty membership is a tenure track appointment. Non-tenure track faculty cannot be full members of the graduate faculty. They can only be affiliate members. Dr. Ed Holton serves as a member of the Graduate Council which rules on graduate faculty membership.

17. Under current policies, a faculty member with a 100% LSUAC appointment holding a graduate faculty appointment will have to submit to a full review every seven (7) years in order to maintain that graduate faculty status. There is yet another review when the member advances from associate to full professor followed by reviews at 7 and 14 years. After the 14<sup>th</sup> year review as a full member, then the graduate faculty status becomes permanent. (This was with respect to regular membership and would not apply to 100% AC members).

18. Dean Constant admitted that there has been a failure by the graduate school to acknowledge that the LSUAC pays fees to support a number of graduate students.

19. Dean Constant observed that the impact of the graduate school implementing the SACS requirement of denying full graduate membership to faculty not holding 100% LSU-BR faculty had been both emotional and perceptual.

20. Dean Constant indicated that the graduate school was in the process of going paperless. They are now in the process of recording graduate student records electronically. This development should enable the graduate school to function in a more efficiently and effectively in handling inquiries and rendering decisions.

21. Dean Constant committed to check on the status of communications between Chancellor Richardson and Chancellor Martin regarding the vetting of graduate faculty status to LSUAC faculty members. He also committed to an informational session on graduate faculty policy.

### **Old Business**

22. Chairperson King provided an update on the Service Unit Advisory Committee Policy and the status of member replacement on those committees. King reiterated Chancellor Richardson's desire to not be the person choosing members of the faculty council's committees. King underscored the need to maintain the currency of memberships on these committees.

23. Chairperson King identified the various committees which were in need of an updated membership roster beginning with Sponsored Programs. The membership of the sponsored programs committee has not been updated since 2004. There is a need to replace Regina Bracey, Salim, and Dan Thomas. It was recommended that an updated set of Sponsored Programs representatives include Karen Overstreet; Mike Stout, (Chair); Jeff Gillespie, Daniel Stephenson, Nickie LeMaire , and Kathy Aime. It was speculated that the advisory committees probably originated as a response to a faculty survey in 2002. It was recommended that the minutes of advisory committee meetings be excerpted, compiled into summaries and shared with the Chancellor of the LSUAC. In convening advisory committee meetings, committee chairpersons and unit heads are cautioned to plan those meetings in light of new travel restrictions as well as the requirement for a committee to meet at least once a year. It was observed that employees in parish and extension offices with limited or no access to a state vehicle were exempt from some of these travel restrictions.

24. The current membership of the facility services committee includes Pat Bollich, Ruth Mutrie, Ken Gravois, Jeff Kuehny, Sonny Viator, and Clayton Hollier. It was observed that there is a hierarchy of utility to the set of service committees and that the facility services committee is of the least utility to the faculty. The question was asked as to "what kind of

advice has been given to Director Husser” followed with the response that it is highly unlikely that the Council could offer him any kind of valuable information. It was suggested that Director Husser be asked whether the facility services committee had ever been of any value to his unit. It was suggested that a survey of unit heads be conducted for the purpose of determining how well the service committee are working for them. The Council’s objective in asking these questions rests in its desire to save the time and energies of all parties involved with service committees. The Council recognized a full commitment from the Chancellor would be needed in order to have the service committees function in a manner that would achieve such an objective. One component of that commitment would be to have the directors of these service units identify, during their evaluations, how they had worked with their service committee to address the concerns of the Council and implement its recommendations.

25. A draft of a “Performance Evaluation of Unit Heads” document is to be available in March 2010 for review by members of the Council. The review of the unit heads was initially intended to be an annual event similar to that required of the faculty.

26. The Council decided to take no action on the letter sent by the President of the LSU-BR Faculty Senate, Kevin Cope, to the U.S. Secretary of Education, Anne Duncan. In that letter, President Cope called Secretary Duncan’s attention to the fact that federal funding for education hinges on state appropriations.

### **New Business**

27. The vice chairperson of the Council, Diane Sasser, attended meetings of both the LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) and of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS). The BOS approved the athletic department’s request to raise the ticket prices on select Southeast Conference football games by \$10. The ALFS took note of the change in legacy vendors regarding the 403(b) accounts.

28. A cursory review of budget related documents suggested that the LSUAC appeared to be receiving more money over time than LSU-NO, Health Sciences-NO and Health Sciences-Shreveport. There was a chart contrasting the level of appropriations to the LSU System vs. the level of appropriations provided for by a formula.

29. There were no Service Unit Advisory Committee Reports provided by committee representatives.

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed on voice vote at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Gauthier, Secretary