

**LSU AgCenter
Faculty Council Meeting
May 13, 2011
Sullivan Conference Room
9:30 a.m.**



Members Present: Joan Almond, Lisa Benoit, Sharman Charles, Hallie Dozier, Wayne M. Gauthier, Dianne Glasgow, Allen Hogan, Clayton Hollier, Jeff Hoy, Natalie Hummel, Joan King, Ken McMillin, Ross Pruitt, Johnny Saichuk, Ed Twidwell, Richard Vlosky, and John Westra.

Members Absent: Nicole LeMaire

Proxies: Sharman Charles for Quincy Cheek; Joan Almond for Robin Landry, Allan Hogan for Guy Padgett

Guests: Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor, LSU Agricultural Center (LSUAC); Roger Husser, Director, Office of Facility Planning, LSU Agricultural Center (LSUAC)

HIGHLIGHTS

- . **Monitoring Rising Water on the Mississippi River and LSU AgCenter Preparations for Potential Flood (1-5)**
- . **Spending Freeze of State Monies In Effect (6)**
- . **Annual Budget Critical to LSU AgCenter's Existence (7)**
- . **Louisiana Legislature Appropriates But Board Of Regents and LSU System Make the Distribution (8, 13, 27)**
- . **Search for LSU AgCenter Vice-Chancellor and Director of LAES Coming to a Close (9)**
- . **Significance of Whether Rising Water on the Mississippi River a Man-Made or Natural Disaster (10)**
- . **Chancellor Expects Full Retirement of Dr. David Morrison, Assistant Vice Chancellor, LAES by July 1, 2011 (12)**
- . **Guidelines, but No Policies Exist Regarding Faculty Workloads on Joint LSU AgCenter and COA Appointments (14)**
- . **Office of Facility Planning (OFP) Protects and Improves LSU AgCenter's Building and Lands (15, 17,18)**
- . **Lease Rosepine and Return Calhoun and Citrus Research Stations to Parish Governments (16)**
- . **Identification of New Construction Projects for LSU AgCenter in Design Stage (19)**
- . **Identification of Projects Under Construction for LSU AgCenter (20 - 21)**

- . **Trees on LSU AgCenter Properties Responsibility of Resident Coordinators and Regional Directors (22)**
- . **Campus Wide Assessments of Buildings Presently Underway. Equipment Responsibility of Unit Heads (23)**
- . **Challenging Paradox for OFP Director (24)**
- . **Committee to Assess Merits of a Senate versus Council for LSU AgCenter Employees (25)**
- . **Reports Rendered on BOS, Council of Faculty Advisors, and ALFS Meetings (26)**
- . **Actual and Considered Changes to TRSL and ORP Retirement Systems (28)**
- . **Administrators Not Fully Aware of LOUIS (29)**
- . **Graduate Faculty Status To Be Conferred By College Deans and Honored By All State Institutions (30)**

Call to Order

Chairman McMillin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on May 13, 2011 in the Sullivan Room of the John M. Parker Agricultural Center.

New Business

Chancellor's Report. Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor, LSU Agricultural Center (LSU AgCenter)

1. Chancellor Richardson, along with other LSU AgCenter personnel, parish, state and federal officials are monitoring increases in water levels on the Mississippi River. Morning meetings are being held to assess the likelihood of these increases in the water levels creating flooding situations at the St. Gabriel and Central experiment stations. Mixed reports are being received as to whether and when the Morganza Spillway may be opened and whether the Old River Control Structure may be opened to divert water from the Mississippi River into the Atchafalaya River. Thirty percent (30%) of the water flowing in the Atchafalaya River comes from the Mississippi River. The order of LSU AgCenter priorities with respect to flooding is a. Safety & well-being of employees and their families; b. Protection of research facilities; and c. Care of animals. Animals can be taken to private lands volunteered for that purpose. The major issue is not with the crest of the Mississippi River, but with the pressures on the levees through mid-June, 2011. Cattle have been moved off the levee. Vehicles have been staged and are ready to move animals. Individuals with trucks capable of moving animals have also been identified.
2. Hogan reported that he has been questioned by people regarding payment for taking care of animals. He has advised those people to contact Kurt Guidry.
3. No private animals are going to be taken care of at LSU AgCenter research facilities.
4. The levees could break at any time. Barring a catastrophic failure, the expectation is that there will be an emergence of surface water and over-topping of levees.

5. No LSU AgCenter property has been damaged thus far. The Northeast Experiment Station at St. Joseph has its assets boxed and positioned for movement.
6. The LSU AgCenter has once again been directed by executive order to freeze its spending of state monies. No clarifications have been issued as to how to proceed. This spending freeze is a repeat of last year's freeze and it applies to all state accounts and travel.
7. The budget appropriations committee is scheduled to meet next week. Principal members of that committee include Mr. Jim Fannin, Mr. Paul Rainwater, and Mr. Ellington. There is a special amendment for the LSU Ag Center. Ultimate allocations will be impacted by the 2011 election. A key question before the committee is whether to use one-time monies to craft the budget. The concern is that a budget will be adopted but if economic conditions don't improve by January, 2012, reductions in that budget will be forthcoming that will be more severe than if those cuts had been made in June 2011. It is important to let the LSU Ag Center's constituencies know that funding is critical to its existence. The budget is a reason for mobilizing grass root support for the LSU Ag Center.
8. The flow of monies to higher education begins with an appropriation by the Louisiana legislature to the Board of Regents (BOR). The BOR then sends money to the LSU System and to the other three systems that comprise higher education in Louisiana. The LSU System doesn't have to apportion any specific sum to the LSU AgCenter or to any of the other units.
9. The search process for the LSU AgCenter's position of Vice Chancellor and Director of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station is coming to a close. The expectation is that a formal announcement will be forthcoming within the next two weeks.
10. The issue as to whether reimbursements are to be paid to land owners who lose crops and livestock as a consequence of the opening of the Morganza Control Structure depends upon whether it is determined that the need to open the Morganza Control Structure was due to a man-made or natural disaster.
11. There is a concern that the opening of the Morganza Control Structure will result in a loss of wildlife, crops and livestock.
12. Chancellor Richardson expects Dr. David Morrison, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of the LAES, to be fully retired by July 1, 2011.
13. There has been minimum guidance issued as to how the LSU AgCenter is to manage its budget.
14. The LSU Ag Center is committed to strengthening the College of Agriculture (COA). However, there are guidelines but no policies in place that identifies the distribution of the campus workloads between individuals with joint appointments in those two units.

Mr. Roger Husser, Director of the Office of Facility Planning (OFP), LSU Ag Center

15. The mission of the Office of Facility Planning (OFP) is to protect and improve the assets of the LSU AgCenter. The OFP is a service department. It employs two licensed engineers, an architect, three construction managers and a construction process monitor. OFP personnel have responsibility for all LSU Ag Center construction and property management activity and oversight of leases. It is not a centralized operation. On average, 120 construction projects are completed annually. Many of these projects are designed by the OFP. The OFP manages three million square feet of building spaces. The OFP has responsibility for the physical structures at 19 research stations off-campus, the Camp Grant Walker 4-H center and the Livestock Show Facility in Delhi.
16. Plans are to lease the Rosepine station. The Calhoun and Citrus research stations are to revert to the local parish governments in Ouachita and Plaquemines parishes, respectively. The LSU Ag Center owns the county agent offices in Rapides, East Feliciana, and Caddo parishes. All other county agent offices are housed in parish owned facilities. The OFP provides guidance regarding facility management to those parish offices.
17. Ten years ago, there were 1,100 buildings in the inventory of the LSU Ag Center. Through consolidation and demolition activities, that number was reduced to 900 buildings and 3,000,000 square feet of space under roof. The number of residences ranged from 110 in 2000, but is now 40-50. Its occupants are responsible for the utilities and upkeep of the interior. No new houses have been constructed on experiment station sites since the 1970s except for La House. State is self-insured. Removal of these structures has enabled the LSU Ag Center to minimize its self-insurance assessments.
18. The OFP is responsible for the 20,000 acres of land that are owned by the LSU Ag Center.
19. The OFP currently has 62 projects in the design stage. This includes numerous types of facilities. In the future, a technology building is planned to be constructed in the space presently occupied by the sheep barn.
20. There are sixty projects in various stages of construction. These include a laboratory in Phase I which is scheduled to be bided-out next month. It is an 18 month construction project projected to cost \$21 million. Construction to benefit the Audubon Sugar Institute is underway and is expect to cost around \$1 million. Funds provided by the National Science Foundation are being used to upgrade laboratories in the H.D. Wilson building. Construction funds of \$1.5 million dollars are being transferred from the Citrus Station to the Aquaculture Research station. Governor Jindal released some deferred maintenance money of which eight (\$8) million dollars has been used on LSU Ag Center facilities over the last several years.

21. Mr. Husser provided a report regarding buildings whose construction is in progress. One of his difficulties is in balancing priorities under conditions of changing priorities. At this time, there is no funding for Phase III of the new Animal Sciences complex. The abattoir is being moved from Phase I to Phase III. The isolation unit at Ben Hur is scheduled to be in use by early summer. Cost overruns are being experienced for this project, but are far less than other facilities of this type around the nation. Cost estimates have gone from \$6.8 million to \$7 million. In estimating building costs, the standard practice is to budget 10% in potential overrun costs. By law, one percent (1%) of the cost of a state building has to be reserved for works of art. Buildings whose costs exceed \$2 million dollars can be granted exemptions from this law. Mr. Husser indicated that there is a database update available on the status of construction projects.
22. Resident Coordinators and Regional Directors are responsible for taking care of the day to day maintenance of facilities on LSU AgCenter properties.
23. A campus wide assessment of buildings and space is underway. Equipment management and inventories are the responsibilities of the individual unit heads. The reporting of equipment is under the direction of Mark Legendre, Chief Fiscal Officer.
24. Mr. Husser observed that it is challenging to explain to others why the construction of buildings is underway when the state operating budget is subject to financial austerity measures. However, this is due to State Government utilizing one-time funds over the last several years for repairs to buildings and new construction rather than using these one-time funds to patch budget holes.

Reports

25. The Ag Council Executive Committee has questioned and will be discussing whether a senate would better serve all LSUAC employees as compared to the present council.
26. Reports were rendered on meetings of the LSU Board of Supervisors on April 15, 2011, the Council of Faculty Advisors on April 15, 2011, and on the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates on April 16, 2011.
27. A conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities representatives was held on May 9, 2011. It was designed to foster better relationships between the universities and to address faculty issues of common concern. Dr. Jim Richardson, a member of the Revenue Estimating Committee, observed that the state has been creating a situation over the last three to four years in which revenues were down but the spending was up. Dr. Purcell, the newly appointed Commissioner of Higher Education, had been told by Mr. Jim Fannin, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, to protect the LSU AgCenter's budget since the institution doesn't have students and thus no ability to generate revenue from tuition. In the past, that message did not seem to be reflected in funding for the AgCenter as the BOR and LSU Systems can reallocate funding.

28. Changes to the state's retirement systems were topics of legislative interests. Currently, retiree benefits are exempted from state income taxes. Changing that benefit to make it taxable was a topic of discussion among some legislators. McMillin is to send out a notice regarding a change to the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) in which administrative costs for ORP participation will change from 2% to 0.1 % starting July 1, 2011,. An informal group representing ORP program participants is investigating the constitutionality of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) managing the ORP program.
29. Regarding LOUIS, Mr. Piazza, Director of Information Technology, wasn't aware of whether all LSU AgCenter personnel were eligible to use the service. Mr. Mark Legendre, Chief Fiscal Officer, was not aware of whether the LSU AgCenter was paying an access fee for LOUIS.
30. A change, effective August 15, 2011, is coming to the determination of Graduate Faculty status. College deans rather than the Graduate Council will make the determination of whether a faculty member merits Graduate Faculty status. The Board of Regents claims that if an individual holds graduate faculty status on any campus in the state then that individual has graduate faculty status in all state institutions of higher education.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and passed on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Gauthier, Secretary