

**LSU Agricultural Center  
Faculty Council Meeting  
September 16, 2011  
Sullivan Conference Room  
9:30 a.m.**



**Members Present:** Wayne M. Gauthier, Allen Hogan, Clayton Hollier, Natalie Hummel, Joan King, Robin Landry, Nicole LeMaire, Ken McMillin, Boyd Padgett, Johnny Saichuk, Ed Twidwell, Richard Vlosky, and John Westra.

**Members Absent:** Hallie Dozier, Dianne Glasgow, Jeff Hoy, and Ross Pruitt

**Proxies:** Robin Landry for Sharman Charles and Nicole LeMaire for Joan Almond, Lisa Benoit, and Quincy Cheek

**Guests:** Fred Piazza, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology, LSU Agricultural Center; LSU Agricultural Center and Dr. Lakshman Velupillai, Associate Vice Chancellor, International Programs, LSU A&M College and LSU Agricultural Center

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- . **Chancellor Richardson Touring Western Louisiana with Representative Boustany (1)**
- . **Information Technology Directorate in Brief (3)**
- . **Internet Connectivity for John M. Parker Coliseum will be examined (4)**
- . **Password Changes: Fact of Life for LSU Agricultural Center (5)**
- . **Consequences of Budget Reductions to IT Upon LSU Agricultural Center (6, 12, 15)**
- . **Schedule for Introducing Dynamics Reporting System Into LCES and LAES (7)**
- . **CMS Needs Upgrades and Redesign (8)**
- . **Fewer Video Conferencing Sites. Introduction of Cloud Services (9)**
- . **Status of APP Development Projects (10)**
- . **Domain Available to Remotely Located Employees (11)**
- . **IT Loses Capacity to be Innovative (12)**
- . **IT Supports I-Phone (13)**
- . **Approved List of State of Louisiana Approved Electronic Equipment Purchases (14)**
- . **Equipment Cannibalization Now a Necessary IT Practice (15)**
- . **Brief International Program (IP) History (16)**
- . **Velupillai's Split Appointment and Responsibilities (17)**
- . **Identification of IP's Past Grant Successes and Present Work Commitments (18)**
- . **Past and Present Procedure for Estimating Professional Labor Costs & Rebating (19)**

- . **Staffing and Accounting for an Awarded Grant is Multidimensional Problem (20)**
- . **Personal and Corporate Benefits Associated with IP Work (21)**
- . **IP's Future Direction Requires Focus and Discernment (22)**
- . **Housing for International Visitors and Scholars Is a Problem (23)**
- . **Web Address for Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda (24)**
- . **Matters of Interest Discussed by Council of Faculty Advisors (25)**
- . **Issues Addressed by LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) (26)**
- . **Updates from Council Chairperson (29)**
- . **How Should One LSU Agricultural Center Communicate? (30)**
- . **Vlosky to Assess Relative Economics of Cell Phone Stipend (31)**

### **Call to Order**

McMillin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Sullivan Room of the John M. Parker Agricultural Coliseum on September 16, 2011 and introduced the guests.

1. McMillin announced that Chancellor's Richardson was accompanying Representative Boustany on a farm day tour in Crowley and would not be available to provide an update on matters relevant to the LSU Agricultural Center.
2. McMillin announced that the minutes of the August 19, 2011 meeting would be made available as soon as they would be ready for review by the Council.

### **Guest Presentations**

#### **Fred Piazza, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology, LSU Agricultural Center**

3. Piazza distributed a four page handout (attached at the end) summarizing information about the Information Technology (IT) unit. The handout identified the mission, responsibilities, sets of current and upcoming major initiatives, budgets and staffing levels over time, impacts of both current and potential future budget reductions and the range of services provided by the IT unit.
4. McMillin asked about providing internet connectivity to the John M. Parker Coliseum. Piazza observed that it could be costly, but he would investigate options. [Note that Dr. Piazza has reported that there is now wireless connectivity available in the Sullivan Conference Room through LSU Secure. Users must log-on with their PAWS User ID and Password.]
5. In response to an observation about the annoyances associated with password changes, Piazza observed that the Governor's office establishes security policies for the LSU Agricultural Center and all other state agencies. Implementation and compliance are required to minimize and cope with cyber attacks and other breaches of electronic related security.
6. Piazza highlighted information given in the handout. Specifically,



- a. current budget reductions are resulting in the phase out of compressed video sites
  - b. IT is moving from aging software into less expensive cloud-based software and infrastructure even though it reduces management capabilities, and
  - c. inevitable consequences of budget reductions ranging from reduced speed of services, retention of hardware past recommended lifetimes, and less maintenance of hardware and software.
7. IT is incorporating the Dynamics reporting system into the LSU Agricultural Center. Dynamics will be mandated for use by all employees with Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES) appointments commencing in January 2012. Employees of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station will be able to take advantage of the Dynamics System in the future. Piazza said that Dynamics will make it possible for the employee and the employee's supervisors to track the employee's work with clientele. It will be used as a tool for reporting contacts, knowledge retention, and research. It will facilitate the tracking of an employee's progress on work against a plan of study. Dynamics inputs may be subject to open records requests, but only the information that is subject to such measures will be delivered upon request. Piazza said that Dynamics would provide the means by which the LSU Agricultural Center employees could record their interactions with members of society. Over time, a record would be available to anyone with access to Dynamics as to which LSU Agricultural Center employee interacted with which member of society and the written outcome of that interaction.
8. A future IT initiative will be to upgrade and redesign the Content Management System (CMS). The CMS provides for the senior author of a document to indicate whether the document should be renewed and the frequency of future renewals. The CMS was a Microsoft product. However, it has been modified so much that it is not recognizable as a Microsoft product. Only Share Point is a recognizable Microsoft product. The LSU Agricultural Center's version of CMS was sold to Texas A&M, but due to organizational changes in the Texas A&M system, they have chosen not to implement it. Management of the CMS commanded eight percent (8%) of IT's staff time plus a programmer. The biggest problem with the CMS system is the user's inability to find specific bits of information being sought. The internal search feature of the LSU AgCenter.com website is no longer functioning well and is in need of an upgrade. As a consequence, most of the AgCenter's clientele use Google to find pages within the LSU AgCenter's website. Google provides more successful results at this time.
9. The LSU AgCenter will be shifting to using more cloud- based services. These services now provide anti-spam and anti-virus capabilities, and in the future will provide 25 times the email storage capacity per user. In addition, the AgCenter will be upgrading its desktop video software. The increased performance of this software will potentially allow the organization to reduce the number of compressed video sites throughout the state.
10. The LSU Agricultural Center has been awarded a grant to work on an application development (APP) project for spatial identification of insects and plant diseases. The application will be available for purchase and download through I-Phone or other social media hardware. Currently, Hummel is working on a rice APP which will likely evolve into

work on a citrus APP. There is currently no LSU Agricultural Center policy regarding revenue sharing with APP developers. Hummel is creating a policy addressing revenue sharing for developers of APP products by the LSU Agricultural Center.

11. Regarding the provision of domain access for field personnel, Piazza observed that LSUAC employees at remote locations could “piggyback” on the domain because of a state grant.
12. Piazza reported that the cumulative impact of annual budget and staff reductions on IT is its loss of innovative capacity. Since 2007, IT has experienced a 31% reduction in the number of its full time employees. That reduction has had major negative consequences throughout all areas of IT.
13. Piazza reported that IT is now supporting the Apple iPhone versions 3, 3g, 3gs, and 4. IT is also supporting all versions of the iPad.
14. Piazza reported that there is a list created by state government identifying electronic equipment purchases which can be made with state funds. Piazza indicated that approvals for equipment purchases depend on whether state money or non-state monies will be used to pay for the equipment. Equipment purchases that fall outside of the state’s guidelines must be justified by the purchaser.
15. Due to the ages of the equipment, there has been an increase in the number of equipment crashes. Budget woes are resulting in the cannibalization of parts on servers to maintain as many as possible.

**Dr. Lakshman Velupillai, Associate Vice Chancellor, International Programs, LSU-Baton Rouge and LSU Agricultural Center**

16. Dr. Velupillai provided a handout (attached at the end) tracing the creation and evolution of International Programs from President Kennedy’s call in the 1960’s for U.S. land grant institutions to become involved in U.S. development assistance programs to present time. Initially, support was provided to countries whose economies were based in agriculture and whose focus was on becoming self-sufficient in food production. Passage of Title XII made possible the formal participation of land grant institutions such as the LSU Agricultural Center’s international program’s work in West Africa and Asia. Diminishment of Title XII funding resulted in the pursuit of international program projects that are not exclusively crop or commodity focused. Survival has necessitated the formation of new strategic alliances, the pursuit of private funding and administrative arrangements with other institutions. The value of some awards such as the LEAD award is that it can lead to other awards and awareness of funding opportunities. Currently, there are no state funds from the LSU Agricultural Center being used to support the Office of International Programs (OIP).
17. Dr. Velupillai holds a joint 55%-45% split appointment with the LSU-Baton Rouge and the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center campuses, respectively. Funding to support the Office of International Programs (OIP) at Louisiana State University is derived from a combination of self-generated grant monies and public funds. Approximately 40% of OIP’s



support comes from grant funds. On average, the OIP has generated \$2.0 million dollars annually from grants. Dr. Velupillai's responsibilities to the LSU-BR campus include the pursuit of grants and include responsibilities to provide for internationalization on the two campuses. There is an International Strategic Planning Group for the LSU-BR campus from which he hopes to capture some of the synergies outlined in the Flagship Agenda.

18. The Louisiana State University Agricultural Center expects Velupillai to secure grants to perform agriculturally related work in foreign lands with the overhead from these grants going to the funding of the OIP. Grant funding does not provide for uniform funding over time. Between 2005-2009, the OIP generated \$8 million dollars in grant funds. In 2010, the OIP secured \$ 10 million dollars in grants. Funded projects being administered by the OIP include food safety in Armenia between 2006-2014; the provision of monitoring, evaluation and other technical services in Ghana between 2010-2013; and work with rice, its value chain and vocational education in Liberia between 2011-2016. In addition, the OIP has also received funding for a number of Borlaug Fellow and Scientific Exchange programs from the USDA.
19. The intellectual work performed under grants is generally from active faculty employed by either the LSU Agricultural Center or another institution. The principal investigator (PI) is the individual who created the grant proposal. The determination of whether the PI gets paid depends on the terms outlined in the grant and the activities performed. According to current policy of the AgCenter, all of the work performed under a grant is considered official time. An individual with an appointment in the LSU System does not have to take annual leave to work on a grant. LSU is in competition with other institutions for these grants. At an earlier time, the investigator's annual salary was divided by a standard 260 working day year in deriving the daily rate for estimating the labor charges associated with the grant. Today, according to the LSU AgCenter additional compensation policy, it is divided by 365 days in estimating the daily labor charge. Again, according to the policy on the LSU AgCenter campus, if the grant is awarded, half of the 365 daily rate is rebated to the PI's (or the participating faculty specialist's) department and the remaining half goes to the PI (or the participating specialist).
20. Satisfying International Programs' staffing for work performance under an awarded grant is an ongoing challenge. Even though the OIP represents a merged entity within the LSU System, its management still has to respond to the different budgets and reporting systems of both the LSU-BR and LSU Agricultural Center campuses.
21. Dr. Velupillai identified benefits to faculty who might choose to perform international work. The performance of international work provides the faculty member with experiences beyond Louisiana's borders and it contributes to the fulfillment of our land grant mission responsibilities. IP experience can open doors to future consulting opportunities. In his handout, Dr. Velupillai clearly stated that International Programs complement and strengthen the mission of the LSU Agricultural Center through its international endeavors by extending its work and purpose beyond state and national borders. He identified a variety of mechanisms and activities that support his claims. He summarized his appeal for faculty and student involvement in international programs by citing Dr. Peter McPherson's

statement that a university's international program office "provides the educational, research and exchange opportunities for the student so that he/she can compete in the global marketplace after graduation while also supporting/providing opportunities for faculty to promote intellectual engagement with their peers abroad".

22. The OIP is focusing and discerning on where that office wants to go given the present and future demands for international work. The demand for IP work is non-seasonal.
23. The OIP is experiencing difficulty in securing adequate housing for international visitors and scholars. The administration is aware of the problem and plans to address it as funding becomes available. Lakshman's experience is that the provision of such housing for foreign visitors is less of a problem in foreign countries than it is in the United States. He attributes the difficulty to cultural differences.

## Reports

24. Natalie Hummel presented a written set of minutes from the August 26, 2011 meeting of the LSU Council of Faculty Advisors (COFA). They contained updates from Dr. Bob Rasmussen, Assistant Vice President of the LSU System, regarding the agenda of the LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS). In notes taken at that meeting, Hummel identified the website from which the BOS agenda could be viewed as:  
<http://www.lsusystem.edu/userfiles/file/agenda/2011/08262011agenda-rev5.pdf>.
25. In addition to the updates from Dr. Rasmussen, Hummel's minutes identified the discussion of matters presided over by Dr. Kevin Cope, President of the LSU-BR Faculty Senate. Some of those matters of discussion included:
  - a. the absence of open discussion during BOS meetings as the majority of their deliberations occur in closed door committee meetings;
  - b. inviting Tom Carmody, a legislative author of HCR 184 that would establish a commission to review the structure of higher education in Louisiana, to the Alexandria Summit on September 24, 2011;
  - c. the caution that faculty engaging in lobbying should do so using their own personal computers and time;
  - d. update on LSU United's efforts to collect dues via payroll deductions and increase its membership from the current 110 members;
  - e. recognition of 38,000 course offerings within Louisiana's higher education system and how the number of courses at the individual institutions is not related to the sizes of the faculties at those institutions. Furthermore, those institutions have 75 commonly transferred courses. Of the 75, only 25 are transferred sixty percent (60%) of the time. There is a new proposal to address the transfer issue of course equivalency. Timelines to have disciplinary experts develop common course outcomes have been established with the initial study to be completed by 2012 followed by implementation in 2013.
  - f. Athletic program concerns with insider trading in NCAA information, the spree of raises to athletic program employees and the sources of funding for those raises, and



- g. Dr. Purcell's observation regarding the Arkansas model for securing private funding to address retention package and salary equalization issues.
26. Hummel's notes from the Board of Supervisors' meeting identified a variety of issues including:
- a. an approved resolution from the health care committee designed to transform biomedical research in Louisiana;
  - b. a spirited debate associated with the Law Center's request to the academic and student affairs committee for an increase in its tuition to use in its scholarship program to attract nonresidents for purposes of retaining its top 100 U.S. News and World Reports ranking. A core question needing resolution is whether it is appropriate to use state funds to provide scholarship aid to nonresident students.
  - c. During the presentation of the 2011 to 2012 operating budget, the finance committee heard that the LSU Agricultural Center's funding from both state and federal governments had been reduced and that the institution had no ability to increase revenue.
  - d. President Lombardi endorsed the athletics committee's recommendations to raise the athletic director's salary by 40% and to approve contracts for the head basketball and football coaches and for Beth Torina, and
  - e. the swearing in of Ben Mount as Chairman of the BOS and the election of Hank Danos as its Chair-elect.
27. Hummel reported that she would be unable to attend the October meeting of the LSU Board of Supervisors.
28. McMillin is going to attend the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates meeting and the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities on September 24, 2011 in Alexandria, Louisiana.

### **Other Business**

29. McMillin indicated that:
- a. the Faculty Budget Oversight Committee had been meeting weekly except for this week.
  - b. there was a need for the Council to advise HRM of its recommendations of individuals to serve on the P&T committee.
  - c. an internal search for a permanent SPESS director was underway, and
  - d. the Faculty Council election process is underway. That process was outlined by McMillin. He encouraged council members to send e-mails encouraging voting to their constituents. Two current council members were identified as being term limited. Seven council members need to be elected.
30. Concern was expressed that Facebook would be the first way LSU Agricultural Center employees would find out about organizational change. The question was asked: "If we are

going to be one LSU Agricultural Center, how do we communicate?” The report was that the people represented by the Council were upset about finding about how their jobs were going to be changed.

31. Vlosky volunteered to pursue the economic implications of the proposal to provide LSU Agricultural Center employees with a monthly stipend of \$80 if they owned a SMART phone and \$50 if they owned a DUMB phone. He indicated that he would need to conduct a survey of employees to determine monthly phone bills and the percentages of phone bills that were legitimate business expenses. He indicated that assessments of the benefit of the stipend would necessarily have to be on a case by case basis for people who have their own personal phones.

The motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved on a voice vote at 1:00 p.m. on September 16, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Gauthier  
Secretary



## **MISSION**

LSU AgCenter Information Technology provides, supports, and services all levels of the information creation and delivery processes from the hardware and connectivity that are invaluable for the genesis of the research-based information that is at the core of the AgCenter's mission, to the network infrastructure that is the conduit for that knowledge, to the security protocols that protect intellectual property, to the administrative applications that support the organization, and web-based delivery that puts that empowering information at the immediate disposal of the citizens of Louisiana.

To facilitate this flow of information, LSU AgCenter Information Technology provides services that address hardware, software and Internet connectivity issues as well as develops innovative applications to aid in research, information dissemination, client service, and efficient workflow processes throughout the organization. Through the use of digital outreach media including the Web, social networks, and compressed video, the Information Technology unit supports the LSU AgCenter in its mission to be the best source of reliable, current, research-based information available to the citizens of Louisiana.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

LSU AgCenter Information Technology deploys, maintains and manages:

- A statewide network providing Internet connectivity to approximately 80 geographically dispersed office locations.
- Approximately 12,000 technical support calls per year from faculty and staff.
- Approximately 2,500 computer desktops, laptops, servers, and mobile devices.
- Web-based information systems that deliver over 70,000 Web pages of content generating nearly 230 million Web hits annually.
- Statewide distance education network consisting of 23 compressed video-enabled conference rooms and meeting spaces which help reduce travel expenses for group meetings as well as provide educational opportunities to faculty, staff, students, and external clientele including LSU Baton Rouge campus, state government, and the Louisiana National Guard.
- Administrative applications targeted at increasing institutional efficiency and decreasing waste of resources.
- Information technology security initiatives aimed at securing data and equipment.
- Technology training initiatives to help employees work more efficiently by using information technology tools.

## **CURRENT & UPCOMING MAJOR INITIATIVES:**

- Dynamics reporting system
- MS Lync desktop video conferencing system
- CMS upgrade / redesign
- Cloud email services (25 GB email inboxes)
- Mobile application development (Web apps, iOS, Android)
- Domain access for the field

## BUDGET & STAFFING:

### Major Reductions Since Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008:

- 33% overall budget reduction
- 57% reduction in operating expenses
- 31% budget reduction in number of FTEs:

#### FTE CHANGES BY FUNCTION

Function	FTEs		
	2007	2011	% Change
Distance Education	6	1	-83%
Programming & Web	12	8	-33%
Infrastructure & Security	4	3	-25%
Administration	4	3	-25%
Tech Support	8	8	0%
Training	1	1	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-31%</b>

#### Impact of Current Budget Reductions:

- Reduction of the distance education compressed video network (from 31 locations to 23)
- Slowing and/or halting development on Web-based applications that serve information to the general public
- Slowing of Web-based publishing in CMS
- Slower response times to assistance with CMS
- Slowing and/or halting of administrative application development targeted at increasing institutional efficiency and decreasing waste of resources
- Aged server infrastructure now past recommended usable lifespan
- Aged desktops, laptops, and peripherals now past recommended usable lifespan
- Move to less expensive cloud-based software and infrastructure with reduced management capabilities (e.g. From Barracuda Spam and Symantec Antivirus to MS Forefront)

#### Potential Impact of Future Budget Reductions:

- Reduction in the number of technical support calls that could be handled in a timely manner
- Reduction in the number of computer desktops, laptops, servers and mobile devices that can be properly maintained in a timely manner
- Elimination of the distance education compressed video network
- Reduction or elimination of technology-based training initiatives
- Less dependable server infrastructure for administrative applications
- More expensive maintenance bills for existing infrastructure
- Move to less expensive cloud-based software and infrastructure with reduced capacity and capabilities
- Greater potential for security breaches, spam and computer virus infections



## *INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES:*

### **Help Desk and Regional Technical Support**

**Contact:** Davis Dautreuil, [ddautreuil@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ddautreuil@agcenter.lsu.edu), Phone: 225-578-8534

**Functions:** Answer technical support calls, repair hardware, aid in hardware purchases, and serve as the first tier of Information Technology support services.

### **Computer Networking & Telecommunications**

**Contact:** David Woerner, [dwoerner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:dwoerner@agcenter.lsu.edu), Phone: 225-578-2170

**Functions:** Provide internet connectivity to each facility in the organization, build and maintain enterprise information servers including email, database, and file storage servers, maintain operational telecommunications including telephone phone services.

### **Distance Education & Compressed Video**

**Contact:** Mike Carl, [mcarl@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:mcarl@agcenter.lsu.edu), Phone: 225-578-2769

**Functions:** Provide support for conducting compressed video teleconferencing and distance education initiatives, provide ad-hoc video recording and Internet streaming of events and educational instruction.

### **Application Development**

**Contact:** Fred Piazza, [fred@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:fred@agcenter.lsu.edu), Phone: 225-578-4020

**Functions:** Provide custom software development including Ag Directory, Dynamics, CMS, General Ledger Reporting, SCOOPS, Livestock Show Management Program, etc.

### **Web & Social Networking**

**Contact:** Sandy Fiser, [sfiser@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:sfiser@agcenter.lsu.edu), Phone: 225-578-7109

**Functions:** Provide internal and external Web systems via LSUAgCenter.net and LSUAgCenter.com respectively. Provide social networking guidance and consultation.

### **Geographic Information Systems**

**Contact:** Henry "Paco" Capello, [hcapello@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:hcapello@agcenter.lsu.edu), Phone: 225-578-6856

**Functions:** Provide support to faculty and staff for all GIS related activities including the acquisition, storing, and presentation of GIS data including Web delivery to the public.

### **Technology Training**

**Contact:** Tanya Ruffin, [truffin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:truffin@agcenter.lsu.edu), Phone: 225-578-2938

**Functions:** Provide support to faculty and staff for IT training including CMS, custom applications, general MS Office and technology literacy topics.

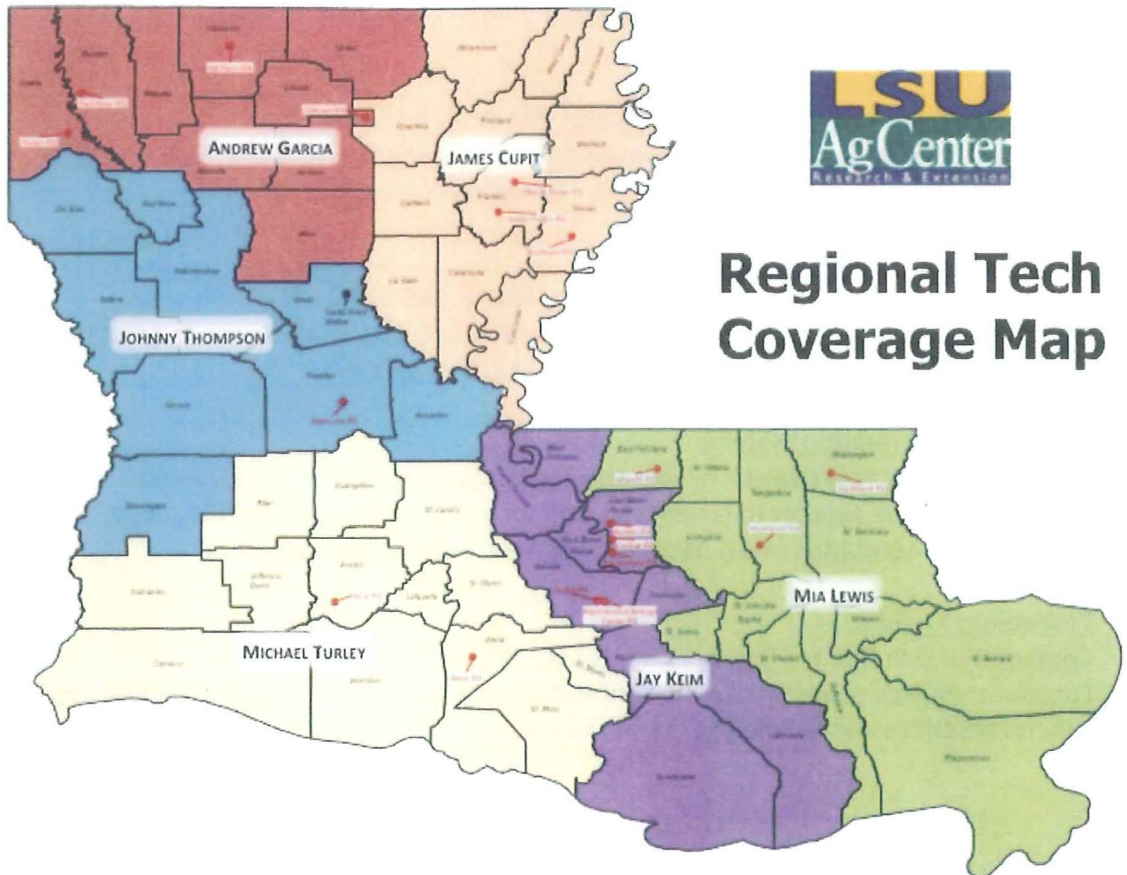
***DISTANCE ED SITES:***

(23 video conferencing rooms in 14 locations)



***LSU AgCenter Distance Education Sites***

***FIELD TECHNICIANS:***





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 Oral presentation on International Programs

Lakshman Velupillai

*Charge: Present the mission and purpose; describe any recent or major changes, and budgetary difficulties. Total time allowed with room for Q & A – 5 to 20 minutes.*

### Background

The LSU AgCenter and its predecessors at LSU became involved in the 1960s in international development as a result of President Kennedy's call for the US Land Grant institutions to participate in US development assistance programs. At that time the main engine for economic growth in the targeted nations in Africa and Asia was agriculture and the production of food aimed at self sufficiency.

Key federal legislation such as the Title XII Act operationalized the formal participation of Land Grants; and there were even programs and projects limited in competition to the US land Grant universities. We were very successful at that time, working in a number of countries in West Africa and Asia. Over time the Title XII type projects became very limited to non-existent.

Thus we had to reinvent and reorient our strategic directions. Moving from our traditional crop area strengths such as rice and sugarcane to new areas that were not necessarily crop or commodity focused. Secondly, we had to diversify our collaborations and build new strategic partnerships to bring complementary capabilities to address the needs of a certain project. As we continue to build on these strategies and partnerships, we added new program areas including environmental; business development; use of agricultural wastes; cogeneration; agricultural processing; food industry development; food safety and others.

In late 2008, the Chancellor of the LSU AgCenter and the Provost at LSU A&M decided to merge the offices of International programs into a single office. We are organized into:

<i>International Services</i>	Support, including immigration matters for international students and visiting scholars/faculty
<i>Academic Programs Abroad</i>	All international exchanges, national exchanges, and study abroad programs for LSU undergraduate students
<i>Development and Outreach</i>	International exchanges, agreements, and grant activities. The LSU AgCenter and LSU A&M staff are merged into this group working on grants and projects
<i>Business and Administration</i>	This unit handles all personnel, budgets and other administration matters, including project agreements, contracts.

### Mission

The overall mission of the LSU AgCenter is to provide off-campus educational programs that disseminate technological, economic and management information to agribusinesses, rural and urban communities, and conduct health, food safety, youth and leadership programs throughout the state.

***The mission of International Programs is to implement the LSU AgCenter's international research, education and outreach programs. International Programs complement and strengthen the mission of***

*the AgCenter through its international endeavors by extending its work and purpose beyond state and national borders.*

In a world increasingly focused on global affairs, International Programs contributes to the LSU National Flagship Agenda by promoting a culturally diverse education and research environment. Through synchronizing and leveraging resources, we encourage internationally oriented research, experiences and curriculum that will ultimately give our university and our faculty an international presence and make our students more competitive in the post-graduate world. Inclusiveness and diversity are the key values as we advocate for international activities of quality and distinctiveness.

This mission is accomplished through a variety of mechanisms including overseas development projects, feasibility studies, university collaboration in joint teaching, research, faculty/student exchanges, and collaboration with U.S. government agencies and private sector entities. These programs are funded through a variety of sources including the U.S. government, international donor institutions, and the U.S. private sector. Feasibility studies in collaboration with U.S. private sector entities often have the goal of developing trade with Louisiana private and public entities.

In a nutshell, the best way to summarize our mission and purpose is to use the statement made by Dr. Peter McPherson former president of Michigan State University, former USAID Administrator and president of APLU:

We provide:

The educational, research and exchange opportunities for the student so that he/she can compete in the global marketplace after graduation;

And support/provide opportunities for faculty to promote intellectual engagement with their peers abroad.

#### LSU AgCenter IP current Programs and Activities

Current programs and activities include:

Funded Projects:

1. Armenia (2006 – 2014) - food safety
2. Ghana (2010 -2013) - monitoring, evaluation and other technical services
3. Liberia (2011 – 2016) - rice, value chain, vocational education

In addition, we have also received funding for a number of Borlaug fellow and Scientific Exchange programs from the USDA.