

**LSU Agricultural Center
Faculty Council Meeting
November 18, 2011
Sullivan Conference Room
9:30 a.m.**



Members Present: Quincy Cheek, Hallie Dozier, Wayne M. Gauthier, Allen Hogan, Clayton Hollier, Jeff Hoy, Joan King, Nicole LeMaire, Ken McMillin, Boyd Padgett, Ross Pruitt, Ed Twidwell, Richard Vlosky, and John Westra.

Members Absent: Dianne Glasgow.

Proxies: Quincy Cheek for Joan Almond, Sharman Charles, and Robin Landry; Nicole LeMaire for Lisa Benoit; Allen Hogan for Johnny Saichuk; Guy Padgett for Natalie Hummel

HIGHLIGHTS

- . **Chancellor Thanks Oversight Committee for Work on Business Plan (1, 26)**
- . **Revenue Estimating Committee to Meet in January 2012 (2)**
- . **State Budget Deficit Estimated to Range Between \$100 - \$185 Million Dollars (2)**
- . **Conventional Wisdom Has State Refunding \$175 Million to Rainy Day Fund (3)**
- . **Projected FY 2012-2013 Budget Deficit Estimated Between \$ 300 - \$ 400 Million (4)**
- . **Hoped for Update on State Budget Situation and Its Implications (5)**
- . **At What Point Does LSU Agricultural Center Request Financial Exigency? (6)**
- . **Competitive Salaries Needed to Retain Employees (6, 9, 13, 16)**
- . **Governor's Schedule to Determine Date of Groundbreaking Ceremony (7)**
- . **Dr. Purcell, BOR Commissioner, Supportive of LSU Agricultural Center (8)**
- . **Louisiana's Public Service Employees Don't Receive Annual COLAs (9)**
- . **Cost of 1% Raise Within LSU Agricultural Center is \$500,000 - \$ 600,000 (9)**
- . **Annual Budget Subject to Outcome of Five Million Dollar Political Game (10)**
- . **Deferred Maintenance Monies Fund Rebuilding of Efferson's Outside Wall (10)**
- . **BOS Resolve Major Issues at Committee Meetings (12)**
- . **Pennington Research Center Now Has a Faculty Council (14)**
- . **Labor Union Not Likely in LSU Agricultural Center's Future (15)**
- . **Substituting Instructors for Faculty Jeopardizes Institutional Accreditation (16)**
- . **If Credit Given to the Creator, Pod Casting Is Legal (17)**
- . **Possible Implications of a More Proactive Board of Regents (18)**
- . **Politics vs. Institutional Autonomy Regarding Matriculation Requirements (19)**
- . **Inherent Conflicts Within Dual Mission of Community College System (19)**

- . **Dr. Purcell to Address the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (20)**
- . **Southern University Lacks Plan for Financial Exigency (21, 34)**
- . **No Smoking Ban Scope Expands at Louisiana's Higher Education Institutions (22)**
- . **Discrepancy With Faculty Council's Election Process Being Addressed (23)**
- . **Turnout for Faculty Council Election Was Only Thirty-Four Percent (34%) (24)**
- . **Council Membership For Faculty Reporting to Chancellor Questioned (25)**
- . **Status of 2011-12 Promotion & Tenure Process (27)**
- . **Unlike LSU-BR, Faculty Membership Not Up to LSU AgCenter Faculty (28)**
- . **Council Encourages Interactions With All ACE Groups (29)**
- . **Additional Responsibility for Council's Chairperson (30)**
- . **CPA's Opinion on Cell Phone Stipend Sent to Legendre (31)**
- . **Council's Vice-President and Recorder Positions Becoming Vacant (32)**
- . **Request for Council's President to Be Placed on LCES' Mailing List (33)**
- . **Status of Letter of Support for Southern University Faculty (34)**

Chancellor Richardson's Report

1. Chancellor Richardson expressed his thanks to those members of the Council who have served on the Oversight Committee for development of the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center's business plan. The Board of Regents indicated that they want to see the plan. The plan has been sent to LSU System President John Lombardi. Chancellor Richardson will be putting the plan on the web so that it can be available to everyone in the LSU Agricultural Center as soon as possible.
2. Chancellor Richardson has met with Mr. Paul Rainwater, the head of Administration for the state of Louisiana, on the Louisiana state budget. The Revenue Estimating Committee will not be meeting in December. That meeting has been postponed until January 2012 so as to have an additional month of data available in assessing how well state revenues are corresponding with projected budget revenues. The state estimated projected deficit based on varied reports is \$100 to \$185 million dollars. Regardless of the magnitude of the deficit, the Governor will have thirty (30) days to develop a balanced budget to present to the legislative committees so that budgetary expenditures and revenues will provide for a balanced budget by the close of business on June 30, 2011.
3. The conventional wisdom is that the State of Louisiana will lose the suit in which \$175 million dollars in the Rainy Day Fund was used to balance the current 2011-12 state budget. The lost suit means that the state will have to refund the \$175 million dollars to the Rainy Day Fund.
4. The state's 2012-13 budget is projected to have a beginning deficit of \$300-400 million dollars on July 1, 2012. As the starting deficits shrink over time, the ability to plan and operate state agencies will increase.
5. On December 2, 2011, Mr. Greg Albright, an economist with the State of Louisiana's Legislative Budget Office and whose work on the state's budget is

used by the Revenue Estimating Committee, will meet with Chancellor Richardson and other LSU Agricultural Center officials. From that meeting, Chancellor Richardson hopes to have a better estimate of the state's financial situation and of the budget specifically.

6. Chancellor Richardson indicated that a key question needing to be addressed is at what point must the LSU Agricultural Center declare financial exigency. The reason for the question is that the institution needs to provide a supportive and competitively remunerative environment for its employees within its budget. Since the budget is not likely to increase substantially, if at all, actions need to be taken to identify the number of employees the AgCenter wishes to retain and seek financial exigency so that it can proceed to reduce employee numbers in a manner consistent with existing law and its projected budget.
7. The date for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Animal and Food Sciences Research Building will be determined by the governor's schedule. It is important that the governor be present for the ceremony. There is a concern that Mr. Jones, the Head of Facility Planning for Louisiana, may retire. Mr. Jones has been most helpful in supporting the planning efforts for the LSU Agricultural Center's Animal and Food Sciences Research Building.
8. Board of Regent Commissioner Jim Purcell has been highly supportive of the LSU Agricultural Center. Apparently, Dr. Purcell is a former 4-H Club member who benefited from the experience.
9. Chancellor Richardson will be attempting to provide raises this coming year in order to retain and reward productive employees. Some of the more productive faculty is being lured away by other institutions and money is a major reason for their leaving. In response to a question, Chancellor Richardson indicated that Louisiana state government does not give its employees annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) raises. It takes approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000 dollars to award a 1% raise throughout the LSU Agricultural Center.
10. The Chancellor explained that the five million dollar appropriation that has been added to the LSU Agricultural Center's annual budget is a consequence of political gamesmanship that occurred at an earlier time which had the effect of positioning the five million dollars into an off-budget allocation account. Because of that off-budget allocation account, a specific annual revisit needs to be made for that appropriation to the LSU Agricultural Center. Chancellor Richardson reported that the outside wall of Efferson Hall is being rebuilt with deferred maintenance money and that Facilities Planning determined the siding replacement should be copper.
11. The minutes of the October 21, 2011 meeting were distributed with a request that members of the Council review them and provide comments. The vote to approve them will take place at the next meeting of the Council.

12. McMillin reported that no major changes occurred at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on October 21, 2011. He reported being surprised by board interactions or the lack thereof on the agenda items. The BOS now publishes its agenda before the meeting. Apparently resolutions of issues confronting the board occur during their committee meetings which are closed to the public.
13. The BOS addressed the need to give raises so as to keep from losing key people.
14. McMillin explained that the membership of the Council of Faculty Advisors which met on October 21, 2011 was comprised of the chairs or vice chairs of faculty senate councils from all institutions in the LSU System. He also announced that the Pennington Biomedical Research Center now has a faculty council.
15. The initiative to create a labor union for university faculty on the LSU A&M campus is experiencing its ebbs and flows. It is not expected to flow into the LSU Agricultural Center. An observation was made that the institution cannot maintain its current faculty or attract future faculty without providing raises.
16. Note was made of instructors now being hired to replace vacating faculty members. This action is being taken because of budgetary limitations. It, however, has implications for accreditation and the maintenance of quality programs.
17. The claim was made that pod casting can be used for the delivery of lectures. Furthermore, it is legal so long as credit is given to the creator of the work.
18. The expectation is that the Louisiana Board of Regents is going to be much more proactive in the future. The questions are whether a more proactive Board of Regents will result in a realignment of Louisiana's institutions of higher learning reflective of their missions and improvements in higher education throughout the state.
19. There have been discussions of coordinating admission requirements, the transfer and acceptance of courses in fulfillment of degree requirements and other academic matters between Louisiana's institutions of higher learning. At an earlier time, these matters fell within the purview of the faculties of these institutions. However, there have been political considerations entering into discussion of the matriculation committees. There is an effort underway now to try to figure out how to let a student with 30 semester hours of coursework enter into a business school. The question is how much autonomy to allow to the campuses versus how much accommodation to grant to proposals for transferring course credits between institutions. A spokesperson for the community colleges identified the inherent conflict in their dual mission to: 1. prepare students to advance into four year schools and 2. prepare people for entry into the workforce.

20. Dr. Jim Purcell, Commissioner of the Board of Regents (BOR), will be the keynote speaker at the meeting of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates on October 19, 2011 at LSU-Alexandria. There will be keen interests in his remarks as there have been proposals for instituting changes within Louisiana's higher education institutions. A representative from Our Lady of the Lake (LOL) Medical Center will be sharing their views on higher education.
21. A declaration of financial exigency at Southern University or any other public university in Louisiana first requires, just like LSU system policy, that there be a plan before the declaration of financial exigency. At the present time, Southern University administrators have declared financial exigency, but they have yet to unveil an exigency plan.
22. There is an expectation of a discussion being led by Tammy Dugas regarding the declaration of a tobacco free campus at Nichols State. The decision was reportedly made at the highest level on the campus and it includes chewing. It was noted that Southern University, Nichols, McNeese and some parishes have also banned smoking anywhere on their premises.
23. McMillin reported on a discrepancy in the Faculty Council Election Results. It was a situation in which the person in question didn't get the notice about having to respond as to whether they were willing to be a candidate. As a consequence, they didn't respond. McMillin is waiting to hear from Sarah Johnson as to what might have created the situation and its impact upon the election process.
24. Thirty-four percent (34%) of the people eligible to vote did vote. It was a ten percent (10%) reduction in participation in past elections. McMillin is to provide numbers.
25. There may be a need to revisit the eligibility to vote relative to Council by-laws of people holding faculty ranks who work in offices directly under control of the Chancellor.
26. The Faculty Budget Oversight Committee remains interested and involved in the creation of the LSU Agricultural Center's Business Plan. The latest edition of the report has been seen by McMillin and Vlosky and is to be sent to members of the oversight committee.
27. The Promotion & Tenure (P&T) Process is proceeding in accordance with the traditional timetable. However, McMillin didn't know the membership of the committee because the membership is the Chancellor's responsibility. Packets have now gone through the respective departments and are at the vice-chancellor level. The questions at present involve the timing and releasing of the names of individuals being recommended for promotion right before the Christmas holidays.

28. There is no policy statement at the university level regarding adjunct professors. There may be adjunct professor policies at an individual department level. On the LSU-Baton Rouge campus, it is clear that the faculty governs who will be on the faculty or not. Such is not the case with Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.
29. The Council receives reports from some ACE meetings, but not from all ACE meetings. The Council encourages all ACE groups to become involved especially with respect to the LSU Agricultural Center's Business Plan. ACE groups are listed on the Council's website. There should be a centralized place for listing ACE group meetings on the Council's website.
30. McMillin is sitting in on the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station's (LAES) listening sessions along with the unit heads. McMillin reports that this has provided him with an opportunity to make some administrators aware of activities faculty members are engaged in that are not directly associated with their officially specified duties, but which contribute in important ways to the work of the LSU Agricultural Center.
31. There was a discussion of the opinion rendered by a Certified Public Accountant regarding the proposal to provide LSU Agricultural Center employee with a valid business need for a cell phone with an \$80/month stipend to offset their costs of maintaining a cell phone. The concern is that the \$80/month stipend becomes a taxable event to the employee. The opinion is to be forwarded to Mr. Mark Legendre, the LSU Agricultural Center's Chief Financial Officer, for his review and consideration.
32. It was noted that the Council when it assembles in January will need to elect a new vice-president to replace Natalie Hummel and a new recorder to replace Wayne M. Gauthier. Wayne has served two full terms and is no longer eligible to serve on the Council until 2014 and Natalie chose not to seek nomination for an Associate On-Campus position.
33. McMillin will request that the Council Chairperson be placed on the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Services' (LCES) mailing list. There is a need for the chairperson of the Council to be a recipient of information from both the LAES and the LCES.
34. The Council was requested to issue a Letter of Support for the Southern University Faculty's opposition to a declaration of financial exigency without involvement of its faculty. The core of the letter would contain a statement that would "encourage adherence to by-laws and procedures and strict adherence to the exigency plan if exigency must be declared". The Council's concern is that insufficient information has been distributed to Council members for an appropriate decision to be made. The motion to discuss a letter of support for

Southern's financial exigency situation was tabled until the next council meeting. McMillin indicated that he would send out to Faculty Council members the LSU-Baton Rouge Faculty Senate's resolution in support of Southern University faculty's opposition to its administration's issuance of a declaration of financial exigency. The resolution affirmed the LSU-Baton Rouge's Faculty Senate commitment to the welfare of the Southern University's faculty, staff and students. It urged the management of Southern University to retract their rash decision; called for a forensic audit of the budget of Southern University and of the Southern University System; and requested a review of the governance procedures of these institutions by a panel with substantial faculty representation. It would censure the Southern University administration, Southern University Chancellor James Llorens, the Southern University System Board of Supervisors, and Southern University System President Ronald Mason if the foregoing measures are not initiated within one month of the passage of the resolution.

The meeting was adjourned upon voice vote at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne M. Gauthier
Secretary