

**MINUTES**  
**LSU AgCenter Faculty Council Meeting**  
**April 20, 2012**  
**Efferson Hall**  
**9:30 a.m.**



**Members Present:** Layne Arceneaux- Langley, Lisa Benoit (by proxy – Tina Goebel), Esther Coco Boe (by proxy – Tina Goebel), Sharman Charles (by proxy – Layne Arceneaux- Langley), Quincy Cheek (by proxy – Robin Landry), Josh Detre, Hallie Dozier (by proxy – Rich Vlosky), Tina Goebel, Allen Hogan, Clayton Hollier, Joan King, Robin Landry, Nikki LeMaire, Ken McMillin, Boyd Padgett, Ross Pruitt (by proxy – Clayton Hollier), Diane Sasser, Rich Vlosky and John Westra.

**Members Absent:** Edward Bush and Michael Stout.

**Guests:** Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor, LSU Agricultural Center (LSUAC). Mr. Mark Legendre, Chief Fiscal Officer, LSUAC. Dr. Russin, Mrs. Bayham, Dr. Leonard, and Dr. Elzer on Experiment Station projects and project management until April 20, 2012 meeting.

**Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor, LSU Agricultural Center (LSUAC).**

1. Chancellor Richardson started the meeting by talking about legislative sales tax rebates with \$10 Million (M) for LSUAC, initiated by House member Mr. James Fannin, went out of Senate Revenue committee and should be passed by Senate and signed by Governor. Legislation may have short term revenue to supplant this because LSUAC will not get \$10 M July 1. This temporary legislation would evaporate in a year.
2. Rural Caucus met and had LSUAC as first priority (long term stabilization of revenue).
3. Revenue Estimating Commission may meet in early May to determine how much revenue is available. Need to meet and adjourn by June 4?
4. Much discussion and many bills focused on water from Toledo Bend potential sale of water to Texas.
5. Legacy lawsuit is other issue being talked about downtown.
6. Still need to annualize \$3.4 M cut from last year.
7. Too early to speculate on raises for LSUAC because need to stabilize cuts and also no clear authorization for across the board raises. Only some vague language about salary adjustments that was mentioned by one bill in the legislature.
8. When had early buyout several years ago, it took three years to recover costs incurred by leave costs, etc.
9. Much popular press that is positive about the LSUAC in the Baton Rouge Business Report and others.
10. LSUAC not involved with selection of Provost so he Dr. Richardson had no comment on this.

**Mr. Mark Legendre, Chief Fiscal Officer, LSUAC.**

11. AgCenter cell phone (PS-45) – Mark Legendre talked about the new cell phone policy. If spent 50% of work outside office, making decisions for your unit, or can get justification from unit head or regional director, then will get stipend for smart phone (\$80 per month). Otherwise the stipend would be \$50 per month. The faculty and staff currently with LSUAC supported cell phones would be able to receive this stipend, keep their LSUAC cell phone number, but would have to turn in their hardware.
12. Lot of issues with ATT transferring phones from business account to personal account. Other issues involved. Being reviewed by Administrators.
13. Most pressing issue for ATT transfer – understanding from business to personal account. Thinks they are going to allow people to transfer account and number. Can transfer to another carrier but have to cancel ATT business account. LSUAC IT will take care of this if requested.
14. LSUAC IT will help if you want to have
15. Public and private use and FOIA can be subpoenaed only for those items directly related to the matter being disputed or litigated.
16. LSUAC IT will most likely have link to LSUAC employees that describe how to port or transfer your account or number to your personal phone.
17. The stipend will be put into your paycheck as something like additional comp, but it will be taxable as currently envisioned.
18. Stipend will be drawn from current account from which it is being drawn. Has to have business justification from person, then at Unit Head's discretion and approval, then reviewed approved by Vice Chancellors.
19. New hires will not receive cell phone stipend; in most cases cell phone requirement will be written in to job description, when and where warranted. This would be included in their starting salary, as negotiated by the employee and LSUAC.
20. Time frame – hope to get this email out next week so that all phones can be transferred from business accounts to personal accounts by July 1 2012.
21. These do not need to be approved by LSU BOR.
22. State cell phones need to be returned to LSUAC IT.
23. If cell phones covered by Parish funds, the LSUAC has no control over them.
24. Rich Vlosky said the policy was fair relative to the going rate for devises and plans.

**Dr. John Russin, Vice Chancellor for Research and Director, LSU Agricultural Center (LSUAC). Dr. Rogers Leonard, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, LSUAC. Dr. Phil Elzer, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research, LSUAC. Danielle Bayham, Assist to the Director, LSUAC.**

25. Began by everyone introducing themselves.
26. HATCH Project described by Dr. Russin – what they are and the process for approval. Once, when these are approved in DC, are entered into the NMSS system – a searchable database.
27. LSUAC is developing an online searchable database hosted on the lsuagcenter.com website.
28. Why we organize HATCH system within LSUAC. Project reviews and management from LSUAC at unit head level, from beginning. Once reviewed it will be administered and interfaced with USDA-NIFA at the Director's Office. For the Research Scientists, nothing should be different.
29. Historically, only scientists on campus would have a HATCH project, all others, off-campus would be state projects. Federal dollars need to be dispersed based on having a HATCH project. Federal funds received by LSUAC if function of farms, not scientists.
30. Would Scientists be able to have joint HATCH projects. Only those with 20% or greater Experiment Station appointment are required to have an individual HATCH project.
31. Even if the HATCH projects are nearly identical, for scientists working on same project.

32. Multistate HATCH projects, if they encompass all of the research done by the scientists, are OK to substitute for personal HATCH, but only if they encompass all research; a rare occurrence.
33. Federal dollars (HATCH dollars) spent on salaries. This was set historically and hasn't changed. When person retires that funding reverts back to Experiment Station.
34. Have to spend 25% of federal funds on multistate projects.
35. When run expenditure reports, need to allocate the funds proportional to effort. So this is why this becomes problematic for efforts versus funding allocation.
36. Budget for Federal funds were known only recently in March, though Federal fiscal year started in October and had to establish an estimate in July when state budget started.
37. HATCH reviews – only three suggested, but they are going with five due to lack of full complement of reviews completed by the due date of the period. They want to ensure that they receive three completed by reviews.
38. FAC expressed concern about getting multiple requests to review.
39. If you get request for review for which you feel unqualified, contact the unit head.
40. The new policy and process is being tested now in six units. This is being reviewed now and will be implemented by July 1, 2012.
41. Issue brought up about timeliness of scientists to respond and reasonableness of timeliness for responding to reviews.
42. States versus HATCH projects are identical in process, except that final step of HATCH projects being submitted to USDA-NIFA.
43. What about turnaround time for reviews. They are going with three weeks despite request for six weeks.
44. The wording of “unsatisfactory” in the current policy statement was a major concern for FAC, particularly when faculty member is meeting their deadlines and obligations. The Associate Directors will look at that issue in the policy statement.
45. What about unit heads? Them falling down or not following up with the review process? Then the unit head will be visiting with the Director.
46. Now HATCH Projects will be only approved for four years with possible one year extension. That is a new Federal requirement.
47. If member of multistate project LSUAC will cover expenses on travel for the Lead PI on that project. Otherwise other scientists will need to get funds from their unit head.
48. Each research station has an overall research project for that station. This is so that LAES can report spending accurately with research effort.

### **Business -- Dr. Ken McMillin, Chair, LSUAC Faculty Council**

49. The March 16, 2012 meeting minutes were approved with any changes for attendance and will be posted on the LSU Ag Council website.

### **Reports**

50. Council of Faculty Advisors (CFA) – KM talked about the NOLA Health Sciences System analysis of salaries at LSU Campuses. Proposed merger between Tech and LSU-S was topic. Retirement issues were discussed. Patten rights and licensing delays so that disclosure and response from University to scientist/inventor needs to be shortened. So panel or committee will be formed to look at this.
51. CFA serves as a liaison between LSU Systems office and the campuses of the LSU System and is used to communicate views and concerns of faculties on system-wide matters, including academic and professional policies of the system. Meetings are usually during morning prior to the BOS

- meetings. Next meeting is April 27, 2012 and information on the Faculty Advisors can be found at: <http://www.lsusystem.edu/index.php/board-of-supervisors/faculty-advisors/>
52. LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting – major items include allocation of funds from BOR to the BOS, in which the BOR can determine how funds are allocated at the campus level, statewide. Next meeting (April 27, 2012) will be attended by Rich Vlosky as LSUAC Faculty Representative. Upcoming information about meetings can be found at the BOS website: <http://www.lsusystem.edu/index.php/board-of-supervisors/minutes-agenda/>
  53. Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) – consists of faculty senate representation from all institutions of higher education within Louisiana. ALFS is meeting tomorrow morning in Alexandria, and is led by Dr. Kevin Cope. KM talked about the meeting March 17, 2012. The keynote speaker spoke about the disparity in salaries, by rank in Louisiana and other states. What about sources of funding – key is tuition. This is particularly troublesome for LSUAC as we have no students or tuition sources. Information on ALFS can be found at: <http://web.lsu.edu/alfs/>
  54. Intellectual property in UL system. UL System claims that they own all work products resulting from activities related to work performance, including lecture notes, publications, etc.
  55. Draft policy on academic freedom being developed by Southeastern University faculty for the UL System that may be applicable statewide. Looking for faculty sustaining economic damage from being fired with tenure, etc.
  56. LA Tech and LSU-S merger and little involvement or input by the faculty was discussed at ALF.
  57. Southern University and exigency and layoffs lawsuit was discussed at ALFs meeting.
  58. Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative Summit Meeting – brings together representatives from ALFS and AAUP (Louisiana Conference). Information can be found here: <http://www.laaaup.org/>

## **Discussion Items**

59. Full Off-campus replacements for Allen Hogan and Boyd Padgett. The bylaws indicate that the next-highest vote getters will be asked to complete these two vacant or soon to be vacant positions on the FAC. These two individuals will be contacted to see if they would be willing to serve. One term ends in 2012 (Padgett) and the other in 2013 (Hogan). A coin-flip will be used to determine which person serves which term.
60. LSUAC FAC Bylaws revisions – KM passed around the revisions around copies of revisions to draft of bylaws that reflected our discussion from last meeting. Discussion about additions and deletions since last meeting focused first on the role of Vice Chair to serve as representative to BOS, ALFS, and LSU SCFA at their respective meetings. Suggested changes were made to this item to allow for more flexibility, but that would ensure LSUAC representation at these meetings.
61. Voting proxy members as required for each Council meeting. Issue of limiting of number of proxies that one individual could represent was discussed. People concerned about there being too few people, representing multiple proxies. Decided to leave bylaw change as is for now.
62. Discussion focused next on the suggested changes to the Executive Committee included under Article IX, Committees – item 2 and move 2 to 3, etc. The number of additional members, besides the three officers, was discussed, particularly in light of having the Past Chair as member of the Executive Committee. Voted on the wording and passed -- “Three officers, Past Chair, and three additional members, ...”
63. KM talked about bylaws. The FAC voted to suspend the rules and vote on the bylaw changes this meeting. Moved (Allan Hogan) and seconded (Nikki). FAC voted to approve the bylaws as amended (additions and deletions). KM will send out the revisions. Suggestion for archiving older bylaw and place on the website. New or current bylaws will be identified as such on the FAC website.

64. Purpose and restructuring of ACE groups – the committee will be developing questionnaire to faculty with expectation of improving communication between and within faculty in disciplines.
65. Service unit committees – need to get members named to these and to get back on track. Currently need FAC on Communication (Robin) and HRM (Tina). We need to have suggested nominations for non-FAC faculty for these committees. We, FAC, send in nominations to Chancellor for vacant slots (non-FAC) and then they are selected or not by Chancellor. So, KM will send out nomination solicitation to FAC.
66. Retirement legislation –. It appears inevitable that some form of retirement legislation will be passed this session. Much discussion about what needs to be done for retirement if going to file this year. Contact LSUAC HRM if have any questions about this soon. For those interested in more information, a good source of current status, please consult the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association (LRTA) website at: <http://www.lrta.net/>
67. Check-off legislation – AH brought up issue before the state Ag Committee that could change the way check-off funds are allocated to a couple different groups in the rice industry.

The meeting adjourned on a voice vote at 1:05 p.m., April 20, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

John V. Westra  
Recorder