

MINUTES
LSU AgCenter Faculty Council Meeting
January 25, 2013
Sullivan Conference Room
9:30 a.m.



Members Present: Layne Arceneaux- Langley, Mariah Bock, Esther Boe, Edward Bush , Quincy Cheek (by proxy Tina Goebel), Josh Detre, Tina Goebel, Jason Holmes (by proxy Donnie Miller), Joan King, Robin Landry, Ken McMillin, Donnie Miller, Charles Overstreet, David Picha, Diane Sasser, Neely Walker, and John Westra.

Members Absent: Jeffrey Beasley, Adriana Drusini, Deborah Melvin.

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

1. Chancellor Richardson spoke about the meetings across the state he has conducted for feedback on the vacancy for the Extension Service Director position. He received feedback from faculty/staff in field and from constituents/user groups.
2. Contacted his counterparts in Texas A&M and Florida about their national searches and the results of that effort. Not very encouraging results in terms of candidate pool and problems of perceptions of previous searches.
3. He'll make every effort to encourage candidates to apply.
4. Dr. Coreil will be here though at least July 1 2013, but probably September 2013.
5. Reorganization and subcommittees. The Chancellor knows of a couple of faculty from LSU and LSUAC on subcommittees.
6. The process appears cumbersome and chaotic from the outside as most members of committee have limited experience in higher education or merger of campuses.
7. Process of merger of College of Agriculture (CoA) and LSU AgCenter (LSUAC): have formed an Advisory Committee to help with the process. Would like to move quickly on this. Members from FAC will be on this Advisory Committee.
8. Question raised about bringing other units or programs into CoA during this process so that LSU more like peer institutions that contain biological and environmental sciences in CoA. Chancellor has mentioned some of these things to Provost Bell, but not extensively. Chancellor indicated coastal units and programs will most likely not move at this time, but other biological and environmental related units and programs are possible.
9. Budget cut was covered by \$1.7 M in one-time funds. Exxon paid \$30,000/acre to place pipe across LSUAC land and that helped pay for part of it.
10. Most likely cut to state budget will be around \$300 M, but a lot can happen between now and June 30 and no one knows the level of the deficit.
11. Chancellor reiterated number one priority is raises for faculty and staff and he will find the money unless he is told otherwise by someone above him.

12. Director of Extension Service -- Chancellor asked about what academic qualifications or rank should the next Director of Extension Service have and most faculty thought Full Professor with tenure. Experience with Extension will be critical to anyone in this position.
13. Others expressed concern that this person should also have agribusiness industry experience or contacts. Others thought someone with extensive experience, but not a PhD, should be considered. The issue of this person having access to financial resources in current position and potentially here at LSUAC should be considered too.
14. Another concern raised was that the youth programs in LA are somewhat different or unique compared to other states as the programs are run through or in the schools. So this person might have an Ed.D. with experience in youth programs like 4-H.
15. Issue of this person having experience with continuing education and CEU credits was also raised as a positive quality that should be included.
16. Chancellor reiterated that he will seek the best person to fill this position, not just someone to fill this position. He indicated that if no one came out of this process, that he might be serving as interim Director of Extension Service instead of bringing in someone just to fill this position.
17. P&T process – Chancellor met with the two folks who were turned down and had not met with two others who were turned down (who had not responded to him). Remaining P&T candidates were moved forward to the LSU System.
18. Chancellor had talked with Provost about CoA issue and the International Programs to establish an interim from LSUAC.

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

19. The December 18, 2012 meeting minutes were approved as modified and corrected and will be posted on the LSU Ag Council website.

Guests: None.

Reports

20. LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) – next meeting will be held February 1, 2013. The main issue appears to be the raise of Football Coach by more than \$500,000 per year. Upcoming information about meetings can be found at the BOS website: <http://www.lsusystem.edu/index.php/board-of-supervisors/minutes-agenda/>
21. Council of Faculty Advisors (CFA) – next meeting will be held February 1, 2013. Meeting to talk about raises and faculty benefits, among other issues. They are also looking at medical school changes and LSU-S. Next meeting is and information on the Faculty Advisors can be found at: <http://www.lsusystem.edu/index.php/board-of-supervisors/faculty-advisors/>
22. Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) – will hold a meeting on February 2, 2013. Kevin Cope has arranged for two state legislators to talk about retirement plans and other changes in the higher education system in LA. Information on ALFS can be found at: <http://web.lsue.edu/alfs/>
23. Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative Summit Meeting – next meeting will be held on February 2, 2013. Information can be found here: <http://www.laaaup.org/>

Discussion Items

24. Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) roster for 2013 was passed around for members to review and indicate their presence at the meeting.
25. FAC nominations were made: John Westra (JW) nominated Ken McMillin (KM) for Chair of FAC. KM talked about his preferences and some of the advantages of his serving as Chair. He would be willing to serve as Chair. And it was approved by the FAC.
26. Vice-Chair nominations: KM read from bylaws about VC position. Nominations included Josh Detre (JD) and Diane Sasser (DS). DS withdrew her name from consideration due to her current workload and responsibilities. FAC voted for Josh Detre to serve as Vice-Chair.
27. Nominations for Recorder: John Westra (JW) was nominated and voted on by FAC who approved the motion for JW to serve as Recorder for 2013.
28. Executive Committee nominations were accepted by Chair. KM described the role of executive committee and representation of on-campus and off-campus. Included: Ester Coco Boe, Tina Goebel, and Dianne Sasser. FAC approved all three nominations.
29. Metrics Review Committee: committee rose from unit head discussion on how to evaluate faculty when reviewing P&T materials. Met on January 15 as ad-hoc research metrics committee. Jim Griffin was elected chair. Faculty members were adamant about not having a point system or anything like it. Looking at issues related to licenses, patents, disclosures, peer-reviewed articles, journal ranking, local and federal support. How are all these issues going to be addressed by other universities and how might this be translated to LSUAC?
30. People raised concerns about having only one person in subject area and efforts diverted to administrative duties instead of academic efforts (extension and/or research). This issue needs to be addressed by the committee.
31. The P&T policy statement and format of the documents were discussed by FAC. Ways to improve this process at all levels, including the unit head/regional director level, were discussed.
32. There seems to be a lack of understanding at the unit head level about the demands, time commitments, and expectations for extension, research and instruction functions performed by a faculty member.
33. Mentoring committees and advisory-evaluation committees were discussed. Trying to have them be completely independent entities. These two have different objects and functions so they should be independent.
34. ACE Group survey results will be forthcoming in revised format. But, ACE groups should be self-forming or self-assembling with a bottom-up approach, not top down.
35. Extension Vice Chancellor and Director Search committee – FAC members mentioned names of faculty on-campus and off-campus.
36. Discussion on the Research Vice Chancellor and Director being interviewed at Oklahoma State University for Vice President of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (DASNR).
37. LSU Reorganization subcommittees will be forwarded to folks if/when they become public.
38. CoA and LSUAC merger will need faculty representation on this committee to advise how it's going to be merged. KM asked for names of FAC members and other faculty willing to serve on this committee.
39. Service Unit Advisory Committees – still being discussed by FAC and Chancellor, but lower priority at this time.

40. Faculty appointment options – we need to keep to on top of this issue as some faculty have recently been changing position descriptions, duties and responsibilities.
41. International Programs (IP) leadership. Effectively IP directed by LSU A&M now, not LSUAC. Different roles of IP on the two campuses, as viewed by two campuses, have created problems to the point that LSUAC may have to have someone serving as interim-director of IP for LSUAC.
42. Other issues – Regional Director position was discussed. FAC talked about leadership, lack of support and training, additional duties and monies (salary increase) for field faculty, and other issues related to lower morale.

The meeting adjourned on a voice vote at 12:10 p.m., January 25, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

John V. Westra
Recorder