

MINUTES
LSU AgCenter Faculty Council Meeting
February 15, 2013
Sullivan Conference Room
9:30 a.m.



Members Present: Layne Arceneaux- Langley, Jeffrey Beasley, Mariah Bock, Esther Coco Boe, Edward Bush , Josh Detre, Adriana Drusini, Tina Goebel, Joan King, Robin Landry, Ken McMillin, Deborah Melvin, Charles Overstreet, David Picha, Diane Sasser, Neely Walker and John Westra.

Members Absent: Quincy Cheek, Jason Holmes and Donnie Miller.

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

1. Chancellor Richardson spoke about an article in the Reveille this past week. Anonymous letter, October 2010, sent to President and Board of Supervisors. Very vicious, slanderous content in the letter. These have appeared and been submitted to various outlets, newspapers, search committees, Board of Supervisors, etc. over the past six years.
2. The Chancellor described the content and that the letters are written by same person because there are nearly identical paragraphs in most letters. The content shifted to attacking Extension programs and personnel and all Branch Stations.
3. Ken McMillin, who has seen most of the letters, indicated that it is presented in a factual manner, though the content isn't.
4. Chancellor talked about the Transition Advisory Team committee meetings. He indicated that some of the "savings" from system consolidation would not likely materialize to much of anything.
5. Paul Coreil moving on to LSU-Alexandria (LSU-A) to serve as Interim Chancellor for eight months. He is excited about the move and challenges.
6. Chancellor will serve as Interim Extension Service Director starting March 1, 2013. He is looking to eliminate and consolidate some senior Executive-level administrative positions. His interim status may move to permanent.
7. Dr. Russin is a candidate for position VP of Agriculture at Oklahoma State University. There is a 50-50 chance he'll move on to there or stay here.
8. College of Agriculture (CoA) – there is much interest from Alumni to merge along lines of Texas A&M with a VP of Agriculture and Dean (joint position) with a line to Executive VP and Provost. Don't know if this line is to be dotted (confer) or solid (report to). He is adamant about AgCenter maintaining a separate budget as well as autonomy for P&T and faculty evaluation.
9. Chancellor is looking to form an Advisory Team for this process. FAC will suggest nominees.
10. Chancellor is looking to eliminate Executive positions. When Mr. Dwight Landreneau retires this May, that position of Associate Director will not be filled; it will be eliminated. Similarly, positions of Assistant and Associate Directors of Experiment Station will likely be eliminated.

11. This process would save money that would be used for Faculty salary increases. This would happen after the Legislative Session. Would have to be approved by Board of Regents. The raises continue to be his top priority for Faculty.
12. There will be a single development person, not staffed by someone currently employed at LSUAC or LSUAM in CoA.
13. Governor's executive budget will be out next week and focuses on shifting from income tax as revenue source to sales taxes as primary revenue source. Eliminating personal and business income taxes and increasing state portion of sales tax. Commissioner Mike Strain significantly opposes this shifting of tax responsibility to sales from income. The Ag Economics Department will be helping develop economic impacts in Agricultural sector of this change in tax policy.
14. Chancellor is NOT a candidate for the President of LSU System. All Chancellors have been told nothing about the status of the search. The Chair of Search Committee was told by Chancellor to consider Randy Whitney of North Carolina State, but he is not moving from NC State.
15. Presidential search should be over by summer.
16. Merger of Food Science and Consumer Family Science. Dr. Finley stepping down with Dr. Allen Rutherford serving as interim head of Food Science. Conducting a national search to fill that position.
17. Statewide directors of FCS and 4-H for better coordination statewide in Extension for these program areas. This to happen when Chancellor takes over Extension.
18. No active plan to close any research stations. But plans to re-focus priority of some stations. Red River Station will focus on water issues. Pecan Station will most likely transition to an extension function as research faculty retire. Dairy issues are being considered too. However, there are no plans yet to permanently close any current research stations.
19. Food Product Entrepreneurial and Food Processing Center at the Business Incubator Center, LSUAM South Campus. The LSUAC was primarily involved with establishing this, not the LSUAM Business Incubator Center.

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

20. The January 25, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as modified and corrected and will be posted on the LSU Ag Council website.

Guests: None.

Reports

21. LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) – meeting was held February 1, 2013. The main issue was the presidential search being conducted in secret by a private firm William Funk and Associates out of Dallas TX. Student member went into the search committee meeting (executive session), which violates public meeting laws, since he was not a member of that committee when he went into the search committee meeting. After the committee came back, the student member had been appointed a member of this search committee. Faculty looking for way to express their significant dissatisfaction with the process and exclusion of faculty input into the process.
22. Other issue was Les Miles salary increase. Three library science people made point that Les Miles salary increase was deserved, and so would increases for other equally deserving faculty at LSU who have gone just as long, or longer, without a salary increase.
23. The LSU Nicholson Corridor plan was also discussed at BOS meeting. This plan would involve significant rebuilding of Nicholson Drive. Concern raised by FAC about married student housing, and

where these students would live. These apartments would be demolished under this plan. BOS has not provided any response to this concern.

24. Upcoming information about meetings on March 18, 2013 can be found at the BOS website: <http://www.lsusystem.edu/index.php/board-of-supervisors/minutes-agenda/>
25. Council of Faculty Advisors (CFA) – meeting was held February 1, 2013. Meeting to talk about raises and faculty benefits, among other issues. The CFA has opposed the joint President-Chancellor for LSU System. The CFA President, Kevin Cope, is able to speak, at liberty, on issues at BOS meetings.
26. Next meeting is March 18, 2013, prior to the BOS meeting, and information on the Faculty Advisors can be found at: <http://www.lsusystem.edu/index.php/board-of-supervisors/faculty-advisors/>
27. Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) – held a meeting on February 2, 2013. KM gave presentation at ALFS meeting that focused on Faculty Council meetings and what can be accomplished at them.
28. Lucy Robinson, LSU-S Health Sciences Center talked about selling of public hospitals within the LSU Health Sciences Center and what this means for Medical Training in LA.
29. Technical and Community Colleges were talked about as well. The Technical Colleges have never had to be accredited so they are having difficulty with Community Colleges which do need to be accredited. Some of these campuses for Community or Technical Colleges have branch campuses with only 20 students. These branch campuses cost \$500,000 to keep doors open. Melding these two systems together is creating many headaches for those.
30. Stephen Rushing, Southeastern LSU, talked about his legal travails and academic freedom.
31. Information on ALFS can be found at: <http://web.lsu.edu/alfs/>
32. Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative Summit Meeting – meeting held on February 2, 2013 in Alexandria.
33. Information on next meeting can be found here: <http://www.laaaup.org/>

Discussion Items

34. The ACE Group survey. Suggestion to not have administrative oversight during meetings and discussions. FAC, via KM, will suggest to Dr. Leonard, that ACE Groups have them work autonomously, seeking funding, and self-assemble with sub-groups where necessary. Some ACE Groups are not currently managed equally – research and extension are not managed equally. Others are working very well.
35. KM will ask Chancellor about ODE.
36. Vice Chancellor and Extension Service Director Search Committee – FAC members mentioned names of faculty on-campus and off-campus. People nominated included: David Picha, Diane Sasser, Karen Overstreet, Clayton Hollier, Allen Hogan, Kurt Guidry, Donnie Miller, Lanette Herbert and Matt Fannin.
37. CoA and LSUAC consolidation committee – KM indicated FAC needs to be proactive. Faculty mentioned included: Mike, Josh Detre, Joan King, Ed Bush and Wes Harrison.
38. KM talked about the 10-11-12 month Fiscal Appointment Plan for Faculty and the meeting he had recently with Ann Coulon, but there are many details that were lacking from HRM.
39. PS-42 review committee is needed. People suggested included: Adrianna Drusini, Diane Sasser and John Westra.

40. International Programs (IP). Separate IP leadership committee or have Chancellor replace folks for Service Advisory Committees and use that avenue for addressing IP issues. Need to have a strong International presence, on plant and animal side, as international policies and activities affects LA producers directly. Many unit heads have indicated this is a concern. KM will ask Chancellor to re-invigorate the Service Advisory Committee process to begin meeting again.
41. There was a joint IP (LSUAM and LSUAC). LSUAM wanted to focus on academic aspects of IP and so LSUAC and agricultural research and extension efforts were not focus of the new IP mission. FAC members mentioned that strong IP was essential for any University; need strong message of support in research, extension and instruction from the Administration. Need to get clear direction from Administration on this issue.
42. One member of FAC mentioned that lack of faculty input, autonomy and governance was an overarching theme from many concerns or issues raised today.
43. Transition Advisory Team, subcommittee meetings open to public. Please attend.
44. CFA and presidential search secrecy – KM mentioned that Kevin Cope, as CFA President, is seeking courses of action to take, because:
 - a. No faculty representation on this search committee
 - b. University is about freedom, particularly academic freedom
 - c. They are creating an equality opportunity requirements and laws problem
 - d. Diminishes LSU as an institution by not having an open search process, like UL system has.
45. Suggestion and recommendation by consensus of FAC that the various Faculty Senates send a letter together to LSU BOS about these concerns – faculty representation on the search and its lack of transparency.
46. KM will convene the CoA and LSUAC transition committee as soon as possible to be proactive.

The meeting adjourned on a voice vote at 12:45 p.m., February 15, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

John V. Westra
Recorder