

**MINUTES**  
**LSU AgCenter Faculty Council Meeting**  
**November 15, 2013**  
**Sullivan Conference Room, Parker Agricultural Coliseum**  
**9:30 a.m.**



**Members Present:** Layne Arceneaux- Langley, Jeffrey Beasley, Mariah Bock, Ed Bush, Esther Coco Boe, Quincy Cheek (by proxy, Diane Sasser), Josh Detre, Adriana Drusini ( by proxy Tina Goebel), Tina Goebel, Jason Holmes (by proxy Donnie Miller), Joan King, Robin Landry, Ken McMillin, Deborah Melvin, Donnie Miller, , David Picha, Diane Sasser, Neely Walker and John Westra.

**Members Absent:** Charles Overstreet, Michael Stout.

**Dr. William B. Richardson, Vice-President of Agriculture, LSU System.**

1. Chancellor Richardson talked about the College of Agriculture (CoA) and changes that are occurring in the undergraduate programs to improve and strengthen them and student recruitment.
2. He spoke about Extension Education programs and courses that have not been taught much recently. He will be working to strengthen and increase participation in graduate programs in this already existing area – Extension Education.
3. Working on developing an internship program for Extension Education that would encourage recently graduated students to try working in the Extension field as a potential career.
4. Question about LSU A&M and branding was raised. President Alexander is for this and the VP will wait and see how this evolves in the next year.
5. Question about enrollment in CoA at LSU A&M versus peer institutions over the past decade. The VP didn't know specifics, but emphasized need to increase enrollment – undergraduate and graduate.
6. He indicated the CoA will be increasing recruitment at LSUAC events so if faculty and field agents know of events with students please let VP know.
7. Budget at CoA for most recent year was about same as when VP was previously Dean of CoA in 1995 – approximately \$6.9 million.
8. Budget for LSUAC – Revenue Estimating Committee will meet soon and feeling is the fiscal situation is stabilizing.
9. They are working with legislature to try to put back the \$5 million in the Executive Budget for LSUAC.
10. New Animal Science/Food Science building is near completion and faculty should be moving in near end of 2013 or beginning of 2014.
11. Question was raised about new equipment in the building. VP will follow up with inquiry and let affected faculty know.
12. Transition teams met last week. They are working through some things about what are issues that need to be addressed on both LSU A&M and LSUAC.

13. Working carefully about Promotion and Tenure (P&T) on both campuses – LSU A&M and LSUAC. The LSU A&M campus is concerned with Graduate Faculty in this P&T process so this may be critical issue in these transition teams.
14. Establish with Intellectual Property (IP) some activities within LSUAC that are relevant to the LSUAC faculty and campus. Also the IP issues are being removed from BoS as critical issues so that the President can sign off on contacts regarding IP instead of waiting 6-8 weeks or more for BoS approval.
15. Annual Conference – focus will be on maintaining unity of LSUAC and LSU A&M CoA in research, extension and teaching. President will be speaking at Annual Conference.
16. Rice Check-off question – Mike Strain sent letter around regarding state check-off programs and whether it's a tax or user-fee. The lawsuit from growers opposed to this state program has impacted other commodities from state check-offs. These could reduce revenues to LSUAC for research by millions of dollars annually.
17. Freedom of Information request to LSUAC about Clearfield Rice variety and all communications related to this.
18. Mid-February field trip by LSU A&M administration to Washington DC for week.

**Guests: Dr. Kevin Cope, LSU Faculty Senate President.**

19. Spoke about a variety of topics. The general future of faculty governance under the consolidation of what? There seems to be much confusion about the destination of this process. Is this merely the LSU A&M and LSUAC or is it more general.
20. Difference in cultures with LSU AC and LSU A&M is potentially beneficial in merging, in particularly with service being a focus of LSU A&M Extension.
21. Separate faculty governance by LSUAC is something that should be considered as beneficial to the LSU System.
22. Statewide faculty governance helps faculty focus on statewide problems instead of unit or college issues exclusively.
23. Academic maintenance and upkeep – academic infrastructure such as LUIS that has issues with insufficient funding, degrading infrastructure, limited public access requiring passwords.
24. Another issue is auxiliary services that focus on vending machines.
25. Policy statements harmonization is issue that needs to be addressed.
26. Compensation issue and the inconsistent manner in which they are administered by different campuses and units within campuses is a problem.
27. More faculty involvement at BOS meetings is critical and beneficial.
28. Leadership development from within is an issue that LSU needs to improve so that we don't cede leadership selection to outside interests at expense of faculty involvement.
29. Statewide curriculum with similar programs coordinating and cooperating across campuses.
30. Agriculture has much to offer in improving the arts and humanities and cultural activities on campuses throughout the state.
31. Retirement issues were discussed. TRSL is insolvent and will be facing financial problems in the very near future.
32. The flow through of benefits in FY 2014-2015 of the "Normal Cost" will be reduced from 5.15% to 3.66%. These are the benefits going from LSU for the employee into their ORP account.
33. LSU A&M faculty knowledge of agriculture needs to be increased and the Faculty Senate would be willing to help fund showcases or field trips to help increase awareness of faculty to agriculture.

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

34. The October 15, 2013 meeting minutes were approved as modified and corrected and will be posted on the LSU Ag Council website.

## Reports

35. LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) – met October 25, 2013. The board appears to be waiting on President's transition and its impact on LSU System to see how things progress and emerge.
36. The big issue facing BOS seems to be healthcare and the Hospitals and Health Sciences units within the LSU System. Health Sciences arena is rife with questions, including expending funds to improve these facilities when LSU may not own them in the future.
37. This transition creating opportunities for improvement within CoA and LSUAC due to emphasis of making this consolidation of administrative functions work.
38. There are several pro-active members of BOS that are asking questions in open meeting of BOS. Committee meetings didn't finish work by noon lunch break. So committees had to reconvene after lunch to complete business. This was unprecedented in recent memory.
39. Upcoming information about meetings can be found at the BOS website:  
<http://www.lsusystem.edu/index.php/board-of-supervisors/minutes-agenda/>
40. Council of Faculty Advisors (CFA) – meeting was held October 25, 2013 and KM attended. Discussion about the time of this meeting being so early, before the BOS meeting, that some of the CFA members are having difficulty attending.
41. Question arose about how LSUAC membership might proceed with consolidated LSUAC and LSU A&M. Seems that LSUAC will have seat at table unless otherwise told.
42. Next meeting is 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/>
43. Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) – will be held on December 14 in Alexandria. Meeting usually lasts till 3:00 pm or so, sometimes later.
44. Information on ALFS and upcoming meeting can be found at: <http://web.lsu.edu/alfs/>
45. Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative Summit Meeting – meeting will be held on December 14, 2013 in Alexandria. Will be trying to get Dr. King Alexander (President) to be there.
46. Information on next meeting can be found here: <http://www.laaaup.org/>

## Announcements

47. Annual evaluations; REEport deadline is Dec 7. The format is new this year from the previous CRIS reporting system.
48. Agricultural administration consolidation transition committees. KM passed around a list of the members of these committees. Only the Academics Issues committee had faculty members until KM asked why faculty members were not also on the Administrative Support, Facilities, and Research committees since faculty members will be affected by the decisions of those committees. Campus and Ag Center faculty members were added to those committees before the general introductory meeting of all of the committees on November 13.

49. LSU A&M Graduate Faculty Meeting – November 18, 2013 at 3:00 pm. The topics of Ag Center Graduate Faculty and Graduate Council representation are continuing items on the agenda. KM plans to attend this meeting.
50. International Programs survey and Faculty Advisory Team has been formed and is meeting regularly. KM and Carl Motsenbocker from Council serve on this committee.
51. Agriculture Annual Conference – December 16-17, 2013. Registration will open in the next few days.

## **Discussion Items**

52. December meeting – potential dates December 16 before 2 PM; December 17 after 12:30 PM; December 20. It was decided to meet on December 17 after closing of Annual Conference if Dr. Richardson is able to attend.
53. KM is working with Sharon Salzer on faculty lists and with Sarah Johnston on election procedures to accommodate the changes in election of Council members decided at the September meeting and that will be formally approved in the next business item.
54. FAC bylaw changes. A number of items were discussed and approved. The name of the faculty governing body for agriculture faculty members in the College of Agriculture and Ag Center will be the LSU Agricultural Faculty Council. The term “Agriculture” will be used in the bylaws to reflect this combination. The term “Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Dean of the College” will replace “Chancellor of the Ag Center.” The representation on Council will be 9 on-campus representatives from the full and associate ranks, one from each unit (Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness; Animal Sciences; Entomology; Experimental Statistics; Nutrition and Food Sciences; Plant, Environment, and Soil Sciences; Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology; Renewable Natural Resources; and Textiles, Apparel, and Merchandising), 1 on-campus from assistant rank, 1 on-campus from assistant/instructor rank, 5 off-campus full rank, 4 off-campus associate rank, 1 off-campus assistant rank, and 1 off-campus assistant/instructor rank. Current Council members whose terms do not expire this year will remain as representatives of their respective rank and location. Terms ending this year are Ken McMillin, on-campus full; on-campus associate John Westra; off-campus full Donnie Miller and Jason Holmes; off-campus associate Quincy Cheek, and off-campus assistant Robin Landry. Personnel holding faculty rank in Ag Center or College of Agriculture administrative service units are not eligible to serve on the Ag Faculty Council. Agriculture faculty members holding appointments in an agricultural unit as part-time, adjunct, or with ranks of Special Lecturer, Cooperating Teacher, Assistant Professor-Research, Associate Professor-Research, or Professor-Research or Assistant Professor-Extension, Associate Professor-Extension, Professor-Extension Assistant Communications Specialist, Associate Communications Specialist, or Communications Specialist or other ranks besides tenure, tenure-track, and full time faculty appointments are not eligible to vote or serve on Council. Terms of Council service will be 3 years, with the Vice-President and Dean to appoint a member from the appropriate rank and location in cases that a member cannot complete her/his term only when the individual receiving the second largest number of votes for that rank and location is unable to fill the remainder of the term. Members can serve up to 5 terms on Council, but no more than one term as Assistant representative, one term as Associate

representative, and up to three terms as Full representative, but no more than two consecutive terms can be served without a minimum of one year absence between terms.

Other items-

55. The bylaw changes will provide for an election of a member from full and associate ranks from on-campus Ag Economics; Animal Sciences; Experimental Statistics; Renewable Natural Resources; and Textiles, Apparel, and Merchandising units. Election will be held for two off-campus full members, two off-campus associate members, and one off-campus assistant/instructor member. The bylaw changes will allow Ken McMillin to be nominated from Animal Sciences, Jason and Donnie to be eligible for re-election from off-campus full ranks, and Robin Landry to be nominated from off-campus associate ranks. John Westra and Wayne Gauthier are ineligible to serve any more terms as an on-campus associate member. Continuing on-campus Council members will be Mike Stout representing Entomology, Diane Sasser representing Nutrition and Food Sciences, Jeff Beasley or Ed Bush or Dave Picha representing Plant, Environment and Soil Sciences, Charles Overstreet representing Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, and Josh Detre and Neely Walker representing assistant/associate ranks. Continuing off-campus Council members will be Layne Arceneaux-Langley, Tina Goebel, and Debbie Melville representing full rank, Esther Boe and Adriana Drusini representing associate rank, and Mariah Bock representing assistant rank.
56. KW will suggest to Human Resources that a framework be developed for promotion and tenure packets so that the order and type of materials will look similar for all candidates in the process and provide consistency for the faculty and unit head reviewers.

The meeting adjourned on a voice vote at 12:30 p.m., November 15, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

John V. Westra  
Recorder