

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 am, May 16, 2014
Sullivan Conference Room, Parker Agricultural Coliseum



Call to Order

Members Present Mandy Armentor (by proxy, Debbie Melvin), Jeffrey Beasley, Mariah Simoneaux, Esther Coco Boe, Edward Bush (by proxy, Dave Picha), Cynthia Clifton, David Picha, Joshua Detre, Adriana Druisini, Jennifer Duhon, Luis Escobar, Tina Goebel, Joan King, Layne Langley, Kurt Guidry, Ken McMillin, Deborah Melvin, Kori Myers, Ioan Negulescu, Charles Overstreet, Diane Sasser, Neely Walker

Vice President and Dean's Report – Dr. William B. Richardson

- Legislative session is going well. Budget looks steady. Senate finance will meet this coming week. 2015-2016 will be a challenging year. AgCenter is planning for future cuts.
- ORP retirement....bill looks like its moving.
- Economic Development is occurring from Mississippi line to Texas line.....growth will hopefully generate state revenue.
- Transition issues. Report to the board in the future. Faculty issues are evident but significant changes have occurred. The president is a huge proponent of agriculture and he promotes the mission. College of Ag has had a cultural change...there is a good team in operation.
- College of Ag-enrollment is up by 80 or 5% increase. Last fall was when recruiting began. New Department Head in Textiles, Apparel, and Design, there is room for growth there. Recruiting efforts are growing. Scholarships for students are a priority.
- Logo has changed; however, there is still discussion on campus regarding the changes. Communications will send out an email about new logo soon.
- Dual enrollment courses;
 - Insects and Sustainability will be a dual enrollment class available in the fall. Spring-Natural Resource class will be available. These courses have many benefits to the program. They may lend themselves to recruiting students and generate revenue.
 - 2 + 2 programs are also growing in strength.
 - A task force of faculty will be put together to make sure that the courses have integrity and have a standard for LSU.

Guests

Dr. Mark Tassin, Associate Vice Chancellor and Program Leader, 4-H

- The Louisiana 4-H program is one of the largest in the nation. There is great support for the program through the LSU AgCenter. We now have 95 FTE's. We have lost 30% of FTE's through attrition and retirement. However, we have not had a very significant decrease in 4-H enrollment. 4-H agents work very hard and have added programs and have even shown increases. Volunteers have taken on new roles and have relieved the burden from agents in some cases. Volunteers bring on issues but have benefits too.

- Changes in livestock program are in the making. He is looking at every program to make sure that all children in programs are benefiting and have high standards. The decisions are being made by advisory councils; there are youth on all advisory councils and they have unique ideas and expectations. Dr. Tassin believes in empowering young people but not youth control. Young people do need to have successes and failures. We need to teach people how to fail and how to process failure.
- Dr. Tassin meets with the other program leaders regularly and the leaders try to make decisions to which are the best for the entire AgCenter, not just 4-H. Dr. Fox has assumed role working with the staff day to day. Dr. Tassin does continue to still work with the state staff.
- Vision for the 4-H; positive youth development--Programs need to be relevant and make impact on children. Giving young people the opportunity to develop and make choices which will teach them to be successful young adults.
- Contests are changing (Steer). They are not like the contests from 30 years ago. We need to continue to motivate and meet their needs to retain them. Evaluations from the past few years show that we lose them in the 7-8th grade and then into high school. We have addressed the issue by providing programs that support the development of 7-8th graders (LOST Camp is an example). Teen leader boards have been established to run programs. It's a large work load on staff but the results are outstanding.
- Dr. Ronald Mayeux (FFA Executive Director) has passed away and there is a question about his replacement. There is limited conversation regarding how the position will be replaced.
- Starting salary has been increased but there still is much turnover due to low salaries.
- Some things have been eliminated. We continue to look at programs to see value.
- 4-H University exposure for recruitment to LSU. Opportunity is available for kids to encourage kids to come to LSU. Building a relationship with the 4-H U kids is more of a possibility now than it was a year ago. More educational programs have been added this year because of the push to include the whole campus. 4-H U numbers have been consistent over the past few years. They go up and down by 200 or so youth. With 95 FTE's Dr. Tassin believes that these numbers are very good.
- We lead the south with programs of distinction and we are third in the nation. Our program is strong.

Business

April 11, 2014 meeting minutes approval

- The minutes were approved by Tina Goebel
- The minutes were seconded for approval by Diane Sasser

The next meeting date has not been decided. There are several 4-H events and Farm Bureau statewide events going on.

Reports

Board of Supervisors meetings May 9, 2014

- Diane Sasser and Ken McMillin both attended.

Council of Faculty Advisors May 9, 2014

Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates May 3, 2014

- Sandra Woodley spoke at this meeting. Also, John Kennedy. Leadership at this committee is very good. There is follow through.

Louisiana Statewide Colleagues Collaborative Summit Meeting (Alexandria) May 3, 2014

Announcements

Retirement bill updates

- Can someone buy into another system? No.
- Procurement code and risk management have been separated.

Budget update

Research and extension project changes

P&T meeting May 21 and BoS vote May 9

- The council has asked for the meeting to be more informative for the candidates.
- It is recommended that support on the department levels be encouraged. Example; in Ag Econ Dept a roadmap is established for an employee to go through P&T.
- It is also recommended that promotion and tenure be set in motion at the 2nd year of employment....for the employee to begin to think and prepare for the P&T.
- More effort should be put forth to keep employees in place. The P & T process could be a way to motivate and keep employees on track and in focus.

Discussion Items

Faculty Senate election of 2 members

- Dorin Bolder and Jeff Davis will be asked to hold election through the dean's office.

Unwritten policies

- The council would like to recommend that policies be addressed before a mandatory training is set in motion.

Position descriptions and job assignments

Adjourn

Adjournment was held at 12:36 PM.