

## LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting

9:30 am, April 17, 2015

Room 212, Efferson Hall



### Call to Order

**In Attendance** – Mandy Armentor, Jeff Beasley, Dorin Bolder (proxy Steve Hall), Margo Castro, Cynthia Clifton, Jeff Davis, Adriana Drusini, Jennifer Duhon, Andrew Granger, Kenneth Guidry, Kurt Guidry, Joan King, Ken McMillin, Kori Myers, Charles Overstreet, David Picha, Gerald Roberts, Diane Sasser, Mariah Simoneaux, Hilton Waits, Neely Walker and Becky White

**Absent – Thomas Dean, Kiki Fontenot, Chuck Monlezun and Ioan Negulescu**

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

- Chancellor and other administrators met with the house appropriations committee last week and senate finance committee this week. LSU AgCenter has strong senate finance committee support. President Alexander supports LSU AgCenter and realizes we don't fit into the tuition model. The budget situation is not close to being settled. \$600 million planned to be cut from higher education. This could be reduced to a couple hundred million. Inventory tax credit important part of solution. Working on a number of bills, one is the cigarette tax. Other legislators working on taxes dedicated to LSU AgCenter and Pennington. May hear parish offices will close. Telling legislators what would happen if we are cut by a certain percentage. Campus looking at raising fees (lab fees, etc.) fee authority. Keep in mind that this is an election year. Attempt to put a 6 month budget together, with a minimal amount of cuts, to get us to January. Big action in beginning of 2016 to fix budget, we call a special session. Not interested in closing stations, offices, departments on campus. Our budget is 65% state appropriation, 35% other.
- One proposed bill is to pull LSU out of teacher's retirement program. A lot of liability with that, but could save LSU a lot of money. This would give us more flexibility. Read bill and let administration know if you have concerns.
- Clearfield rice money can only be used for certain budget items. LSU system put out call for grants with their percentage of the money.
- Stephen Moret is new CEO and president of the LSU Foundation.
- Currently three LSU COA departments without department heads. Possible name change for the College of Agriculture.
- Chance of retirement buyout depends on what the cuts are. If cuts are severe there will not be a buyout. If we declare exigency there will not be a buyout. The chancellor is not interested in a furlough, doesn't solve problems. Retirement buyout doesn't solve short-term problems. May make money back by the third year.

### Business

Minutes of the March Agriculture Faculty Council were approved. Motion made by Charles Overstreet, second by David Picha.

Updated Agriculture Faculty Council roster was distributed to council members. Please check for errors and email Ken with corrections.

## **Reports**

### **Board of Supervisors – Ken McMillin**

Not much to report on. Transferring much responsibility to president's office.

### **Council of Faculty Advisor's – Ken McMillin**

Working on PM-11 (reporting outside employment), inconsistency of how reporting is accomplished. Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates meets May 2, 2015. Ken will send the agenda. There is, and has been, much discussion on retirement options.

## **Announcements**

- LSU graduate dean search is ongoing. There are 9 candidates. There was no external search conducted. None of the candidates have a joint appointment.
- Ken and Diane are serving on College of Agriculture name change committee. Looking at other institutions for guidance. Many other LSU colleges have recently undergone name changes. If you have a suggestion please email Ken.

## **Discussion Items**

- Unit Head Evaluation Committee – Committee has not met yet. No date has been set for the first meeting.
- Information Technology Committee – CMS has still not updated. Agriculture Summary page is updated and looks nice. What is the hold up? Ken will ask about release date again.
- Council Representation Review Committee – We need additional members to serve on committee. This committee will look at distribution of personnel on the council. Hilton Waits volunteered to serve.
- P&T and PS-42 Committee – Committee is meeting with HRM on Tuesday, April 21.
- Annual Conference Committee – This is on hold for the time being. Becky mentioned the idea of virtual annual conference that was held in Ohio and will send information on it to Kori.
- Service Unit Advisory Committees – Let Ken know if you would like to change committee assignments. If you know non-council members that would be good committee members let Ken know.

## **Additional Discussion Items**

- The Chancellor of Southern University announced his retirement. What impact will this have on LSU AgCenter and COA?
- Why haven't faculty and staff been asked to contact our local legislators as we have been during the past?
- There are still no LSU AgCenter or College of Agriculture organization charts. This creates much confusion for faculty and staff.
- What is going on with 4-H Foundation Director position? Position was posted online. Were there any applicants? Who was in charge of this search?
- What is the status of LSU COA recruiters? LSUA has begun recruiting students for a rodeo team. Currently signing students and offering scholarships.

**Adjourn** – A motion to adjourn was made by Charles Overstreet, second by Jeff Davis.