

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 a.m., July 17, 2015
Room 212, Efferson Hall



In Attendance: Mandy Armentor, Jeff Beasley, Margo Castro, Cynthia Clifton, Thomas Dean, Adriana Drusini, Kiki Fontenot, Andrew Granger, Kenneth Guidry, Ken McMillin, Chuck Monlezun, Kori Myers (proxy Adriana Drusini), Ioan Negulescu, Charles Overstreet, David Picha, Diane Sasser, Mariah Simoneaux, Hilton Waits, Neely Walker, Becky White

Absent: Dorin Bolder, Jeff Davis, Kurt Guidry, Joan King, Gerald Roberts

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken McMillin.

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

- Dr. Richardson gave update on University Lake renovation that is to take place. The first step would be to dredge the lake.
- Legislative session has ended. Negotiations were being made with lawmakers up to the very last minutes of the session. It was extremely difficult, but the SAVE (“Student Assessment for a Valuable Education”) bill passed. This resulted in a flat budget, meaning they didn’t cut anything. Senator Bret Allain made one time appropriation. Hampton Grunewald and rural legislators fought hard and came through for the LSU AgCenter and CoA.
- The governor’s race has begun, three Republicans and one Democrat. All three Republican candidates have said they will call a special session after the election to address the state’s budget issues. This special session would be held between late January and early March. This means our stakeholders will need to call on rural legislators again. The AgCenter and CoA have given a platform to all four candidates addressing our issues and concerns.
- A hiring and expenditure freeze has been issued by governor, however, this does not affect higher education. Dr. Richardson has been and will continue to be very careful about filling positions through March of 2016. Higher education would be in better position if we were not part of undedicated funding. It should be remembered that the legislature leadership will change after the upcoming election. It is unknown what the new leadership will do to fix the budget.
- Administration is drafting a retirement buyout program. This is slightly delayed due to waiting on the Board of Supervisors to meet again in late September. More information will be released as decisions are made about this.
- Medical marijuana will not solve all our budget problems. The LSU AgCenter and Southern AgCenter did agree to be part of Senate bill 143. Still unsure how we would be involved in this research and/or production. Dr. Richardson did check with USDA to ensure that this would not affect our funding.

Comments from council members:

- Middle administration is limiting where money can be spent. Dr. Richardson asked that this person talk with him about the specific occurrence.
- The CoA is not currently offering many communication across the curriculum courses (C x C) compared to other colleges. Courses such as oral communication, technology, visual communication, and others should be added to curriculum to allow students to receive the benefits of graduating with a Distinguished Communicator certificate.
- What is happening with revenue expenditure accounts? Dr. Richardson explained that they are not taking away revenue expenditure accounts, but looking carefully at each research station's role, scope, and mission. Each unit should look at their own strategic plan.
- Since we are considering marijuana research, has anyone considered beer production/brewing? Dr. Richardson said this had been considered in the past, but there was some opposition from outside organizations.
- Is money available for improvements at LSU AgCenter facilities, specifically Camp Grant Walker? The bathrooms are in poor condition. Dr. Richardson responded he is aware that improvements need to be made. The improvements will have to consider handicap accessibility.
- How will the new 4-H foundation director interact with other LSU foundations? There is consideration of a property foundation in the future. A better way to handle equipment donations is needed.
- Has the LSU AgCenter considered selling trees from some of the property we own as a source of revenue? Idlewild Station does this. The money is kept on the station for the most part. The AgCenter still owns 80 acres from Calhoun Research Station; the remainder of the property went back to Ouachita Parish.

Business

Minutes of the May Agriculture Faculty Council were approved with minor corrections after the motion made by Ioan Negulescu and seconded by David Picha.

Reports

Board of Supervisors Meeting: Ken McMillin reported the Board of Supervisors meeting was held on June 19 at LSUA. It was a very pleasant meeting and nice facilities. Much discussion about the dismissal of faculty member from the LSU main campus and the health science center situation in the northwester part of the state. Ken will keep us posted on both situations.

Council of Faculty Advisors: Law center being brought back into the A&M campus so they will elect representatives to the LSU Faculty Senate. Structure is not an issue.

Association of LA Faculty Senates Meeting: Dr. Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education was in attendance again. There were rapid fire sessions to discuss faculty activity strategies. Rallies for higher education were held at several campuses and locations, including SUSLA, McNeese, and Hammond. This was a grass roots

approach to maintain budgets. Most campuses don't have an address list for all faculty members so it is difficult to send mass communications to inform or mobilize faculty members. Sit down demonstration, marches, walk out day were all discussed. Faculty is the front line with students. The following set of tasks were set for being completed over the next several months.

- Posting information on the ALFS Facebook page to improve communication
- Creating a mass mailing and information distribution system for faculty and creating a mass mailing and information distribution system for legislators, management boards, and administrators to develop partnerships with specific legislators in various state regions
- Developing a template description of good faculty governance structures and practices for distribution to developing faculty senates
- Working with colleagues in the U of L System to ensure that the UoL Faculty Advisory Council is staffed, meeting, and functioning
- Learning, individually and collectively, how to tell the faculty perspective of higher education
- Building relationships with local media practitioners (reporters, mass media personalities)
- Helping students craft the message to better communicate with reporters and policymakers
- Accepting all invitations to speak, no matter how small or obscure the audience
- Inviting a Public Service Commission member such as Foster Campbell to speak about energy and efficiency improvements
- Inviting an architect or planner to speak about LEED, campus buildings and designs
- Publishing an online archive or bibliography of faculty media appearances, interviews, editorials, and contributions
- Contacting the Chronicle of Higher Education to submit the professorial side of Louisiana's last-minute budget save

Announcements:

A&M Provost Selection Committee: Dr. Richardson is serving as a member of this committee. The position has been advertised as Vice President and Provost position as was Dr. Bell's before he left for Alabama. The "LSU System" is now "The University" as work towards consolidation of campuses continues.

P&T Faculty Advisory Committee: Ann has not responded to Ken yet about the final meeting of the committee members.

A&M Faculty Senate Elections: Campus faculty must have appointment in CoA to serve. Currently there are only about 250 faculty members in CoA. Normally the election procedure is conducted by retiring senators and Jeff Gillespie has agreed to conduct the election, hopefully before classes start in August.

Discussion Items

- Jennifer Duhon's position needs to be filled. A request was made to send names of potential assistant rank off campus individuals to Ken, with consideration of someone from the northern part of the state. Their travel costs will be covered.
- CoA name change committee asked to rank 10 of the proposed new names. Focus group has been created, students are included in this group. Group should have a broad representation of all involved in the College to make a change, this includes alumni. Is there a valid reason to make name change? Ken listed the 10 proposed new names ((College of Agricultural Sciences; College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences; College of Agriculture and Technology; College of Agriculture and

Life Sciences; College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences; College of Agriculture, Consumer, Food, and Natural Sciences; College of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Technologies; College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources; College of Agriculture and Sustainable Natural Resources; and College of Agriculture, Consumer, and Natural Resource Sciences). The comment was made that the name is not important, marketing the college is a high priority. Could this be addressed in the Introduction to Agriculture class? There is a need to educate high school counselors on what programs are offered through CoA. A name change will not solve this problem. Youth will decide what they want to do and then find the college that offers that program. The name should attract youth to agriculture program areas. Do our recruiters know what each program area offers?

- Unit Head Evaluation Committee has not met. HRM has been busy with other issues.
- Council representation review committee: by law changes
- P&T and PS-42 Review- Committee has met once.
- Service Unit Advisory Committees – IT committee has met. IT has still not implemented the new Content Management Program.
- Retirement bills – not given much attention on the floor during the legislative session. Concern about whether or not there will be a retirement option in the future. One option is that LSU would create retirement system to replace TRSL.
- Cope and Laine lawsuit has been filed. It could become class action law suit for all faculty members in the Optional Retirement Program (ORP). There is a need to establish who faculty work for, state or LSU system? Jill Craft's law firm has taken the case pro bono.
- Stephen Moreau seems a good fit as new President and CEO of the LSU Foundation and will work closely with campuses. Most foundation dollars come from large donations. Many alumni haven't ever been asked to donate. LSU need to identify big goals that donors want to contribute toward.
- A question was raised about graduate student health insurance increasing since there is no longer a \$350 supplement given to students on assistantship. This raises questions about the definitions of employees, graduate students, and student workers? The health insurance costs are of a burden for students over 26 years old and for international students.
- Changes are being made at the Student Union. Billiards room has been removed, barber shop may be closed. These are not creating enough revenue for the University.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ioan Negulescu. Seconded by Kenneth Guidry and unanimously approved.