

LSU Agriculture Faculty Meeting
9:30 am, November 20, 2015
Room 214, Efferson Hall



In Attendance: Jeff Beasley, Dorin Boldor, Margo Castro (proxy Mariah Simoneaux), Cynthia Clifton (proxy Ken McMillin), Ken McMillin, Thomas Dean, Adriana Drusini (proxy Kori Myers), Kiki Fontenot, Bruce Garner, Kenneth Guidry, Kurt Guidry, Joan King, , Kori Myers, Ioan Negulescu, Charles Overstreet, David Picha (proxy Kiki Fontenot), Diane Sasser, Mariah Simoneaux, Neely Walker, John Westra

Absent: Mandy Armentor, Jeff Davis, Andrew Granger, Chuck Monlezun, Gerald Roberts, Hilton Waits

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

Vice President and Dean's Report - Dr. William Richardson

Meetings at state Capitol to address the budget situation are ongoing. Revenue estimating committee has identified a 400 million dollar deficit. The proposed plan spares higher education if it is approved that 28 million will be taken from rainy day fund. If more than this is taken for other purposes, higher education could be in trouble. All the rules change in mid-January. Right now we are okay compared to what it could be because the general feeling is that higher education has been cut enough. No one wants to pay more taxes. The two gubernatorial candidates have said they will call a special session in January. Whoever is elected will have transitional offices on LSU Baton Rouge campus. There has been talk of waiting 30 days to address budget. We would rather them handle it now. Jindal is doing farewell tour around Louisiana. One candidate indicated that he would give more power to the board of regents.

LSU Executive Vice President and Provost search is nearing end. Four candidates have been interviewed. The committee met this week and made a recommendation to President King Alexander. Dr. Richardson has worked with internal candidate, Dr. Koubek in the past. Says he is very transparent and easy to work with. Dr. Koubek understands the A & M model.

Will campus master plan affect LSU AgCenter or COA? The company in charge of the master plan is doing traffic, parking studies, etc. All of campus has been coded. There is a lot of square footage, but it is not all acceptable quality to use. We are at the very beginning of this process. Campus is not handicapped friendly, affecting COA students. South campus is mostly on their own and should not be touched, however the company has made visits to Central Stations on Ben Hur Road.

Business

October 16, 2015 minutes were approved with minor corrections after a motion by Ioan Negulescu and second by Charles Overstreet. Council Chair Ken McMillin confirmed that PS-36T states faculty can be dismissed after a three year evaluation.

Reports

Board of Supervisors – Next meeting scheduled for December 11. At the October meeting the board approved a two year extension of the president’s contract. Strategic planning going on at the higher level. LSU Law has been absorbed back into main campus. Some talk on budget issues. LSU has spent 22 million dollars on facilities since 2009. Eight cases involving faculty conduct are ongoing. Faculty must be very careful. The question was asked if faculty can record classes. Many faculty members are very concerned.

Council of Faculty Advisors – Officers were reelected. Keven Cope remains as council chair, Jim Robinson from LSU-E as vice chair, and Ken McMillin was elected as secretary. Next meeting scheduled for December 11.

Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates – Meeting is Saturday, November 21. Ken will be attending.

Louisiana Statewide Colleagues Collaborative Summit Meeting – Meeting is Saturday, November 21.

Announcements

A&M Provost Selection – All candidates are very qualified and have administrative experience. Joan and Ken had the chance to meet with all four.

College of Agriculture Name Change – Committee has forwarded four names to committee chair, Dr. Leonard, who will forward to Dr. Richardson. Four names were selected based on responses from the survey - LSU College of Agriculture, LSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences, College of Agricultural Sciences, and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (in no particular order).

Discussion Items

Faculty Council Election – We are behind. IT Department would rather us hold the election on our own. They are currently very overwhelmed dealing with CMS. Ken presented handout with numbers of on and off campus faculty. It was suggested that the handout include a footnote about where the numbers came from and a title to identify the purpose of document. There are 405 faculty members in agriculture as of November 10. If a faculty member has any administrative appointment they cannot serve on the council. It was also suggested that someone from each department review the list to confirm it is correct.

A motion was made by Dorin Boldor to accept the list provided by Sharon Salzer and Ken McMillin to be used for elections. The motion was seconded by Charles Overstreet. Motion passed.

Comments from the council:

- Some faculty are listed under the wrong department. Ioan Negulescu cannot get moved to the correct department (TAM) and this is an issue.
- The question was raised if our bylaws contain any rules about the number of agents serving from the same rank and the same office. Should this be added to the bylaws?
- Travel is an issue for agents from the northern part of the state. The suggestion was made that a distance ed. option be added to AFC meetings. When the call for nominations are made it should be included that members have the option to attend the meeting via distance education.

A motion was made by Ioan Negulescu that the council conduct the elections now with current list of potential representatives. The motion was seconded by Diane Sasser. Motion passed.

The usual election procedure allows two weeks for nominations, one week to accept or reject the nomination, two weeks to vote, and two weeks in case of a run off.

A motion was made by Dorin Boldor to close nominations early on November 25. An amendment was made by Charles Overstreet that the deadline be extended to December 4 due to Thanksgiving break. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Guidry. Motion as amended passed.

It was suggested that tIT set up an LSU AgCenter email address that can send and receive correspondence and nominations. Fred Piazza should be able to do this since we are working with him to hold our own elections.

Kurt Guidry volunteered to assist with creating a survey monkey survey to hold the elections. It was suggested that a nominations and election committee be created in the future.

The question was raised whether nominations should be within rank only or open. The consensus was made that nominations will be open so any faculty member can nominate any other faculty member for an open representative position regardless of the location and rank.

Unit Head Evaluations – Ken reported that he has talked to and reminded Anne Coulon that these need to be conducted.

Council Representation Review – No report.

P&T and PS-42 Review – Delayed until further notice.

Annual Conference – We will not be having one. After talking to Dr. Richardson, Kori doesn't foresee us having one in the near future. The awards ceremony will be held December 16, 2015 at 2:00 pm at the Burden Center.

Ad-Hoc Mentoring Committee – The system has many flaws. It was decided that a fact sheet and calendar be assembled for each position.

What is regional coordinators role in training new 4-H agents? Each region is very different. Is it the regional coordinators job to assign a mentor? The mentor should be assigned before the person is hired.

It was suggested that a central LSU AgCenter calendar with dates and deadlines for agents. A list of general events to consider each year. Kiki and her committee will continue to work on this. Need information for FCS and 4-H agents.

A motion was made to move the December meeting to December 16 from December 18 by Dorin Boulder Seconded by Ioan Negulescu.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Beasley. Seconded by Charles Overstreet and unanimously approved.