

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 am, October 20, 2017
Room 212, Efferson Hall



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ken McMillin at: 9:38 am. Dr. Chang is in Taiwan on an international trip for LSUAC.

Members in Attendance: Mandy Armentor, Sun Joseph Chang (proxy Ken McMillin), Margo Castro, Chris Clark, Richard Cooper, Betsy Crigler, Adriana Drusini (proxy Betsy Crigler), Kiki Fontenot, Becky Gautreaux (proxy Mandy Armentor), Blair Hebert (proxy Mandy Armentor), Chualan Liu, Shatonia McCarty, Ken McMillin, Subramaniam Sathivel, Mark Shafer, and Gary Stockton (proxy Betsy Crigler).

Members Absent: Naveen Adusumilli, Ed Bush, Melissa Cater, Jeff Davis, Andrew Granger, Denise Holston-West, Chuck Monlezun, Carol Pinell-Alison, and Claudette Reichel.

Vice President and Dean's Report – Dr. William B. Richardson, raises have been administered and he is hopeful we can do this again next year. Budget situation for next year looks challenging, the Governor's executive budget will come out Jan-Feb. The 1 cents sales tax that is set to expire in April, there is talk to extend that for a while and then take a serious look at the budget to make cuts. The Governor does not want to cut higher Ed. anymore, healthcare is questionable, and they may look at the tax cuts too.

He expects a special session to be called sometime around Mardi Gras to deal with budget issues because regular session can't deal with financial/budget issues this year. Hopeful special session will address financial matters for the state. Too early to tell what the budget situation will look like for LSUAC. Price of oil may not change for the next few years and that could greatly impact the state budget issues.

Changes: National search for the Assoc. Dean for the College of Agriculture will be forthcoming; he wants representation from the Faculty Council on that committee.

Mark Tassin will retire next year and that is also a national search going on and he is hopeful that he can have someone on board to overlap for a little bit with Mark's tenure.

Textile & Apparel faculty interviews will be going on shortly. He is impressed with the caliber of candidates for several of the interviews that are on-going. He is working with campus on the Master plan process and has given the recommendations on the importance of the key things for the College of Agriculture/LSU AgCenter that we need to work towards.

He asked for questions: Dr. McMillin, asked him about the Apple computers and why we can't have them purchased in departments. He replied, there is no reason that Mac's can't be purchased if there is support for them from IT on campus. Someone asked if they completely cut TOPS, how will that affect the enrollment at LSU? He said it is too hard to tell but it could make it difficult for recruitment to the LSU College of Agriculture due to the uncertainty of TOPS now. Enrollment numbers look good right now and he hopes that continues.

Invited Guest- Dr. John Russin, Director of International Programs & Vice Chancellor

He thanked us for inviting him and spending time with us. Dr. Richardson during the summer restructured International Programs, and approached Dr. Russin to oversee International Programs, how to align resources, faculty and staff with our directives. We are focusing on Central/South American and Central/Eastern Europe area with more service oriented projects. We have been working for 3 years in those areas to get projects/programs going there. There will be more opportunities to develop partnerships for those 2 areas.

International Programs will change name to LSUAC Global Network. The goal is to build effective network connections, roots in those 2 areas. A travel support program will be forthcoming next year, and as a way to increase scientist training abroad. The department will be working to provide support to faculty wanting to have visiting scholars or go visit other areas to be a scholar. His office will work with faculty to help them step by step on how to have abroad scholar/learning opportunities.

Opened up to questions from council: Dr. Liu asked about the International Programs advisory committee and how they are involved in what's going on with the department? She felt that some faculty are not fully informed of what is going on and how can that be better. Dr. Russin, in 2018 will create 2 advisory boards: one internal for within the campus looking for discipline representation whether it comes for campus or field. He wants to be more connected to undergraduates for creating student opportunities for overseas. He has some names already but if we have names or ideas please let him know. The second one is an external advisory board, private sector folks and some with LSU ties and how we can develop programs within the private sector not only those 2 countries we are focusing on as well. He is hoping this will draw opportunities and funding options. He has names already for a committee for 100 and he knows it will take a while to get it going.

Several other questions from faculty were asked and answered by Dr. Russin about International Programs & the workings of the department.

Business

September 21, 2017 meeting minutes were accepted with minor changes or corrections. Motion by Richard, Satieh seconded and approved by the council.

Ken serves on the President's committee of Greek Affairs, he says there is a lot thoughts on what will happen with the alcohol policy with the Greeks and on campus. There is a need to do something but how far will it go to protect health and safety of students and faculty. Many factors are involved and there is much deliberation will go on before a final decision will be made.

Claudette Reichel and Don Groth serve on Facilities planning committee and Ken gave us a copy of the report from them. Two major activities, is that there is not enough staff in the department for the activities they want to do and their needing to work on the Main Campus master plan.

Reports

October 13 Board of Supervisors meeting. Ken welcomed Mark Schaffer from Ag Econ & Economics who is replacing Dr. Kurt Guidry who is now regional director for the SW Region. Ken gave report of BOS meeting, LSUAC is selling some acres of land at some experiment stations just routine business and the approval of the master plan for the

campus was accepted from the BOS which has been about a 3 year process. It is a 20 year plan for the campus and major changes that could come about is tearing down and relocation of Middleton Library. Tearing down Lockett Hall and turning that into strip mall space and the old Forestry Building has been torn down and form a mall between Taylor Hall renovations and tie it into main campus. More green spaces on campus and make the campus more inviting to potential students, current students and faculty is in the plans. The plan is posted on LSU website you can read for further review. The major stumbling block.....money because we know the states limited budget now.

Ken and Dr. Richardson are members of the Graduate School task force, which is charged with looking at Grad school and how to make it better, there are plenty of difficulties with the school (admissions notifications, lost paperwork, missed notifications). There is look at Grad School program restructuring and how the inconsistencies can be solved within the Grad School. They are looking at new software for the Grad School admissions and currently looking at new undergraduate software as well for admissions, transcripts, etc. They are wanting to be able to match the undergrad and Grad school software programs.

Announcements

- Think of the future of the Ag Center and the College in terms of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT). Discussion was opened to the floor and how could we help guide the College (LSU) and the LSUAC? One item brought up was focus areas of LSU and how will College of Ag/LSUAC actually get there. One person felt faculty are so overwhelmed that it is hard for faculty give time, thought and feedback on items of this. There is also some feeling of disconnect between the faculty, the plan, and main campus.
- Ken will work with Sun Joe to summarize and categorize the 6 concepts and make some recommendations with LSUAC for the faculty council in the essence of time and effort to then divide up and give feedback as a whole council so we have at least a voice in the matter. This will happen in a few weeks with hopes at the December meeting we can discuss this matter as a group.

Adjourn A motion to adjourn was made by: Chris Clark, seconded by: Richard Cooper, Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at: 11:46 am.