

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 AM, October 19, 2018
Room 212, Efferson Hall



Called to Order by Vice Chair, Sathi at 9:33 a.m.

Members in Attendance: Mandy Armentor, Ed Bush, Chris Clark, Richard Cooper, Betsy Crigler, Adriana Drusini, Becky Gautreaux(Mandy Armentor, Proxy), Denise Holston-West, Chuanlan Liu, Shatonia McCarty, Trey Price, Gene Reagan, Sathi Subramaniam, Garry Stockton, Shannan Waits.

Members Absent:

Vice President and Dean's Remarks – Dr. William B. Richardson noted that the Food Incubator project is one of the capital campaigns that private donors are being sought for renovations and expansions of buildings. Several of these are going on around the LSU AgCenter facilities due to the fact that no state dollars have been pledged to building or facility updates, renovations or upgrades.

He did note a lot has happened in the past 2 ½ weeks downtown; he's gotten a request from the Division of Administration (DOA) and Board of Regents (BOR) on how we would prepare budgets if we got funding of different levels. So his office has been busy preparing different budget scenarios for the DOA & BOR. There is some talk about a continuous funding stream with the Governor's administration, but it should be noted June 2019 is a long time away and many different things can happen to change it. He is hoping to give another 3% merit based raise to employees in 2019, unless he is told he can't do it. It should be noted things seem positive downtown and in DOA as opposed to last year at this time with the state budget. College of Agriculture enrollments are up and recruitment is going well for future COA students. Medical Marijuana is going well, there was still a few roadblocks they are working through with Dr. Strain's office. He doesn't anticipate a funding stream from the medical marijuana for at least 5 years; he offered for the council to possibly tour the medical marijuana facility to get a scope of what is going on with the project. He then asked for questions from the council.

A question was asked about TOPS funding and is it safe or facing cuts with the legislative session. He thought for now TOPS funding was safe, but the biggest concern for all is the fees colleges want to impose are getting out of hand. He said the Board of Supervisors rejected the last fee hike that went before them because it affects TOPS funding ultimately. A question on campus facilities/buildings was asked and he responded that is why they are going to capital campaigns for the buildings and facilities

upkeep or maintenance and renovations because there is no capital outlay funds in the state budget for those and these funds being raised are not for new facilities.

Invited Guest-

Ms. Gaye Sandoz, Director, Food Incubator gave a presentation on what the department does, is and how it started 3 years ago. The Food Incubator is for people who have a product and want to start a food manufacturing business. They offer services such as product testing, shelf stability, nutrition analysis, labeling, marketing, etc. They are raising funds to hope to develop a Food Innovation center. Currently, the Incubator receives royalties on 4 products and in the future hopes to receive more. They have helped start up 42 food companies and students have a large role in it depending on their major. The warehouse is being renovated to move the Food Incubator in and hope it continues to grow with internships, scholarships, donors as time progresses. The council toured the new facility by the LSUAC warehouse.

Business

September 21, 2018 meeting a motion for the minutes with no corrections needed by Gene Regan was made. It was seconded and passed by the council.

Service Unit Advisory Committees discussion was brought up by Dr. Joan King. She gave the history of the Service Unit Advisory Committees which was approved in 2010. The Chair of the faculty council works with Dr. Richardson and the service unit department heads to get them filled. The policy states that at least one faculty council member should sit on the committees. The chair of the Service Unit Advisory Committee is a faculty member not the department head; over the past few years that has been hard to keep up with due to budget cuts, faculty members leaving, etc. She asked the council when was the last service unit advisory meeting and someone replied 2017 was the last time the committee they were on met. She recommended that Dr. Chang as chair of the council and the council express to Dr. Richardson the importance of trying to get them back on track and meeting. She did discuss that the council may have to look at with Administration changing the make-up of the committees to better suit the needs of the advisory committees. Some brief discussion took place within the council. A motion by Blair Hebert and seconded by Mandy Armentor was for Dr. Chang to meet with Dr. Richardson and Dr. Ken McMillian to investigate the current status of the Service Unit Advisory Committees, look at any potential changes to the committees and bring any recommendations back to the council so we can get back on track with the Service Unit Advisory committees meeting at least once a year again. The motion passed by the council.

Reports

- Board of Supervisors meeting on October 4, 2018 was reported on by Sathi. He noted that they passed the LSU System budget for 2019.

Announcements Dr. Sathi made the following announcements:

- Invitation to nominate candidates of new council members has been sent out. It will be open for two weeks until October 27. Please encourage your colleagues to consider running in the election.
- Election of council members with terms expiring in 2021 will take place in early November.
- Performance survey of regional directors will proceed in late November or early December and Dr. Chang will be sending that survey out for faculty members to review their regional directors.
- Fred Piazza has been invited to attend the November council meeting to discuss new LSU online accessibility Policy.

Discussion Items

- The new HR director was hired without any input from the council, should we express our concern for the lack of council input? The council agreed that concern should be expressed for the lack of council representation on the search for the HR director. The council also discussed asking administration if a Faculty Council representative could be on the search committee for administrative positions and would like to see that happen in the future if possible.
- How is the new model of extension assignment working out? Are there any suggestions to the administration for improvement? A small discussion among the council took place on this. It was discussed that field agents and researchers should communicate better with the specialists for needs such as travel or supply funds because sometimes projects that are worked on between specialists and field staff support could be given. Also, the council discussed a better working relationship between field staff and specialists are needed in some areas; in FCS and certain commodities there is a good relationship now between the field and specialists and other areas it could be strengthened.
- A question was asked about the replacement of Dr. Cater from AEEE since she is now the NE Regional Director? Dr. Chang will need to check into this and see if a replacement is needed on the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 am with a motion to adjourn by Chris Clark and seconded by Mark Schafer.