

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 am, January 18, 2019
Room 212, Efferson Hall



Call to Order: Called by Sun Joseph Chang at 9:43 a.m.

Members In Attendance: Sun Joseph Chang, Zhiyuan Chen, Richard Cooper, Betsy Crigler, Hope Guidry, Stephen Harrison, Blair Hebert, Chuanlan Liu, Shatoria McCarty, Ken McMilian, Bob Mirabello, Teresa Raley, Gene Reagan, Subramaniam Sathivel, Shannon Waits (with proxy for Mandy Armentor), and Mark Wilson.

Members Absent: Mandy Armentor, Becky Gautreaux, Bin Li, Ashley Powell, Brandon Reeder, Claudette Reichel, Marl Shafer, Kristin Stair, and Wenqing Xu.

Vice President and Dean's Report – Dr. Richardson was unable to attend.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Ashley Mullens, Coordinator of Therapeutic Cannabis Program

*G B Sciences manages production lab (36,000 square feet). Program is regulated by Department of Ag and Forestry. Production of tinctures and CBD oil will be for debilitating diseases with “recommendations” from doctors (due to lack of research for exact dosages). Currently, oils are being extracted and frozen before production begins.

*There will be nine regions in Louisiana with one “pharmacy” in each region that can distribute product. LSU will be conducting more research for plant genetics and plant breeding.

*Plants are grown in external “grow pods” (buildings) under high security and sterile conditions. Challenges in growing include environmental and climate. Plants are grown from tissue cultures (illegal to grow from seeds) and are susceptible to powdery mildew. Considered growing “medicinal crops” not cannabis. Grow cycle is 12 weeks.

*Farm Bill focuses on hemp. The difference between hemp and marijuana is THC content.

*The majority of Council attended tour after lunch.

Business –

*Gene Reagan moved to accept the November minutes. Chuanlan Liu seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*New members were introduced to Council. New members in attendance included: Zhiyuan Chen, Hope Guidry, Stephen Harrison, Bob Mirabello and Mark Wilson.

*Ken McMilian presided over the election of the 2019 Faculty Council Chair. It was moved and seconded Joseph Chang be appointed by affirmation. Motion carried.

*Nominations for Vice Chair proceeded with Subramaniam Sathivel being nominated. Subramaniam Sathivel was elected Vice Chair by affirmation.

*Joseph Chang nominated Teresa Raley for Recorder. No other nominations were made. Raley was elected by affirmation.

*Stephen Harrison was nominated to serve on the Executive Committee as the On Campus representative, and Blair Hebert was nominated to serve on the Executive Committee as the Off Campus Representative. Vote was unanimous.

*Faculty Council members who serve on the Executive Committee include Chair, Vice Chair, Recorder, 1 On Campus representative and 1 Off Campus Representative.

*Council suggested the new Human Resource director, Rebecca Smelly, be invited to speak at February meeting.

Reports

* Joseph Chang announced the next Board of Supervisors meeting will be held January 25, 2019 at LSU-Shreveport. Mark Wilson and Teresa Raley were asked to attend due to location/travel involved.

*Dr. Stacia Haynie is officially now executive Vice President and provost. The College of Ag will be under her administration. All Vice Presidents will report to her.

*All Unit Head evaluations are complete. Joseph Chang will compile results and email to regions. Everyone will get the summary pertaining to their specific region. The percentage of replies per region looks good.

*Ken McMilian reported the Faculty Senate meeting went well. Two departments have been established: Student Accountability and LSU Care (for emotional issues). Much discussion also centered around the Library's contract for Elsevier journals. Current contract is \$2,000,000 for 1352 scientific journals. Proposal is to cut contract to \$1,000,000 for 186 journals. Also, April 30 is "Giving Day", volunteers are needed.

*There was discussion about the need in the Entomology Department for another entomologist. Dr. Russell is the interim director of Plant Pathology.

*Blair Hebert reported on the effect the government shutdown is having on some area positions' travel, farmers, FSA offices, tax refunds, etc. Jobs are on hold for graduating students.

Adjourn

Blair Hebert moved to adjourn the meeting. Hope Guidry seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.