

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 am, February 15, 2019
Room 212, Efferson Hall



Call to Order: Called by Sun Joseph Chang at 9:32 a.m.

Members In Attendance (20): Mandy Armentor, Joseph Chang, Zhiyuan Chen, Richard Cooper, Betsy Crigler, Becky Gautreaux, Stephen Harrison, Shantonia McCarty, Ken McMillin, Ashley Powell, Teresa Raley, Gene Reagan, Brandon Reeder, Claudette Reichel, Subramamiam Sathivel, Mark Shafer, Shannon Waits, , Kristin Stair, Mark Wilson, and Wenqing Xu.

Members Absent (5): Hope Guidry, Blair Hebert, Bin Li, Chuanlan Liu, Bob Mirabello,

Vice President's Report:

Dr. Richardson gave a Budget Update (has to have a unanimous vote for Appropriation). He reported the Governors Executive Budget looks positive for next year and will be used to fund some increases in unfunded mandates. There will most likely be a Special Session after Mardi Gras (June). Dr. Richardson intends to fund another pay raise for the AgCenter next year. He mentioned it will be an election year and the sales tax battle has not gone away.

The medical marijuana program is proceeding, has 142 plants ready to move into the grow pods, concentrate has been approved by the Dept. of Ag. He discussed the difference in hemp and marijuana is hemp has less than 0.03% THC.

There was a discussion about upcoming Livestock Shows and the consequences of inappropriate behaviors of adults (volunteers and or family members of youth participants). Dr. Richardson also discussed the closure of the Pecan Station in Caddo Parish.

Guest Speaker: Ann Coulon was unable to attend due to family illness.

Business –

*New members Brandon Reeder and Kristin Stair were introduced.

*Richard Cooper moved the January minutes be approved as read. Mark Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*Ken McMillin, Teresa Raley and Mark Wilson gave reports on the Board of Supervisors meeting held at LSUS.

*Dr. Chang discussed the Unit Head Survey. There was a 40% response rate on average, the survey was anonymous, and explained a survey is not conducted if there are less than 4 members in the department. Feedback included changing the wording of some of the survey questions to more accurately reflect Regional Directors interactions with field agents and list of survey participants needs updating. There were current faculty members who did not get the opportunity to participate in the survey.

* Dr. Chang informed council that in case there is a need of emergency decisions by the Council, the Executive Committee can make decisions for the Council.

*Meeting dates were discussed. The meeting dates for 2019 will be March 22 (due to Board of Regents meeting), April 12 (due to Easter), May 17, June 14 (due to 4-H University), July 19, August 23 (due to LAE4-HA Conference), September 20, October 18, November 15, and December 20.

* Impressions and discussions of Medical Marijuana Facility Tour: some areas of interest included production and new areas in BioChemistry; the greatest threat to the program is the legalization of hemp;

the Clean Room setup was not the best design from a horticulture standpoint. Dr. Chang asked that concerns be emailed to him in order to go on record from an AgCenter position.

*The Council heard a report on the Civil Service Awards Luncheon. No AgCenter Administration representation attended. A motion was made that the Faculty Council recommend that a representative from the LSU AgCenter Human Resources Management or Administrative office attend the state wide Civil Service luncheon when an AgCenter employee is being recognized. The motion was seconded and voted on by other members. The motion carried.

*The ANR agents reported on the new Extension Model. Council discussion included

- the travel dollars allowed to regional agents does not cover expenses for the year,
- a suggestion was made that Regional agents be provided an AgCenter vehicle,
- with such a small amount of travel expense allowance, agents cannot efficiently perform their job
- volunteers have to be relied upon to do agents' jobs
- quality of volunteers varies and reflects on AgCenter
- tax dollars are supposed to pay for agents/professional knowledge (not volunteers)
- ANR model was changed without input from Faculty Council
- very little outcry was heard when FCS model changed and FCS agents weren't informed
- current situation is due to budget cuts but puts an undo burden on agents
- relationships are being sacrificed due to this ANR model
- it is the stakeholders/constituents that the AgCenter relies on to be our voice

It was moved that the Faculty Council suggest the reallocation of AgCenter vehicles.

*Lunch orders will be cut off at noon on Thursday prior to Faculty Council meeting.

Adjourn

- Becky Geautreux moved to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. Richard Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried. Lunch was served.

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