

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 am, June 14, 2019
141Renewable Natural Resources Building



Call to Order: Called by Sun Joseph Chang at 9:30 a.m.

Members In Attendance: (17) Joseph Chang, Zhiyuan Chen, Richard Cooper, Betsy Crigler, Becky Gautreaux, Hope Guidry, Blair Hebert, Bin Li, Ken McMillian, Bob Mirabello, Ashley Powell, Teresa Raley, Gene Reagan, Claudette Reichel, Kristin Stair, Mark Wilson, Wenqing Xu

Members Absent: (8) Mandy Armentor, Stephen Harrison, Chuanlan Liu, Shatonia McCarty, Brandon Reeder, Subramaniam Sathivel, Mark Shafer, Shannon Waits,

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Richardson attended and gave an update on the budget. Fiscal year 2020 will receive an additional \$3.75 million. He foresees no mid-year budget cuts and possibly a pay raise. The state budget looks like it is stabilizing with \$119 million surplus.

* Program directors and Regional Directors have been asked to prioritize position vacancies. Dr. Richardson also spoke of the St. Gabriel 900 acres mitigation bank had successful recommendations.

* The medical marijuana has had a successful first harvest but is waiting on approvals from the Department of Ag and Forestry for further processing. There is some debate about the legality of CBD oil for pilot projects. Industrial hemp has a lot of interest from farmers. Some uses for hemp include CBD oil, lubricants, etc. Hemp is less than .03% THC (.02% is legal). The AgCenter is preparing a 2-page informational flyer.

* Dr. Rogers Leonard's position has been announced for applicants. A search committee has been formed.

* The College of Ag is up 20% for incoming freshmen with over 400 enrolled. Total freshmen enrolled is approximately 6100-6200 with an average ACT score same as last year.

* Term limits will affect the House and senate next year. It will be a period of making new members aware of the AgCenter's position throughout the state and industry.

Business – The April minutes were approved as presented.

* Dr. Chang invited Ashley Geautreaux (HR) to attend the June meeting, however she could not attend. Dr. Chang invited her to attend the July meeting on July 19, 2019.

* The Council instructed Dr. Chang to obtain an organizational structure chart from Dr. Richardson's office and to request representation on the search committee for Dr. Leonard's replacement. Dr. Chang will follow up with Dr. Richardson on these requests.

* The Council also discussed issues concerning the AgCenter website. It is easier and more user friendly to use a Google search than to use the AgCenter website. The Council requests an explanation on the website issues and suggests each department check their department page.

* Dr. Chang will follow up with Fred Piazza on issues and website access.

* Requests for input for Unit Head Performance Survey revisions were solicited. The more input from Council members the more effective the Survey will be.

* Claudette Reichel invited the Council to meet at LaHouse for the July 19 meeting.

Adjourn: Becky Gautreaux moved and Wenqing Xu seconded adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. Lunch was served.