

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 am, February 21, 2020
Room 212 Efferson Hall



Call to Order: Called by Sun Joseph Chang at 9:31 a.m. The January minutes were approved by Blair Hebert and seconded by Brandon Reeder as presented with minor corrections.

Members In Attendance: (19) Joseph Chang, Zhiyuan Chen, Richard Cooper, Stuart Gauthier, Becky Gautreaux, Stephen Harrison, Blair Hebert, Bin Li, Chuanlan Liu, Ken McMillin, Bradley Poussan, Ashley Powell (proxy Brandon Reeder), Gene Reagan, Brandon Reeder, Mark Schafer, Kristin Stair, Chandra Theegala, Shannan Waits, Wenqing Xu.

Members Absent (6): Kylee Brown, Hope Guidry, Bob Mirabello, Teresa Raley, Subramaniam Sathivel, Mark Wilson.

Vice President and Dean's Remarks

Dr. Richardson was in attendance. The LSU president position is going through a search. The Board of Supervisors' chair is conducting a forum to analyze opinions on a combined Chancellor/President position or having two positions to fill. The past, present, and needs will be considered. Tom Gallagan has done a great job as interim president; however, he is not interested in this position long term. There will be 4-5 new positions appointed by the governor on the Board of Supervisors in June. There is a meeting scheduled with the Commissioner with Higher Education. We are asking for a \$1.75 million increase in this coming year's budget. This money will fund our mandates, which were not possible last year. Also will ask for an increase to give employees a raise. Capital outlay and deferred maintenance assistance is coming. Dr. Richardson mentioned he would like to visit various offices around the state again this year. Oil royalty monies are helping with the necessary computer upgrades. There will also be funds to help with cyber security upgrades. The governor appointed a commissioner to help with rural connectivity. There is an increased push for online classes.

Invited Guest-

- Mike Salassi and Hamp Grunewald were the guest speaker. Dr. Salassi reported the need for a balance between basic and applied research. We need to have efficiency in programming due to the lower number of county agents. Faculty need to be encouraged to apply for grants. Non-traditional funding needs to increase. An endowment chair would be beneficial to seek funding for all stations and not just one researcher. We need to increase technology use to get more information out to more growers. It was noted, positions will be filled in a different capacity. Multi-parish ANR agents will be trained in specialized areas. The majority of our funding is from state government and not tuition which is what some legislators believe. The AgCenter will have a unified and louder voice at the capitol this spring due to the increased number of new legislators. Parish agents are asked to speak to the legislators on what we do and who we are. Self-generated funds decreased and were needed with recent budget cuts. The AgCenter will have its own table in the capitol to help educate new legislators. 4-H Day at the capitol is in May.

Business –

- The unit head performance survey has closed. Results will be sent to all faculty and staff of the various units of the Ag Center. The number of participants for each department/school or region is as follows:
 - On campus
 - Agricultural economics and Agribusiness 5/14=.36

- Animal Sciences 3/16=.19
- Biological and Ag Engineering 2/7=.29
- Experimental Statistics 6/11=.55
- Entomology 8/15=.53
- Nutrition and Food Sciences 8/24=.33
- Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology 3/11=.27
- Renewable Natural Resources 12/29=.41
- SPESS 10/29=.41
- TAM 5/9=.55

Off Campus

- Central Region 6/34=.18
- Northeast 9/38=.24
- Northwest 2/40=.05
- Southeast 16/55=.29
- Southwest 15/63=.24
- Due to the low number of participation on campus, a motion was made to resend out the evaluation until March 6th. Blair Hebert seconded the motion. Members are urged to remind their colleagues to take the survey and remind that all information is anonymous and confidential.

Announcements

- The next board of supervisors meeting is scheduled for March 6. Wennie Xu and Gene Reagan agreed to attend with Sun Jo Chang.

Discussion Items

- The council agreed to not send out comments and results from other department heads to all faculty.
- The council urged the chair to invite Hampton Grunewald and Jan Bernath to the March meeting.

Stephen Harrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m. Richard Cooper seconded it. Lunch was served.