

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 AM, April 17, 2020
TEAMS

Call to Order by Dr. Sun Joseph Chang at 9:31 a.m. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Those present included: Sun Joseph Chang, Zhiyuan Chen, Liu Chulanan, Richard Cooper, Stuart Gauthier, Becky Geautreaux, Hope Guidry, Bradley Pousson, Ashley Powell, Gene Reagan, Mark Shafer, Kristin Stair, Sathivel Subramanian, Shannon Waits, Mark Wilson, Wenqing Xu. Also joining the meeting remotely were: 8686, 8199.

The Board of Supervisors will meet on April 23, 2020. Only CoVid19 related business items will be discussed. Meetings can be viewed on You Tube. The Council will get an email about connections to the public meeting.

Some concerns about the status quo are: which year was financial assistance and housing for students going to be applied; will students be charged a penalty for early move out.

Dr. Richardson joined the TEAMS meeting and gave an update on Promotion and Tenure, Spending freeze, FY21 budget, process of reopening (health care, research programs). Senators Cassidy and Kennedy are working diligently in Washington, DC to emphasize the importance of not cutting budget for agriculture.

Dr. Richardson also emphasized the ultimate goal of reopening will be the health and safety of employees and maintaining jobs within the AgCenter. The spending freeze is state level and general funds only. Grants, contracts, federal funds, and Smith Lever programs will not be affected.

During this time of remote meetings, Dr. Richardson instructed faculty and staff to use TEAMS for virtual meetings. ZOOM does not meet user guidelines dealing with minors/youth.

Hamp Grunewald reported on the budget. Most significant effect will be 2-3 years out. The state has lost significant corporate and individual tax dollars. Higher education and health care are the first targeted in budget cuts.

Other concerns voiced included the schedule for fall classes. It was suggested that faculty and staff should be prepared for online classes for the fall. Concern for international students was expressed due to suspended travel, housing and financial burdens.

Dr. Chang requested the Council to think about what the AgCenter is known for and what kind of input the Council could have in the budget situation. Dr. Chang will obtain a copy of the current budget. Ways of supporting the budget could include reducing tuition, not renewing adjunct contracts, not paying tuition for employees, putting agents' courses on hold, and analyzing which programs could be reduced or given up, etc.

The next Faculty Council meeting is Thursday, May 21, 2020. The schedule for 2020 Faculty Council meetings are June 12, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, and November 20 unless otherwise stated.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.