

**LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting**  
**October 16, 2020**  
**TEAMS**



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

**Members In Attendance:** Those present included: Sun Joseph Chang, Zhiyuan Chen, Liu Chulanan, Becky Geautreux, Hope Guidry, Stephen Harrison, Blair Hebert, Bin Li, Ken McMillan, Gene Reagan, Teresa Raley, Brandon Reeder, Mark Schafer, Mark Wilson, Kristin Stair, Stuart Gauthier, Albert Orgeron, Richard Cooper, Subramaniam Sathivel, Bradley Pousson, Chandra Theegala. Also, in attendance Craig Woolley and Dr. Bill Richardson.

The minutes were approved as presented.

**Guest Speakers:**

Dr. Craig Woolley, CIO was introduced by Fred Piazza. Dr. Woolley discussed the IT audit. There were 72 areas of IT that were investigated. The Information Security Subcommittee was formed. This subcommittee consists of members of each institution and the AgCenter. Adam Woerner from the AgCenter is a member of the committee. An institution wide security policy (PM 36) is being finalized. There is also a subcommittee of AgCenter faculty that will increase opportunity for collaboration between campuses. Fred Piazza is a member of the AgCenter subcommittee.

Student information system will be updated. Ways to improve security and collaboration between campuses are being sought. This is the main transition left to be completed on the mainframe.

Dr. Bill Richardson discussed issues concerning the continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Spring semester is contingent upon Gov. JB Edwards' decisions. The search for the new LSU President is underway. The College of Ag has two representatives on the search committee.

There are still two AgCenter parish offices that are closed due to Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Camp Grant Walker suffered major flooding from Hurricane Delta. Restoration at Dean Lee Research Station is moving forward. The new crop report will reflect the amount of crop damage caused by the Hurricanes.

**Discussions:**

The discussion of the High Fringe Benefits Rate continued. A meeting with Hamp Grunewald, Wade Bumgardner and select Faculty Council members took place to investigate the reasons AgCenter pays more than other Universities. It was reported that the increase is due to employee Health Insurance. It was pointed out that some Boards have limits on percentages paid for fringe benefits. Hamp Grunewald will follow up with the Administration on issues presented.

The Board of Supervisors meeting will be held October 23, 2020. Faculty Council members are encouraged to attend. Discussions will include the current Presidential Search.

The election of new Faculty Council members was discussed. List of AgCenter faculty is not current and up to date. It is recommended that Human Resources works more diligently to keep this list updated.

The Faculty Council website has a new webpage. Meeting minutes and agendas will be posted. Dr. Chang has asked for feedback from the Council on the new webpage.

Damage reports from the Hurricanes were given. Prior to Hurricane Laura, cattle were evacuated, however, rice bins full of grain were destroyed, rice mills sustained large damages, and many farmers do not have content insurance or alternate storage facilities. Agents are working with Farm Services Agencies to help farmers. The timber industry was reported to have lost over \$1 billion.

Overall, the sugar cane crops and industry sustained little damage. Mills are beginning to operate again. Tonnage and sugar levels are good. Soybeans are beginning to be harvested again.

Phase 3 has been extended until at least November 6, 2020.

It was suggested that the AgCenter Awards Nominations should be issued with a timeline. Call for nominations should be issued earlier than September and should add outside letters of recommendation to the application.

An update of the Diversity Search Committee was given. The four finalists' presentations can be seen on TEAMS November 10-13, 2020.

Dr. Chang will invite Tara Smith and Luke Leborde to a future meeting to discuss the Presidential Search.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.