

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 am, June 25, 2021
212 Efferson Hall / Microsoft Teams



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

Members In Attendance: Stephen Harrison, Joseph Chang, Brandon Reeder (proxy Ashley Powell), Mark Wilson, Robert Mirabello, Vinicius Moreira, Becky Gautreaux, Mark Schafer, Stuart Gauthier, Blair Hebert, Al Orgeron, Ken McMillin, Bradley Pousson, Daniel Swale, Bei-bei Guo, Ashely Powell, Subramaniam Sathivel, Gary Stockton (proxy Mark Wilson), Nathan Lord

Members Absent: Zhiyuan Chen, Chuanlan Liu, Hope Guidry, Chandra Theegala, Kristin Stair, William Afton

Vice President and Dean's Remarks

Dr. Richardson was in attendance. He notified the council of the recent confusion on LSU campus' "Faculty Senate" and "Faculty Council" on vaccinations at the Board of Supervisors meeting. The Board asked LDH to add COVID vaccinations on campus requirements. Possibly half of the classes might be hybrid in the fall which would affect funding. The summer has been filled with scheduling conflicts and Saturday meetings for campus personnel. There will be no mandatory vaccinations for the LSU AgCenter. Classified employees will receive a market pay adjustment on their July 15th paycheck. Non-classified personnel are receiving a 2 - 3% raise on their July paychecks. The new LSU president will visit the college on July 5th and be at the July 21st Sugarcane Field Day. The College of Agriculture's Associate Dean position will be posted soon. A faculty council member requested to have retirement and milestone announcements sent as well as death announcements. Hemp process and production is thriving. Dr. Richardson will send an updated fact sheet on crop prices and yields. Solar farms are becoming more attractive and more profitable given they yield \$400 - \$500/acre whereas, soybean yield is at \$50/acre, sugarcane is \$200/acre, and cattle is \$30/acre.

Invited Guest-

- Monica Guient, discussed that diversity includes LGBTQI+, autism, gender, race, religion, and other aspects of a person. She reviewed her two year goal for the new department. She stressed the need to educate everyone and not discriminate. She commented FCS does this the best by having their clientele percentages mirror the clientele percentages of the state.

Business –

The May minutes were approved with minor corrections by Stephen Harrison and seconded by Mark Schafer.

Reports-

- Dr. Chang shared notes from the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 18th. The vote was 9 to 2 for vaccination requirements. The state legislature gave funds for the

employees to have a 2% raise. Every department has to find another percentage for the faculty to receive the full 3% raise mentioned. Under PS-29, the faculty has the right to require students to wear a mask as long as it is in the syllabus.

Discussion Items

- A council member requested for Human Resources to re-enact the Supervisory training for ALL supervisors on and off campus.
- Two council members will send over bullet points for various organizational issues that the council agreed upon.
- Return to work occurred on June 1, 2021. The chair asked if there were any outstanding issues with this.
- The council web page is upgraded. The council was asked to review it and send back recommendations if any.
- Dr. Chang was nominated to sit on the AgCenter Voice Over the Internet Protocol working group as a council representative.
- Daniel volunteered to sit on the AgCenter IT Governance Committee as the council representative.

Becky Gautreaux motioned to end the meeting. Blair Hebert seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 12:03 pm.