

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 AM, Friday November 19, 2021
Room 212 Efferson Hall



Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am.

Vice President and Dean's Remarks – Dr. Laborde reported Dr. Tate identified 5 priorities for the LSU System. Agriculture is important in most of them. We have lost half of our employees since 2008. Rural broadband, coast and environment, biomedical research, STEM, and artificial intelligence. Since Louisiana is 5th highest in cancer fatalities, there will be collaboration between Pennington, 2 medical facilities, and LSU AgCenter to combat cancer with research and nutrition. There will be a team to see what Precision Ag needs to operate and another to prioritize needs for FCS, 4-H, and Agriculture. Diversity equity is under the Title IX office. All Title IX issues need to be stop and fixed appropriately now. There is a team reviewing LSU's 4-year graduation rate at 48%, which is better than the other SEC schools). A faculty council member commented we need to measure ourselves with the nation and not just the SEC schools. LSU's 6-year graduation rate is 70%. The College of Ag's 4-year graduation rate is 74%. There is a team looking at graduate student compensation. The college is reviewing the process of recruiting undergraduates by trying to reach out to the 4-H and FFA students interested in agriculture. A council member asked if the administrative office can look into the next raise be merit and years of service based since the recently hired agents/faculty are paid similar to individuals with 15+ years. Dr. Laborde said he and Ashley Gautreaux would investigate this matter.

Business

Subramaniam Sathivel moved to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Mark Schafer seconded the motion.

Reports

- Diversity Council- Mark Schafer gave an overview of the council's history for the new members. Each College of Ag department has a champion as a highlight and guide for fellow students. To date, the council has a newsletter and a book club/ discussion session. Groups are being created to have a space to discuss issues including international ones. They want to create a council as a place to have a comfortable dialogue and freely express each other's views.
- VOIP working group- This is an effort to move wired telephones to virtual phone use. Hurricane Ida mishaps were brought to the council's attention. Areas of the bayou region are still without internet.
- IT Advisory committee – Daniel emailed his comments to Dr. Chang.
 - Is IT training acceptable or should it be enhanced for faculty members? The question is intentionally broad, but examples would

- include software training, CMS training, IT topics we do not understand, etc.
 - Dr. Laborde has requested we address potential deficits regarding IT Support in courses taught in the College of Agriculture. Would you like to see improved or additional IT support for courses and if so, what type of support would you suggest to be enhanced?
 - For what it's worth, we are revisiting the issues with lab websites that are purchased outside of AgCenter and developing a mechanism for faculty to maintain their own lab website without going through AgCenter approvals for each update.
- College Policy Committee- Dr. Richardson's CPC was created because of Dr. Haynie's recommendation. Dr. Laborde wants the committee to focus on student related issues, primarily the undergraduate students.
- Council of Faculty Advisors presentation at the Board of Supervisors October meeting
 - Start the search for the next VP and Dean, chancellors at Med Center New Orleans, and Shreveport as early as possible
 - Significant growth of the upper administration at the university with substantial salary increases disproportional to those of the faculty and staff.
 - The need for regular salary increases. The lack of which have resulted in salary compression and inversion of the faculty.

Announcements

Council election results:

School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences: Steve Harrison

Plant Pathology and Crop Science: Raj Singh

School of Renewable Natural Resources: Rich Vlosky

Assistant Professors/ Instructors: Evelyn Watts

Off Campus Full Rank: Kenneth Gravois

Off Campus Associate Rank: Sallye Dugas

Off Campus Assistant Rank: Cecilia Stevens

Discussion Items

- Given graduation week as the same as the December Faculty Council meeting, Becky Gautreaux motioned to move the meeting to online via Teams. Kristin Stair seconded the motion.
- The council was emailed the desirable qualities of the future Dean and Vice President of the AgCenter and a letter to Dr. Tate describing the qualities. After a discussion over both documents, Blair Hebert moved to table this discussion until the December meeting so that the new members have adequate time to review the list. Kristin Stair seconded the motion.

Adjourn

Becky Gautreaux motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sathivel seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 11:32 am.