

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting
9:30 AM, Friday May 27, 2022
Efferson Hall



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

Attendance William Afton, Richard Cooper, Stuart Gauthier, Becky Gautreaux, Kenneth Gravois, Steve Harrison, Chuanlan Liu, Nathan Lord, Al Orgeron, Mark Shafer, Kristin Stair, Blair Hebert, Gary Stockton, Raj Singh, Richard Vlosky

Absent Sallye Dugas, Bei Guo, Bradley Pousson, Ashley Powell, Subramaniam Sathivel, Cecilia Stevens, Daniel Swale, Chandra Theegala, Evelyn Watts

Vice President Remarks

Dr. Laborde discussed the overall LSU System Strategic Plan at the system level. The Scholarship First Initiative is only part of the overall plan. LSU is trying to get the overall system plan approved by June. The push for multi-institutional collaborations in research starts at home within the overall LSU system. A good example of this is Dr. Tate's dedicated priority of achieving a Tier 1 Cancer involving Pennington Biomedical, the two health science centers, LSU Vet School, LSU AgCenter, and College of Agriculture all having a contributing role towards that function. Dr. Laborde serves on both the Flagship Integration Committee and the Academic Working Group Committee as a part of the overall system planning project. Dr. Laborde feels comfortable that the LSU AgCenter is well represented within the committees involved in the overall plan, but there is no plan for LSU AgCenter to include faculty input on the plan. The LSU System plan will provide templates for the individual institutions within in it.

On State Legislature, Dr Laborde reiterated that the LSU AgCenter requested money for faculty raises, fund positions in Cooperative Extension Service, and to fund equipment upgrades. LSU AgCenter is up 6.3M from last year's budget. For every 1% increase in faculty raises, it costs the LSU AgCenter about \$800,000.00. LSU AgCenter has done well in direct allocations from the State Legislature but doesn't know exactly what is spendable until Board of Regents allocates the funds. LSU AgCenter doesn't know about mandated cost increases (risk management, retirement, health insurance, etc.). There are several appropriations coming out of Capital Outlay including \$50K for feral swine research, \$500K for Coastal Resiliency Program, \$4.1M for RNR building renovation, \$1.5M to finish Dean Lee Research Station Repairs, and a total of \$30M to renovate John M. Parker Coliseum. John M. Parker Coliseum will eventually house the administrative units of the LSU AgCenter. Efferson Hall, Nelson Memorial, and the 4H Mini Farm building are not on the LSU master plan.

LSU Life Sciences Building is scheduled for renovations in the next 5 years.

There is a possibility of an LSU AgCenter focused building for plant pathology, entomology, and maybe some of SPESS near the current location of Biological Ag Engineering (BAE) complex on South Stadium and Tower Rd. However, the BAE building is an A. Hays Town designed building and preservation is paramount.

It will take at least 3 weeks before all the recent funding appropriations are reviewed and allocated by the Board of Regents before the LSU AgCenter knows what can go where.

The Legislative Session ends on June 6, 2022. Afterwards Hamp Grunewald and Dr. Laborde will go to DC and discuss the federal budget process with congressional delegations and the under secretaries of Dept. of the Interior and USDA.

Laborde attended a Southern Land Grant University meeting with all of the administrative heads of experiment stations and departments from 30 different schools in the region. Everyone is dealing with the same problems: salary compression, personnel shortages, and rising input costs. LSU AgCenter is underrepresented relative to many competitor schools with regards to federal funding. LSU AgCenter is working on a huge increase in NIFA funding through the Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities program (USDA). The key for federal funding at this time is multi-institutional proposals. Partnerships with Minority Serving Institute, HBCU, or 1994 Tribal Institution.

Southern University AgCenter signed a new long-term Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperative Extension to include research and teaching. LSU AgCenter team was led by Dr. Gina Eubanks and Dr. Tara Smith. Dr. Eubanks will lead the Extension group, Dr. Rutherford will lead the teaching group, and Dr. Salassi will lead the research group. These groups will be used to identify and prioritize issues within each sector.

College of Agriculture Spring Commencement saw 247 undergraduate students, 18 MS, and 16 PhD students receive degrees. Five of the twelve "Tiger 12" were from CoA. Of those five, three were enrolled in the honors college.

East Baton Rouge Ag Magnet School is still ongoing but with graduation events has been put on the back burner. The School of Coast and Environment along with Humanities is planning to start with the 6th grade in Fall of 2022.

There are 49 current PM documents within the AgCenter. They are currently being reviewed. The most urgent PM deals with moving expenses. Currently there is \$3k cap. They are looking at changing it to 1/12th of the faculty's salary. AgCenter is trying to simplify and replace the relocation package.

Organizational Matters

1. If you can't come to a meeting, identify a proxy to sit in your place. Proxy members are added together with actual AFC members to define the quorum.

Old Business

1. Becky Gautreaux motioned to accept the March 2022 AFC meeting minutes and Steve Harrison seconded the motion. Membership voted to accept.
2. Steve Harrison made a motion to accept the April 2022 AFC Meeting minutes and Becky Gautreaux seconded the motion. Membership voted to accept the minutes.

Reports

1. Mark Schafer provided the council with a Diversity Council Update. The LSU AgCenter Diversity will be releasing a monthly newsletter to inform employees about the activities of the council. The Council is putting on a Summer Learning Series for employees: Becoming an Ally (June 30), NCBI Controversial Issues (July 28), and Navigating Unconscious Bias (August 18) are some of the topics to be covered. The Council would like to see more student involvement, particularly with student groups. Employee Affinity Groups will have Co-Leaders, one to be a member of the Council and the other to be not. Some of the current Affinity Groups include Women in Agriculture, Indigenous People's of Color, Southern-LSU Networking group, International networking group, and LGBTQ+ group.

Announcements

1. The next Board of Supervisors meeting is June 10, 2022. The next LSU AgCenter Ag Faculty Council meeting is June 17, 2022 at 9:30 AM in Efferson Hall.
2. AFC Council Chair will find two candidates from the College of Agriculture for elections in the LSU Faculty Senate. AFC Chair is waiting on a list of eligible applicants.

Discussion Items

1. Unit Head Performance Survey has a current response rate of 36% and that needs to be increased. There was concern if everyone was receiving the email to take the survey. HR can provide a list of employees, but with current turnover rate, the list changes almost daily. It was recommended to email department heads and ask for emails under their supervision to get the most accurate email list for use with the survey.
2. LSU AgCenter Program Leader Performance Evaluation. AFC Chair is going to ask Dr. Laborde how he evaluates his program leaders and report back to the Council.
3. In an effort to retain/energize Advisory Committees the Council will invite representatives of the individual service units to council meetings.

Adjourn

Rich Vlosky made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Al Orgeron seconded the motion. The May LSU AgCenter Ag Faculty Council Meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM.