

LSU Agricultural Faculty Council (LSUAC)-Meeting Notes
9:30 AM, Friday August 19, 2022
Room 212 Efferson Hall



Call to Order:

LSUAC Chair, Dr. Rich Vlosky called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM

Attendance:

In-person

William Afton, Richard Cooper (as himself and proxy for Vinicius Moreira), Stuart Gauthier, Ken Gravois, Stephen Harrison, Chuanlan Liu, Nathan Lord, Al Orgeron, Raj Singh, Subramaniam Sathivel, Evelyn Watts, and Rich Vlosky

Online

Sun Chang, Blair Hebert, Mark Schafer, Donnie Miller, Celia Stevens, Brad Pousson, and Ashley Powell

Absent

Sallye Dugas, Bei b. Guo, , Kristin Stair, Daniel Swale, and Chandra Theegala

Invited Guests:

Dr. Matt Lee-Interim Vice President of Agriculture/Dean, College of Agriculture (CoA)

Since Dr. Lee was appointed to these positions on August 1, 2022, this was his first interaction with the LSU AFC. Dr. Lee began his introduction by sharing his background and experience. No major Ag related experience however, lots of experience managing large groups. He is tenured Sociology Professor at in the School of Social Work.

LSU System Head/LSU Chancellor William Tate is handling the international search for the position. The decision on whether or not to split the position into two separate position is currently held by Dr. Lee.

School of Mass Communication and the LSU Law School both have interim deans in place.

One of Dr. Lee's first goals is to reestablish the CoA presence within the LSU system. He wants the CoA to have an equal say at the table with all other colleges and departments. He has positioned a CoA representative on the LSU President's cabinet, a significant and unique opportunity for the agriculture-based enterprise.

The LSU AgCenter brings in ~85M in funding compared to LSU who brings in ~129M in funding. Since 2008 the LSU AgCenter has been in a sense of entrenchment due to reductions in funding. Dr. Lee now sees AgCenter in a position for growth. With 85M in funding and no research director, the responsibility lies with the interim VP of Agriculture. The challenge is “Controlling resources to manage and modify change”.

Dr. Lee would like to focus on a couple of research areas (i.e., precision ag). He discussed making new hires to help establish these areas of focus. He suggested looking for industry support.

The Unit Head Survey will be used as an evaluation tool by the VP of Ag along with other common forms of evaluation.

If something isn't working, changes must be made. Dr. Lee calls himself interim VP but he will do what is needed to be done to stabilize and/or improve the agricultural enterprise as needed.

Ashley Gautreaux, LSU AgCenter HR Director

Mandatory trainings need to be completed by their appropriate due date. The new Power based Violence training must be completed by September 30. All others are due by December 31. LSU AgCenter HR has sent several emails to faculty and staff with links to these trainings. There are AgCenter versions and A&M versions to some of these trainings. For split appointment employees take the version where the majority of the appointment is designated.

PS 36 is finalized and is now live. HR is now looking at PS 1. PS 42 is also on deck for review.

There are old LCES documents on the intranet. These are obsolete and will be removed.

SPESS is hiring a Fruit and Nut Professor with pecan experience. This came as a surprise to most on the council. Ms. Gautreaux is going to look into ways to improve organizational communication on when job postings go live.

Organizational Matters:

1. Rich Vlosky has been given access to the AFC website. His RA will work to get it updated.
2. Gary Stockton is retiring, and Donnie Miller will fill his seat on AFC for the remainder of the term.

Old Business

1. Becky Gautreaux made a motion to accept the July 2022 AFC Meeting notes and Steve Harrison seconded the motion.

Reports:

1. Faculty Advisory Council Recommendations to BoS (August 2) (compiled from notes supplied by Sanjay Kamboj).
 - a. We want to thank Dr. Mandi Lopez for her leadership and service as Chair of Council of Faculty Advisors committee.
 - b. Dr. Janet Southerland is New Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at LSU Health, New Orleans and will start on October 01, 2022 (She is coming from University of Texas, Medical Branch at Galveston).
 - c. Faculty got merit raises at LSU Health New Orleans and faculty appreciate the merit raises and expect it to become annual. The faculty of other campuses who got the merit raise also appreciate it.
 - d. Salary compression and inversion is still an issue at some campuses.
 - e. Dr. Christof Stumpf has been chosen representative for statewide tenure committee by faculty senate presidents.
 - f. Faculty Council is impressed and is thankful for work by OMBUDS office.
 - g. We welcome the new PROVOST Dr. Haggerty. We hope he can meet with Faculty Council in one of our meetings.
 - h. With the start of new school year, faculty will appreciate updates on infectious disease mitigation measures.
 - i. Faculty request the need for employee tuition reduction for online classes.
 - j. LSU PM-24-The language of PM-24 (Council of Faculty Advisors) does not seem to be consistent with current structure.

Announcements:

1. LSU Faculty Senate Election results for College of Agriculture (Rich Vlosky)
2. Reminder of future AFC meeting dates
 - a. September 23, October 21, November 18, December 16
 - b. Keep Dec 16 date on calendar and adjust if needed on November 18 meeting.

Discussion items:

1. Agricultural Magnet School – East Baton Rouge Parish School District (Rich Vlosky)

New Business:

Next Meeting:

The next LSU AgCenter Ag Faculty Council Meeting will be Friday, September 23, 2022.

Adjourn:

Subramaniam Sathivel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Becky Gautreaux seconded the motion; Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 AM