

LSU Agricultural Faculty Council Meeting Notes
Friday September 23, 2022
Room 212 Efferson Hall



Call to order

LSU Ag Faculty Council Chair, Dr. Rich Vlosky, called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Attendance

In-person

William Afton, Richard Cooper (V. Moreira) Stuart Gauthier (W. Afton), Stephen Harrison, Blair Hebert (R. Vlosky), Chuanlan Liu, Nathan Lord, Donnie Miller, Mark Schafer, Subramaniam Sathivel (R. Vlosky), Raj Singh, Evelyn Watts (R. Vlosky), and Richard Vlosky.

Online

Becky Gautreaux, Ken Gravois, Bei b. Guo, Kristin Stair, Celia Stevens

Absent

Sallye Dugas, Albert Orgeron, Bradley Pousson, Ashley Powell, Daniel Swale, and Chandra Theegala

Invited Guests

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

There was a large spring graduation class earlier this year. Fall undergrad enrollment is down from last year. 369 students enrolled in Fall 2021 and >400 enrolled in Fall 2020. Other colleges are seeing increases in fall undergrad enrollment numbers, whereas CoA has decreased.

5.4% of 1st and 2nd year students in CoA drop their degree programs completely. For every 100 students let in, 15 do not show back up. To understand this observation, Dept Heads are working on a Critical Analytics Project to review the eight degree areas and corresponding complexity of curriculum. All of this in an effort to reduce complexity and increased graduation rates. CoA is also under resourced in scholarships. All of this needs improvement so that CoA can become more visible to other colleges. Decreasing enrollment means you are less significant at the BIG table.

AgCenter Updates

Dr. Lee is 54 days in as Interim VP of Agriculture. The current program leader model isn't efficient with one person running a budget of \$85M. Dr. Lee suggested establishing an associate VP and Director of Hatch Fund Projects and another associate VP and director for Smith-Lever Funds.

Dr. Lee is committed to finding extra revenue for AgCenter. His goal is to raise \$20k/day (33k/day is 1M/month). These resources will go to scholarships, professorships, endowments, international experiences for students.

2. **Ashley Gautreaux, Assistant Vice President, Human Resource Management, LSU AgCenter**
3. **Fred Piazza, CIO, LSU AgCenter**

Organizational matters

1. AFC website is being updated by Mary Bowen. All of the past meeting minutes, agendas, bylaws, and other organizational documents are available to view. AFC members should send headshot photos to rvlosky@agcenter.lsu.edu so that the team can update the member directory on the AFC website. Members are also encourage to share any comments or suggestions regarding the AFC website.
2. Elections for members rotating off at the end of 2022. Current Chair, Rich Vlosky, met with past chair, Joe Chang, to learn about the voting procedure. Donnie Miller forwarded the several old emails to Rich Vlosky to show how the ballots are prepared and how the voting was done through email.
3. Steve Harrison made a motion to retain Rich Vlosky as LSU AgCenter AFC Chair for next year. Donnie Miller seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Old business

Reports

1. Diversity Council Update (Mark Schafer)
 - a. Power-based Violence Training September 31, 2022
 - b. <https://aged.lsuagcenter.net/>
 - c. Diversity and Inclusion Champions applications will open in October
 - d. <https://www.lsu.edu/agriculture/students/champions.php>
 - e. DEI Annual Award Nominations – Call Coming Soon
 - f. [NCBI Welcoming Diversity Workshops](#) **Workshop Dates:** October 14th, November 11th, and December 9th
 - g. [DEI Tailgate](#) October 22, 2022- [Register to attend](#)
 - h. [SAVE THE DATE - A Conversation with Ted James](#) October 25, 2022 at 5:30 pm [Register here.](#)
 - i. Coming Together for Racial Understanding ([CTRU](#)) [November 3-4, 2022](#) www.lsuagcenter.edu/CTRU
 - j. [Allyship at Work](#) November 11, 2022
 - k. ASPIRE Mentors interest forms- priority deadline November 15th
 - l. www.lsuagcenter.com/ASPIRE
 - m. LSU AgCenter Diversity Mini-Grant Programs

- n. <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/administration/about-us/vice-president-dean-office/diversity-and-inclusion/programs-and-initiatives/initiatives/diversity-grant-program>
 - o. LSU AgCenter/College of Agriculture Employee Affinity Groups
 - p. <https://lsuagcenter.com/portals/administration/about-us/vice-president-dean-office/diversity-and-inclusion/programs-and-initiatives/programs/employee-affinity-groups>
 - q. Annual Conference December 12 & 13, 2022 – Planning diversity & inclusion sessions.
2. Council of Faculty Advisors Report- September 8, 2022
- a. First, the faculty wish to thank Chairperson Starnes and welcome chairperson Jones. Faculty look forward to continued outreach from the Board of Supervisors to faculty across the system.
 - b. The LSU Agricultural Center and College of Agriculture faculty welcome Dr. Matt Lee as interim VP of Agriculture and Dean of the College of Agriculture.
 - c. The faculty of LSU A&M express concerns about parking restrictions associated with sports events. While advance notice is given, faculty and staff are prevented from accessing parking. This interferes with research and teaching activities. The faculty request that faculty be given priority parking as necessary to continue their work. Notably, the LSU A&M campus has some of the highest parking fees in the SEC.
 - d. The faculty once again renew their request for a report on the investigation of system pay disparities. At last report, a commercial entity was hired to complete an investigation and results were to be available last spring. Faculty request information on the findings.
 - e. Faculty are once again requesting that the graduate student tuition remission be reconsidered. The practice of “taxing” student stipends supported by external funding is counterintuitive and questionable. That is, those who secure funding to pay graduate student stipends are compelled to pay an additional nearly 40% to our LSU. The practice is not well explained, uniformly applied, nor accountable in that there is no reporting of where the funds go. Faculty request that the practice be reconsidered and revised to support competitive graduate student stipends and our research mission. Further, those who pay the “tax” want individual statements that include totals of their payments and annual reports of the cumulative funds and their distribution.
 - f. LSU Health New Orleans 15 faculty and 15 staff members will receive a Chancellor’s excellence award at a townhall meeting on September 21st.

Announcements

- 1. Reminder: Future Agricultural Faculty Meeting Dates for the year 2022
 - a. October 21
 - b. November 18
 - c. December 16

Discussion items

New business

Search Committee for permanent Vice President of Agriculture/Dean, College of Agriculture

Next meeting

The next LSU AgCenter AFC meeting will take place on Friday, October 21, 2022 at 9:30 AM.

Adjourn

William Afton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 AM. Chuanlan Liu seconded the motion. All voted in favor.