

LSU Agricultural Faculty Council-Meeting Minutes

9:30 AM, Friday October 21, 2022

Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order

LSU Ag Faculty Council Chair, Dr. Rich Vlosky, called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.

Attendance

In-person (Proxies in Parentheses)

Richard Cooper (V. Moreira), Nathan Lord (R. Vlosky), Raj Singh (S. Harrison), Becky Gautreaux, William Afton (R. Vlosky), Kenneth Gravois, Sun Joseph Chang, Donnie Miller, Richard Vlosky, Evelyn Watts, Subramaniam Sathivel, Albert Orgeron.

Online

Kristin Stair, Bradley Pousson, Bei B Guo, Blair Hebert, Stuart Gautier, Celia Stevens.

Absent

Sallye Dugas, Ashley Powell, Gary Stockton, Daniel Swale, Chandra Theegala.

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

Dr. Lee informed the council that a meeting will take place on Monday, October 24, 2022, with both the Louisiana Senate and House Agriculture Committees and LSU agriculture leadership. The focus will be funding issues, research initiatives, and improved mechanisms for LSU to communicate needs and accomplishments to the legislature. This effort was a result of a joint resolution adopted by the LSU AgCenter, the Southern University AgCenter, and the LSU Vet school, all of which will report primarily research activities and associated needs and support.

On Friday, October 28, Dr. Lee will present a “State of the LSU Agricultural Enterprise” address via Zoom to key stakeholders, both internal and external. He has been in his current position for 90 days and felt it was a good time to get everyone up to speed.

The Council received a preview of some of the topics he will be addressing. First, he will re-establish the pre-Vice President of Agriculture/Dean, CoA organizational structure with separate directors for Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (extension) and the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station (research).

In addition, we are opening 12 new extension positions across the state and disciplines.

\$500,000 will be allocated to the research seed-grant program to help faculty members pursue federal funding.

In one comparative funding example, Texas A&M received \$65 million for a Smart Communities grant. We have to invest in our faculty like Texas A&M does in order to make similar impacts on Louisiana communities.

Recently, LSU President Tate traveled to Pointe Coupe Parish to tour a sugar mill and ride on a combine. He also traveled to the coast, spoke with SeaGrant researchers, and toured an oyster hatchery. This increased engagement with the LSU agricultural industrial sector will lead to relationships which lead to funding opportunities.

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting is later today. 4-H members are speaking at that meeting about their experiences and personal growth due to participation in 4-H. The BOS toured the LSU AgCenter food incubator last night, allowing them to get a first-hand look at one facet of LSU AgCenter expertise and tangible impacts on society.

LSU agricultural leadership and key stakeholders have visited US universities that also have significant agriculture enterprises. The purpose of these visits are multi-faceted including identifying best practices, keys to success, and organizational structures. For example, the LSU AgCenter plans to model agriculture enterprise components that are currently deployed at North Carolina State University and the University of Georgia. An example is ways of incorporating business and industry presence and interaction on campus by increasing student involvement.

Dr. Lee briefly discussed issues with International Programs which only has 29 students. He will gather additional information to share with the Council at our next meeting on November 18th. The Council continues to be interested in understanding the AgCenter's Global Network Program. Wade Baumgartner, AgCenter Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, is tasked with liaising with the Council to provide information, answer questions and solicit input specific to international initiatives, organizational structure, funding, etc.

Dr. Lee discussed graduate student issues such as increasing stipends, tuition costs, fees, and competitiveness of faculty in recruiting quality grad students. Dr. Lee is looking at a zero-based budget approach (reallocation as opposed to budget increases) given the fluctuation of student numbers. His goal is to re-allocate budgets and priorities given these fluctuations. He is working with Dr. Rutherford on an increased budget commensurate with increases in grad student enrollment. Those budget request are due January 20th. Allocations will align with the LSU strategic plan. Mandated 9-month stipends for teaching and research graduate assistantships are increasing. Dr. Lee is working on fencing off money to prepare for when the increase is in effect.

LSU leadership will be asking the legislature in its next session to fund a new Ag Innovation Building. Success Factors in having such a facility include collaboration with peers intra-

departmentally and the ability to deliver rapid and immediate value at the local, state, region, national and international levels.

2. Ashley Gautreaux, Assistant Vice President, Human Resource Management, LSU AgCenter

Ashley Gautreaux is updated PS-1. Invitations for P&T committees are coming in the next two weeks. PS-42 revisions will come to the council for review when it's complete.

Organizational matters

Ag Faculty Council New Member Election Update (New Members to Serve (2023-2025))

Old Business

Stephen Harrison made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2022 meeting and seconded by Donnie Miller.

Reports

Diversity Council Update (Mark Schafer)

Announcements

Discussion items

New business

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

Next meeting

Next Council meeting is Friday, November 18th at 9:30am.

The last Agricultural Faculty Council Meeting Date for 2022 is MONDAY, December 12 at 8:30am. We will meet for no more than an hour to welcome newly elected members, laud outgoing members, and wish each other a Happy Holiday, Peace on Earth, and Goodwill for the New Year.

Adjourn

Stephen Harrison made a motion to adjourn; Al Orgeron seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 12:04 pm.