

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-Agenda
9:30 AM, Friday November 18, 2022
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order

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

Attendance *proxies are in parenthesis.

In-person

Will Afton, Stuart Gauthier, Becky Gautreaux, Blair Hebert, Chuanlan Liu, Subramaniam Sathivel (Rich Vlosky), Kristin Stair (Becky Gautreaux), and Rich Vlosky

Remotely

Bei B. Guo, Al Orgeron, Brad Pousson, Raj Singh, Kristin Stair, and Cecilia Stevens

Absent

Richard Cooper, Mark Schafer, Chandra Theegala, Daniel Swale, Ashley Powell, Nathan Lord, Gary Stockton (Donnie Miller*), Steve Harrison, Sallye Dugas, Evelyn Watts, Ken Gravois, Sun Joseph Chang

*Donnie Miller is filling in for Gary Stockton's remaining term.

Dr. Matt Lee, Interim Vice President of Agriculture/Dean, College of Agriculture

1. Administrative Update
2. Global Network or International Programs

Dr Matt Lee met with the Joint Agriculture Legislative Committee last week. The legislators were appreciative to receive LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture updates. The committee vowed to support both entities going forward. Overall, the meeting was very positive.

On November 4, 2022, Dr Lee gave a statewide address where he laid out some of the suggested changes in LSU AgCenter administration. Specifically, the LSU AgCenter is looking for applicants to fill Acting Director of Extension (Louisiana Agricultural Extension Service) and Acting Director of Research (Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station) positions. These applicants will be reviewed over the next few weeks so that acting directors can be put in place. Dr. Lee mentioned that he has received positive feedback on reestablishing these two positions. Dr. Lee thinks that the acting directors will be selected and announced before the start of Annual Conference on December 12, 2022, but they will be formerly introduced at the event.

The Collaborative Research Grant Program (CRGP) is open and ready to provide LSU College of Agriculture and LSU AgCenter faculty members the opportunity and incentive to leverage current strengths to better compete for large scale federal grants. There is \$500K set aside to help provide funding for multi-department research teams so that they can compete for larger federal grant opportunities. The average size grant is expected to be \$50K. Dr. Lee and Team are looking to fund at least 10 proposals but would like to see 15-20 proposals. The Principal Investigator must be a full-time, tenure-track faculty in the LSU AgCenter or LSU College of Ag. The guidelines for CRGP can be found online at <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/administration/about-us/vice-president-dean-office/collaborative-research-grant-program>.

Once the Director of the Experiment Station position is in place, part of the job responsibility will be to develop a mechanism to monitor new federal multi-departmental grant opportunities to share them with faculty.

January 20, 2023, the LSU Provost will start holding budget hearings. Dr Lee will be looking at previous budgets for each academic department and come up with a budget request based on the current number. Within the CoA and AgCenter complex, most of the funding effort comes from the AgCenter funding research and extension appointments. For any employee in the complex, the AgCenter funds the research and extension appointments, demonstrating the cooperative nature between the AgCenter and CoA. Not all employees have both AgCenter (Research, Extension) and CoA (Teaching) appointments. There is no plan to add a small research or extension appointment to CoA faculty. There are too many downstream effects that haven't been reviewed and discussed to make a decision like that.

Dr. Lee has a positive outlook on the upcoming legislative session. Every legislator that Dr. Lee has met with so far has been very supportive of agriculture in the state. Speaker Schexnayder is a strong advocate for the AgCenter and agriculture in the state. Senator Allain made the trip to NC State and is a huge advocate for agriculture. Key feature of the next session is that the AgCenter has a set of "asks" that are aligned with the pentagon priorities (scholarship first initiative), which has been very well received by Legislature. There is expected to be a good bit of one-time money. AgCenter has a lot of needs because it is infrastructure-intensive (800+ buildings). Dr. Lee and Team are working to identify and prioritize these needs based on ROI relative to the mission. Research facilities need upgrades and that aligns well with the Pentagon priorities. The big "ask" for this session is a new Ag Innovation Building. A development campaign will be initiated soon once the Fierce for the Future campaign has concluded. Dr. Lee has been meeting with the LSU Foundation Team to discuss how to start selling the new Ag Innovation building project. Dr. Lee has told legislators that we appreciate the partnership and that we will be leaning on you at times, but we are asking for funding from industry partners as well.

LSU AgCenter Annual Conference will take place on December 12-13, 2022, in Baton Rouge, LA. All employees of AgCenter and CoA are encouraged to attend. Dr. Lee would like all employees to make their own decision on attendance, hoping that the experience and engagement will make the employee want to come.

Dr. Tate and the AgCenter Team visited three other universities to learn about how agriculture research, education, and extension work are administered at LSU. UGA, UKY, NC State were the three universities that were visited. A reciprocal visit is planned for these universities to visit LSU AgCenter. At UGA, their ag enterprise is seamlessly integrated into their engineering work allowing them to do high level work that couldn't be done separately. At UKY, the Ag program works in a similar integrated relationship but with health researchers. Dr. Lee and Team want LSU to start looking at the Ag program working with other departments on campus to start getting those big federal grants. NC State works seamlessly with industry. LSU has 3-5 businesses or industries that are present on campus. NC State has 72. These businesses and industries can fund scholarships for students, develop employee socialization programs, and work on ways to see how corporate strengths align with the AgCenter.

A few departments in the CoA still have interim external chairs and Dr. Lee is trying to speed up the process to fill these positions. Dr. Lee's 10-year analysis on the college freshmen enrollment in CoA has shown an increase in class size by 25%, the diversity of class has gone from 12% to 33% of the freshmen class, the 4-year graduation rate has increased an overall 9 percentage point which is current 7.5% higher than the university average. Ag is getting it done.

Great universities are going to be global universities. LSU A&M has International Programs with Samba Dieng as the Senior Internationalization Officer and Executive Director. They do not focus on recruiting students. They facilitate faculty work with international components and study abroad programs.

AgCenter has Global Network to facilitate assisting faculty students, and staff with enhanced international opportunities. Dr. Lee will assist in getting Wade Baumgartner to address Global Network at the Council's December meeting.

Dr. Fred Piazza, Chief Information Officer | LSU AgCenter

1. IT Updates & Organizational Chart (*Attached at End of Agenda*)

Organizational Matters

1. AFC Website is Live-build-out & content updates continue—Content Ideas? Send to me (Rich Vlosky)

<https://faculty.lsu.edu/ag-faculty-council/>

Rich is working with a Research Associate to update the AFC website. The website will be used as a repository for ad hoc reports, approved meeting minutes, and various other meeting documents to be archived. Will Afton suggested including a section on the history and mission statement of the council to help promote council membership to current faculty.

Old Business

Becky Gautreaux made a motion to accept the November 21, 2022, meeting notes and Chuanlan Liu seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Reports

Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives and Updates (Mark Schafer)

Two events--both led by the Education Subcommittee of the Council for Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Change—were quite successful in that attendance was strong at both and (in my opinion) both provided useful information.

1. As part of a longer series they are calling Conversations on Change, the Program Leaders met in Efferson to discuss their perceptions of the major diversity issues they are seeing in their program areas. Dr. Salassi, Dr. Eubanks, and Dr. Lepley responded to a series of questions that were submitted in advance by participants.
2. Last week, all the members of the Education Subcommittee—Xavier Bell, Dr. Tara Smith, and Dr. Xi Zhang—led a training/workshop entitled Allyship at Work. It was also well attended and (I thought) useful. I enjoyed it. This subcommittee has plans to bring more people into their Conversations on Change series to learn more about various diversity related issues that our colleagues in different parts of the AgCenter and College are experiencing or consider important. I believe they also plan to repeat the Allyship at Work training next year.

Diversity & Inclusion will be integrated into the annual meeting this year in several sessions. In addition, there are specific sessions focused on DEI issues (for example, how to write (or evaluation) a strong diversity and inclusions statement. Also, there will be an evening social event on the first night, after the reception—a diversity bike social. Look for information on that. The Southern/LSU networking Employee Affinity Group will be launched at the annual meeting, and the BIPOC Employee Affinity Group is also planning a social event of some kind around the meeting.

All are invited and all are welcome to participate in all of the annual meeting events and I encourage Ag Faculty Council members to consider attending some and/or encouraging your teams to think about attending one or more diversity-themed annual meeting event.

Announcements

The last Agricultural Faculty Council Meeting Date for 2022 is **MONDAY**, December 12 at 8:30am. *before Annual Conference starts in the afternoon. Please make every effort to attend!*

1. Wade Baumgartner, Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives at **LSU AgCenter (Including Global Network)** will speak to us at this meeting.
2. We will meet to welcome newly elected members, laud outgoing members, and wish each other a Happy Holiday, Peace on Earth, and Goodwill for the New Year.

Discussion Items

Election of New Council Members-Status Report (Rich Vlosky) 😞

- Elections were initiated at the end of October
- Rich received a list of all current employees from LSU AgCenter HR and sent out requests for membership vacancy nominations.
- An error occurred as all the agcenter.lsu.edu emails went through but none of the @lsu.edu emails.
- Due to only 1/3 of eligible applicants receiving notices, the election process has been postponed.
- Becky Gautreaux is going to help Rich with finding the right address book listservs to utilize.

New Business

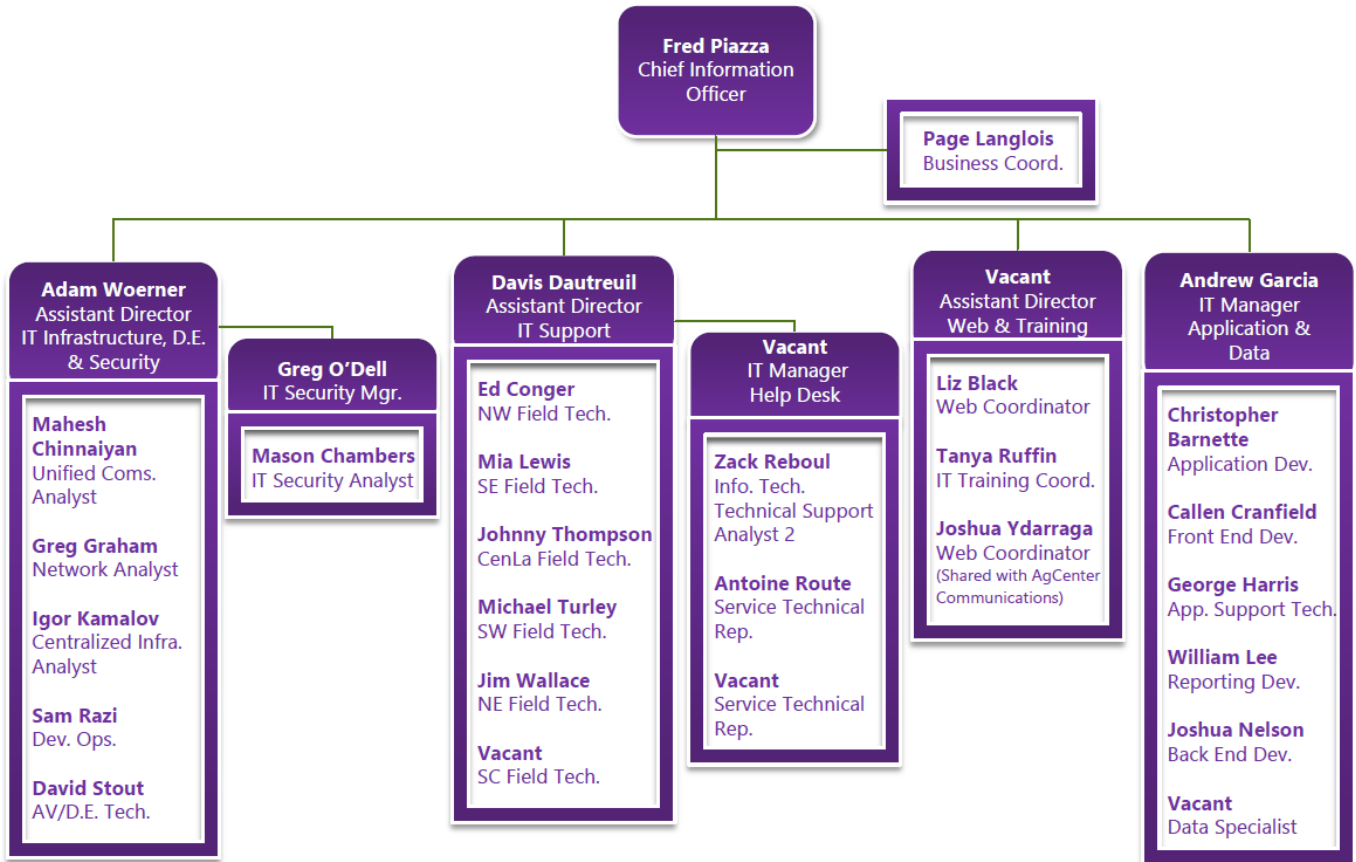
Adjourn

Becky Gautreaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM. Blair Hebert seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

LSU Agricultural Faculty Council - Meeting - 11/18/22

Dr. Fred Piazza, Chief Information Officer | LSU AgCenter-IT Updates & Organizational Chart

1. **Update on CMS Development** – In January we will kick-off an initiative to upgrade our existing CMS to the newest version. This upgrade is not a simple task and will likely take up to a year to complete. Once done, we expect some stability issues to be corrected, as well as an easier user interface for employees to use to post and maintain web content. **No update**
2. **AgCenter transition to a TEAMS phone system** – We are continuing to work with BR Campus on this. Over the course of the upcoming year, we will be migrating campus-based units to the new system. Each unit will be notified in advance of the migration. Training will be offered as needed. **Some additional testing has been done. We converted a small batch of campus numbers (numbers beginning with 225-578-XXXX) to MS Teams based numbers successfully. There were a few small issues we are working with BR Campus to correct before proceeding with further conversions.**
3. **Intranet utility for internal customers** – This is still on the wish list, but there is no timeline for completion. **No update**
4. **Security** – We are continuing to draft policies and procedures to bring us in compliance with LSU PM-36. **A new draft of PS-32 was written and was given to administration for review. We are hoping this draft will be approved and put in place before the end of December.**
5. **Purchasing** – We are developing a list of common IT-related items that will be pre-approved for purchase without additional IT approval. These items will include things such as keyboards, mice, monitors, removable storage devices, cables, webcams, microphones, etc. We hope to have this list online before the end of the year. **No update, but we are getting close to completion.**



Revised 11/8/2022