

**LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-Meeting Minutes**  
**9:30 AM, Friday July 14, 2023**  
**Room 212, J. Efferson Hall**



**Call to Order**

Rich Vlosky, LSU Agricultural Faculty Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

**Attendance** \*proxies are in parentheses.

*In-person*

William Afton, Carol Friedland, Ken Gravois, Steve Harrison (Donnie Miller), Donnie Miller, Maddox Miller (William Afton), Vinicius Moreira, Sathivel Subramaniam, Sara Shields, Raj Singh, Kristin Stair, Rich Vlosky, and Evelyn Watts (Rich Vlosky).

*Online*

Andre Brock, Sun Joe Chang, Bruce Garner, Bei B Guo, Kerry Heafner, and Cecilia Stevens.

Absent

Chris Dunaway, Claudia Husseneder, Nathan Lord, and Mark Schafer

**Invited Guests**

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

1. Administrative/Legislative Update

On July 21, the LSU AgCenter will host an Organizational Update from the Hammond Research Station.

Dr. Lee thought the LSU AgCenter had an excellent legislative session. There was tremendous support from the Joint Ag Committee and both House and Senate Finance Committees. Some of this recent success is possible because of Dr. Tate's Scholarship First Agenda that includes agriculture as one of the five major priority areas.

2. LSU System/AgCenter Budget Clarification

- a. What is the incremental increase to the AgCenter budget for 2023-2024 relative to 2022-2023?

An annual budget increase just under 5% paid for faculty raises. A goal moving forward is to increase the annual budget each year and add 2-3 faculty lines each year.

- b. Is it accurate that \$11 million was provided by the legislature in addition to the legislative "ask"? Yes, and it is a one-time funding situation for experiment station upgrades. Mike Salassi is handling this. He will ask each research station for a wish list of 1-3 items to use in disseminating the funds.

- c. What is the priority plan for dispersal of any incremental funds? Will it be faculty driven, unit driven, commodity group driven, ROI driven etc.

Dr. Salassi, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station Director will use the existing experiment station framework. See previous response.

- d. What is a continuing authorization for the two building renovations listed?

There are additional Capital Overlay funds all over the place. Dean Lee Research Station (tornado damage) and Renewable Natural Resource Bldg. (roof) are the projects in question. One will be covered with Deferred Maintenance Funds. Some of the funds will be delivered this fiscal year and some are guaranteed for next year (\$5M is guaranteed. 2.5M now and 2.5M next year). Construction projects now require all materials to be ordered and delivered prior to the start of the project. There is a long-term commitment with the state for an Ag Innovations Bldg.

Parker Coliseum intentions

- Move in public labs like soil testing and plant analysis lab, Caligari Environmental Lab, and Plant diagnostic labs.
- Controlled environment to add heat/cooling.
- Executive Offices upstairs
- An iconic landmark for Louisiana Agriculture.

- e. Overall, budget breakdown and clarification for the information contained in President Tate's AgCenter funding notification?

### 3. Organizational Structure

- a. Thoughts on the administrative structure going forward in terms of regions and their directors. Will the organization continue with this model long-term?  
No planned changes to the Regional Director Model. However, a meeting with Academic Department Heads, and Regional Directors is scheduled to determine hierarchy procedure.
- b. Will faculty with research appointments in the field continue to report to the RD or will they eventually be made to report to the Dean of COA or their discipline department head on campus?  
Everything will be as is.

### 4. Global Network

- a. Shuttered?
- b. Are there plans for an AgCenter international support function for faculty?

Global Network is being resized. The structure, finance, and process should be owned by faculty. Existing relationships with universities will try to be sustained. Student based international programs should be done through LSU A&M International Programs.

### 5. Unit Head Performance Review Instrument

The document is finished and ready for review.

LSU AgCenter needs more faculty on the review committees for USDA NIFA Grant Applications. We need more engagement on a federal level to get more federal money. People who participate in reviews are typically more successful.

### **Appropriate Person to Respond?**

Dr. Lee said he is not the person to respond to these question and that they should be discussed with unit heads.

1. Competitive Funding Proposal Issues
  - a. Often, federal agencies and review panels cannot conceptualize trying to run a program without longer term institutional support.
  - b. At what point can faculty members tell the AgCenter that it is not reasonable to manage large numbers of people without additional permanent hard-money support?
  - c. Actual federal not-funded grant proposal review comments:
    - i. Extension associate is too expensive.
  - d. It seems like this capacity is already available at the institution. Not enough justification is provided for why this individual needs to be hired.
  - e. Why is an extension associate needed in the project? This item accounts for a large share of the budget.
  - f. It is unclear how the program will sustain itself beyond the single year of funding. Will Louisiana Extension carry the program forward once established?  
**This is a major concern.**  
[the review had this bolded].

**Dr. Mike Salassi**, Executive Associate VP and Director for the La. Agricultural Experiment Station

1. Update on research station equipment and external funding.

Andy Shade was brought in to help with research funding opportunities. The position is to support faculty with learning about new grant opportunities, help with grant language, and other similar ways to help faculty increase grant funding. Lindsay Reed is taking over Hatch Act reporting. Faculty with greater than 20% research appointment need an active hatch project on file.

The Grant Proposal Routing Form has been updated to include research priority areas as a way to focus and publicize the projects.

State Legislature set aside \$11M for LSU AgCenter Research Station Upgrades. Each research station has been asked to produce a list of needs. Each station will get something funded.

Board of Reagents offers funding opportunities such as the Research Competitiveness Grant . The Request for Proposal was published on July 6. The deadline for a notice of intent is September 11 and the deadline for the proposal is November 7, 2023.

Louisiana Soybean & Feed grain Board funding is available. The annual contract is from April 1 through March 31. There are 90 days to close out the account after the end of the project (3/31). Emails will be sent out in September for the 2022/23 contract (4/1/22-3/31/23) to remind researchers that all funds must be spent.

There are several AgCenter Field Days scheduled in the third week of July. The Sugarcane Field Day is 7/19, Central Region Field Tour is 7/20, and the Horticulture Field Day is 7/21.

**Dr. Tara Smith**, Executive Associate VP and Director for the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

Dr. Smith is now domiciled outside of Baton Rouge and will work out of Efferson Hall.

Dr. Smith is part of the Extension Administration Group with Dr. Gina Eubanks and Dr. Toby Lepley. The group will be creating broad requirements for each extension agent (4-H, ANR, and FCS) to follow. They are also looking to revitalize the advisory meeting process for agents.

\$40k was secured to fund an Ag Internship Program this summer. The internship program could possibly be a pipeline for future faculty.

Daniel Stephenson has verbally agreed to accept the Central Region Director position.

The Southwest Region Director position closes July 31. Interviews will be scheduled afterwards.

**Hampton Grunewald**, Associate Vice President of Administration

There is preliminary approval for a Research Center for Invasive Species. \$30M was earmarked for this concept in 2018. Another \$30M is expected in the next farm bill. The research would be focused on studying species before they become a problem, prevention versus reactionary. Mike Salassi, Ashley Mullins, and Rodriguez Diaz are involved with this project.

**Ashley Gautreaux**, Assistant Vice President; Department, Human Resource Management

1. Policy project update

PS-47 is now published and available online.

PS-51 (LCES Policy) update will be effective on August 1, but will not be highly publicized.

PS-52 deals with ensuring that extension services can provide information in different languages. In Louisiana, English is the dominant language spoken. Spanish is second, Vietnamese is third, and French is fourth. Event registrations, waivers, forms, and other related materials will need to include a question asking if the person is proficient in

English. Check out <http://www.LAP.gov> for information to help faculty with folks who do not speak fluent English.

A draft is available for updated PS-42 (Promotion and Tenure) document. The maximum time spent as an assistant agent is defined as 7 years. Also, an appendix C (three-year appointment review) will be added. The structure for appendix c comes from LSU A&M's PS-36T.

**Dr. Fred Piazza**, Chief Information Officer, LSU AgCenter

1. "Pain-Point" Committee-LSU AgCenter IT and LSU A&M ITS collaboration for jointly appointed faculty members. Committee Members:

Faculty:

- Chang, Sun J [SChang@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:SChang@agcenter.lsu.edu) (Renewable Natural Resources)
- Fannin, J. Matthew "Matt" [MFannin@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:MFannin@agcenter.lsu.edu) (Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness)
- Hoffseth, Kevin [KHoffseth@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:KHoffseth@agcenter.lsu.edu) (Biological and Agricultural Engineering)
- Husseneder, Claudia [CHusseneder@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:CHusseneder@agcenter.lsu.edu) (Entomology)
- Lord, Nathan [NLord@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:NLord@agcenter.lsu.edu) (Entomology)
- Moreira (more-air-ah), Vinicius R. [VMoreira@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:VMoreira@agcenter.lsu.edu) (Animal Sciences)
- Sathivel, Subramaniam [SSathivel@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:SSathivel@agcenter.lsu.edu) (Nutrition and Food Science)
- Schafer, Mark J. [MSchafer@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:MSchafer@agcenter.lsu.edu) (Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness)

LSU ITS:

- Jain, Sumit [sjain@lsu.edu](mailto:sjain@lsu.edu)
- Woolley, Craig [cwoolley@lsu.edu](mailto:cwoolley@lsu.edu)

LSU AgCenter IT:

- Dautreuil, Davis P. [DDautreuil@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:DDautreuil@agcenter.lsu.edu)
- Garcia, Andrew [AGarcia@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:AGarcia@agcenter.lsu.edu);
- Woerner, Adam [AWoerner@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:AWoerner@agcenter.lsu.edu)
- Piazza, Fred [fpiazza@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:fpiazza@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Issue 1 | LSU Broadcast Emails:

- LSU Broadcast emails (from offices such as the President, Provost, etc.) are not automatically sent to all joint employees, so these messages are not always received by the intended recipient.
- Actions:
  - Hampton Grunewald organized a meeting with LSU A&M Strategic Communications to discuss ways to improve the process of delivering broadcast emails managed by their unit. These conversations are ongoing.
  - Similar meetings will be held for other LSU A&M groups that send broadcast emails including Academic Affairs, Accounting Services, etc.

#### Issue 2 | Multiple IDs & Passwords:

- Having multiple IDs and passwords (one for each campus) causes confusion and additional burdens.
- Actions:
  - o An LSU System-wide initiative is currently underway that would enable each campus to use their IDs and passwords to access services at other campuses thus potentially eliminating the need for multiple user IDs and passwords. This is a multi-year initiative.

#### Issue 3 | IT Support Routing:

- IT-related problems and/or support tickets are not seamlessly routed to the correct IT shop and/or individuals (LSU ITS vs AgCenter IT) resulting in confusion and inefficiencies.
- Actions:
  - o AgCenter IT and LSU ITS are in the process of investigating ways to seamlessly pass IT support issues between campuses to reduce confusion and hassle.

#### Issue 4 | Access to LSU IT Resources:

- Faculty and staff who serve functions for LSU A&M do not have the full set of LSU IT resources available by default (Box, Zoom, etc.)
- Actions:
  - o LSU ITS is reassessing the process for determining access to these resources.

#### Issue 5 | Inconsistent Policies between Campuses:

- Policies and procedures vary between the campuses causing confusion.
- Actions:
  - o Time did not permit a discussion of this topic item; however, all campuses of the LSU System are rewriting campus-level security policies to comply with LSU PM-36. There is hope that these policies will be similar at each campus.

### **Organizational Matters**

1. Reminder-Council “**Monthly Moments**” Goes to ALL AgCenter and ALL CoA after each meeting. This email includes the previous months minutes and any other documents provided during a council meeting.

### **Old Business**

1. Motion to accept the minutes from the June 16, 2023 LSU AFC meeting. Vinicius Moreira made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes. Kristin Stair seconded the motioned. All voted in favor.

### **New Business**

Last year the elections for LSU Ag Faculty Council were a mess because of all of the issues between LSU AgCenter and LSU A&M email accounts. Email notices about elections will start in September this time around.

## **Remaining 2023 Meeting Dates**

January 20  
February 17  
March 17  
~~April 21~~ (Cancelled)  
May 26

~~June 16~~  
~~July 14~~  
August 18  
September 15  
October 20

November 17  
December 13 8:30 a.m.-  
10:00 a.m. (Current and  
New Members)

## **Adjourn**

Sara Shields made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:36 PM. Sathivel Subramaniam seconded the motion. All voted in favor and meeting adjourned.