

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-Meeting Minutes
9:30 AM, Friday August 18, 2023
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order

Rich Vlosky, LSU Agricultural Faculty Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Attendance *proxies are in parentheses.

In-person

William Afton, Andre Brock, Sun Joe Chang, Chris Dunaway, Carol Friedland, Ken Gravois, Steve Harrison, Claudia Husseneder, Michael Mamp (Rich Vlosky), Donnie Miller, Maddox Miller, Vinicius Moreira, Sathivel Subramaniam, Mark Schafer, Sara Shields, Raj Singh, Kristin Stair (Vinicius Moreira), Celia Stevens (Donnie Miller), Rich Vlosky, and Evelyn Watts (Rich Vlosky).

Online

Bruce Garner, Kerry Heafner, and Nathan Lord, Bei B Guo

Absent

Invited Guests

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

1. Administrative/Legislative Update

Enrollment for the Fall 2023 semester is looking good. In CoA, enrollment has been going up 25% in the last 4-5 years. Average freshmen enrollment for LSU A&M is around 7,200. 2023 has been a strong year for the LSU AgCenter so far. The animal science discipline is loaded with pre-vet students. Textiles has good enrollment numbers despite limited resources. Renewable Natural Resources is strong but has room to grow. Agronomy has room to grow and could use help from industry leaders. The Food Science department has room to grow. School of Plant Environmental and Soil Sciences is at the core of agriculture and could do more to give back to the community. An organizational update announcement was held on July 21 where Dr Lee praised the monumental fundraising efforts that have been conducted recently. \$4.5M has been raised this year and Dr. Lee wants to raise \$10M every year in the future.

2. Global Network Update

GN still exists but it has been downsized and staffing changes have been made. Funding for GN was being funded with restricted funds, justifying the reconstruction. The LSU AgCenter will continue to support faculty with international programs as they need it.

3. Unit Head Performance Review Instrument (UHPRI)

Some of the questions from the original AFC Unit Head Performance Survey were used in producing a modified survey. The UHPRI was sent out to the council earlier this morning. Deadline for feedback is Friday, 8/25. Dr. Lee would like to see this survey administered towards the end of May/first of June in the future. When asked about how administration assesses a review of unit and department heads, he responded that questions are posed to address what has the unit head been doing over the last year and how has the unit head grown research programs.

4. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Activities-Structure

There is a DEI council in place. LSU AgCenter and CoA are waiting for the first couple of weeks of school to go by before debriefing. CoA has a diverse student body. Now they are looking at diversity in the faculty ranks. CoA students have a couple of avenues for assistance and guidance when it comes to inclusionary support organizations. Tigers for Cultivating Change and the Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Related Sciences both have active chapters that operate for students within the CoA.

5. Questions:

- a. Is Agriculture the only Pentagon Priority for which President Tate is touring other University programs around the nation for comparison to LSU?
 - i. If not, just curious as to why would Agriculture be singled out when Dr. Lee has mentioned that in comparison to other departments/areas on campus, the AgCenter/College of Agriculture are among the leaders or are leaders in terms of research metrics and extension outreach?

Dr. Tate is using the history and status of LSU A&M to brag about the university and keep it relevant. The takeaway from the UGA visit was that their ag programs were seamlessly intertwined with the engineering department. UK integrated ag with life sciences, nutrition, and metabolism. NC State were experts at working/connecting with industry and they also have a large USDA presence on campus. Seventy-two industry connections form NC State and only 3 for LSU! The latest trip was to Wisconsin and the big take away there was that extension is completely separated from the college. They are also experienced with digital and precision ag work. The future of agriculture is in public/private partnerships. Clay Harris, the Assistant Vice President of LSU Athletics has mentioned that there are sponsors out there who want to do more than just advertise at football games.

Dr. Mike Salassi, Executive Associate VP and Director for the La. Agricultural Experiment Station
(Notes Provided)

1. Legislative Funding for Research Station Equipment: \$11 million – working to allocate funds to research stations and process equipment orders.
2. LAES Faculty Positions:
 - a. Animal Scientist – Dean Lee – Dr. Marcelo Vedovatto – started July 2023
 - b. Animal Scientist – Hill Farm – Dr. Matheus Ferreira – will start Oct-Dec, 2023
 - a. Central Regional Director – Dr. Daniel Stevenson – started Aug 1 2023
 - b. Sugarcane Pathologist – Dr. Andre Gama – started Aug 1 2023

c. Weed scientist (SPESS) – Dr. Prashant Jha – will start Sept 2023

3. LAES Events:

- a. Thursday, Aug. 31 – Sweet Potato Field Day, Black Gold Farms, Delhi, LA
- b. Thursday, Sept. 14 – Central Region Beef & Forage Field Day, Dean Lee Station
- c. Thursday, Sept. 21 – Northeast Region Beef & Forage Field Day

Dr. Tara Smith, Executive Associate VP and Director for the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (notes provided via email)

- The extension internship program is wrapping up in the next couple of weeks. A symposium was held last week, featuring presentations from the six interns, detailing their experiences this summer. Interns were placed in 5 parishes across the state and worked across all extension programs (4-H, ANR and FCS). The program was well received in its inaugural year and our hope is to grow the footprint in the future. The overarching goal is to build a pipeline of potential – future extension professionals.
- 4-H programming for the 2023 fiscal year ended on an extremely positive note. We touched over 90,000 youth through traditional clubs and enrichment and were engaged with over 10,000 volunteers.
- 4-H Shooting sports are national champions 3 out of the last 4 years.
- We (4-H) Brian Gautreaux (PI) are the recipients of a \$750k grant focused on Ag Career Exploration that will focus on drone education and ag awareness.
- We (4-H) Claire Zak (PI) are the recipients of the CYFAR grant - \$640k that is focused on serving youth in urban communities around the state.
- This fall Louisiana 4-H and FFA are partnering with Sunshine Quality Solutions to offer a 4-H and FFA Leadership Career Academy. Youth will be placed at 17 dealerships as sophomore and juniors in high school, and will learn mechanics, sales, finance, precision agriculture and customer service. Again, this program is expected to be a pipeline for agriculture related careers.
- The LSU AgCenter is receiving a \$4 million dollar grant from CDC (Denise Holston PI) with programming focused on addressing health disparities in rural communities. This funding will allow us to grow the program from 6 -12 parishes over the coming year.
- Field days planned include the Sweet Potato Field Day on August 31, Beef and Forage Field Day in the Central Region on September 14 and the Beef and Forage Field Day in the NE Region on September 21st.
- Much of the state has been impacted by excessive drought conditions. We are working with LDAF and others to ensure producers concerns are addressed. Dr. Kurt Guidry has gathered initial estimates of negative implications to the livestock sector specifically. A more detailed survey inclusive of all commodities will be distributed soon.
- A statewide field supervisors training (Parish Chairs, Research Coordinators, Programmatic Coordinators) will be held on September 19th at the state Evacuation Shelter in Alexandria.
- The soils specialist position will complete interviews next week with a hire forthcoming soon after.
- The poultry agent position will be re-advertised.
- Planning is ongoing for annual conference.

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

1. PS-42

There are no new drafts on PS-42. Mentoring committees will now provide feedback just once per year rather than twice (borrowed from PS-32). Some wording throughout the document has changed. "Primary Units starts with parish" will be changed to "-start in the region." The 3-year review committee votes= should be from the same faculty who would vote on tenure from the department.

2. Policy project update

3. Other announcements

HR will be sending out an email on award nominations soon.

Please remind colleagues that the power-based violence training needs to be completed by September 30, 2023. The other trainings are due by December 31, 2023. Language access material has been added to the Civil Rights training course. NIFA is starting to require language access stipulations to their funding opportunities. LSU AgCenter HR is looking to get a contract with a company to help faculty with translating important documents like publications, newsletters, waiver forms, and permission slips.

Dr. Fred Piazza, Chief Information Officer, LSU AgCenter (Notes Provided)

1. A new hardware acquisition process will be put in place within the next few weeks to help the AgCenter comply with LSU System policy (PM-36). This process will be very similar to the existing Software Acquisition process and will include a catalog of pre-approved items that users can choose to get immediate authorization for acquisition.

2. LSU A&M has recently released a series of new IT policies approved by President Tate. These policies have an impact on AgCenter personnel that work on campus, particularly joint appointments with LSU A&M. These new policies can be found here: [IT Policies | LSU Information Technology Services](#). The AgCenter will be developing new policies over the next year that will similarly address the requirements of PM-36 and Internal Audit. Hopefully these new AgCenter policies will be more streamlined and fewer in number than those implemented at LSU A&M.

Organizational Matters

1. New Member Elections will take place in September (2024-2026 term) by Chair Rich Vlosky.

Nominations for vacant positions have been sent out to current and outgoing members. Nothing has been sent to entire LSU AgCenter/CoA faculty.

2. Need to elect Chair, Vice-Chair Election for 2024.

This will be decided at the December (12/13/23) meeting.

3. Council of Faculty Advisors Member/LSU Board of Supervisors Meeting Attendance-How best to meet our obligations?

Chair attends the meeting. If chair is not available, council will nominate and vote on a replacement.

Old Business

1. Motion to accept the minutes from the July 14, 2023 LSU AFC meeting.
Donnie Miller made a motion to accept the July 2023 meeting minutes. Sara Shields seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Reports

New Business

Remaining 2023 Meeting Dates

January 20	July 14	December 13 8:00 a.m.-
February 17	August 18	10:00 a.m. (Current and
March 17	September 15	New Members)
April 21 (Cancelled)	October 20	
May 26	November 17	
June 16		

Adjourn

Andre Brock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 AM. Sathivel Subramaniam seconded the motion. All voted in favor and meeting was adjourned.