

**LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting Minutes**  
**9:30 AM, Friday September 15, 2023**  
**Room 212, J. Efferson Hall**



**Call to Order**

Rich Vlosky, LSU Ag Faculty Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

**Attendance**

*In-person*

William Afton, Andre Brock, Carol Friedman (Subramaniam Sathivel), Ken Gravois, Maddox Miller (William Afton), Vinicius Moreira, Subramaniam Sathivel, Sara Shields, Raj Singh (Andre Brock), and Rich Vlosky

*Online*

Sun J Chang, Chris Dunaway, Carol Friedman, Bruce Garner, Kerry Heafner, Claudia Husseneder, Bei B. Guo, Nathan Lord, Donnie Miller, Mark Schafer, Kristin Stair, Cecilia Stevens, and Evelyn Watts

*Absent*

None

**Invited Guests**

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

1. Administrative/Legislative Update

Dr. Lee has been conducting inspections of on campus facilities. Some are in complete disrepair while others are not being maintained. Faculty need to start cleaning up their workspaces. If the fire marshal declares the area a hazard then the materials can be thrown away without question. Please clean your workspaces and keep them in good working order. Another suggestion after conducting inspections is that faculty should update research posters to more recent research results. Use it to attract new students.

Dr. Lee is trying to get a plan in place to procure vehicles. There is a finite number of license plates available. Older plates must be turned in to get a new vehicle. We need to free up license plates so the fleet can be updated.

There are two philosophies when it comes to planning the LSU AgCenter's Precision Ag program. 1. Identify the most functional group in the country and bring them to LSU. This way would bring about quick success. 2. Identify and target new hires with a specific precision ag skillset. Identify a target area within precision agriculture and hire several positions with similar skillsets. Look for dominance in a few sectors rather than mediocrity in all precision ag sectors. Mike Stout and Mike Salassi are forming a committee to start the discussion of what area of precision ag we should focus on. There is a precision

ag specialist position currently being advertised. Private industry will donate monies to support precision ag positions with professorships, startup funds, etc..

2. Unit Head Performance Review Update

The Unit Head Performance Review has been done. Ag Faculty Council component was included in the review process.

3. Faculty Constituent Questions:

For the past two years, how much AgCenter Facilities & Administration (F&A) was collected from outside grants and contracts, and what are the expenditures for each? The LSU AgCenter typically receives \$2.6-3M in F&A on an annual basis. In 2023, the LSU AgCenter brought in \$3.3M in F&A. The F&A distribution formula they follow is 50% for administration, 25% for the department, and 25% for the principal investigator. LSU A&M does not provide as much to the principal investigator. F&A captures facilities costs (equipment updates, leaky roofs, general maintenance), administration costs, sponsored programs costs, etc..

4. Miscellaneous

Search committees need to be getting the word out about the position being advertised. More effort needs to be placed at the front end of the hiring process.

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

1. The Extension Committee is made up of program leaders, regional directors, and director of Extension. The committee meets once a month and has been working on developing guidelines to reflect core competencies for all FCS, 4-H, and ANR agents across the organization. A Field Supervisor training is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19. Regional meetings will be scheduled after that information to all field agents.
2. An Assistant Director of Urban Agriculture is needed. Some of the responsibilities will include traveling around the state to learn of issues to urban agriculture work. The person would meet with field agents working in urban agriculture areas to learn what is working and what is not working. An official notice will be sent via email in the next few weeks.
3. Job descriptions for Regional ANR Coordinator Agents will be coming out soon. AgCenter is looking for internal applicants to work as regional coordinators agents to assist administration in each of the 5 regions throughout the state. This new role would be 40% administrative. An official announcement will be made in the next few weeks via email.

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

1. Policy project update

PS-42 has not been finished. There has been a proposal to change the effective date to January 1, 2024. Dr. Rutherford has drafted a version that includes teaching appointments. PS-52 Civil training has been updated with Language Access Plan information. PS-48 (Graduate Assistantships) is being updated. New stipend amounts are going to be the in the future. LSU AgCenter HR is waiting on the grad school to move forward on this project.

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

The only item worth mentioning this month is that the new process for hardware acquisition should be rolling out within a week. This will 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. (copy and pasted from email)

**Organizational Matters**

1. New Member Elections will still take place in September (2024-2026 term) by Chair Rich Vlosky. Rich is waiting on an email list from Ashley Gautreaux to proceed with a call for nominations.
2. Council of Faculty Advisors Member/LSU Board of Supervisors Meeting Report-September 8, 2023 (Rich Vlosky) Rich provided the latest meeting minutes with the supplemental documents packet for this meeting. Chair position represents AFC Council at Council of Faculty Advisors Member/LSU Board of Supervisors Meetings. Vice-chair would take the Chair's place if Chair cannot attend.

**Old Business**

1. Motion to accept the minutes from the August 18, 2023 LSU AFC meeting. Subramaniam Sathivel made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 18 LSU AFC meeting. Mr. Andre Brock seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

**Reports**

**New Business**

**Remaining 2023 Meeting Dates**

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

**Adjourn**

Subramaniam Sathivel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Vinicius Moreira seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.