

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-Minutes
8:00 AM, Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Room 214, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order

Rich Vlosky, LSU Ag Faculty Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

Attendance

In-person

William Afton, Andre Brock, Carol Friedland, Bruce Garner, Ken Gravois (Rich Vlosky), Bei B Guo (Rich Vlosky), Caludia Husseneder, Maddox Miller, Sathivel Subramaniam, Mark Schafer, Sara Shields, Cecilia Stevens, Rich Vlosky, and Evelyn Watts

Online

Joe Chang, Donnie Miller, and Vinicius Moreira,

Absent

Chris Dunaway, Stephen Harrison, Kerry Heafner, Nathan Lord, Michael Mamp, Raj Singh, and Kristin Stair.

Invited Guests

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

1. Year-end Closing Remarks

Dr Lee started his remarks by thanking all of the Ag faculty Council members who have completed their terms. He then welcomed all the new members to the council. Dr. Lee

The National Science Foundation released their rankings and Agricultural Sciences at LSU placed 15th out of 327 colleges and universities. The metrics used in this ranking include research expenditures, which can be higher than using total grant funds because of the lag in receiving grant funds and funds being paid over multiple years.

LSU AgCenter will put tools in place to help faculty stay competitive with grant opportunities. The Hanover Grant Writing Program provides training and helps faculty form grant writing cohorts. LSU AgCenter is looking to provide seed money to ensure that faculty can participate in LSU's Provost Fund for Innovation in Research. LSU AgCenter is designing a research leadership program which would provide training on collaborative research projects.

A cluster hire proposal for new faculty members is in the works. LSU AgCenter is looking to hire multiple faculty members in the area of precision agriculture. It is open rank at the moment and agnostic to any department.

Legislative update

Many new representatives and senators in the State Legislature this year. Over the next 4 months the LSU AgCenter will work to educate new legislators on what the LSU AgCenter is, what it does, and how much it means to the State of Louisiana. Ashley Mullens is our Director of Governmental Relations and will lead this effort.

CoA

Undergraduate curriculum needs to be evaluated going into the spring. As of now, there is a high number of concentrations. This may have been a good thing at first, but now it is causing additional teaching requirements that the department is not properly staffed to fill. Concentrations are created at the institutional level and don't require Board of Regents approval. An industry advisory council will be created to help provide input. Dr. Lee is working with Allen Rutherford on this to assist faculty in moving forward.

Lindsay Kelly stepped down as LSU CoA Director of Alumni Relations and the position was restructured. Aimée Lemann will start on January 8, 2024, as LSU CoA Director of Alumni Engagement and Relations. One of the restricted features of this new position will focus on alumni engagement.

21.8% increase in enrollment from students from Northeast and Northwest Louisiana. Henry Hebert, "The Closer" has been hired to work in student recruitment. Dr. Lee is very excited about Mr. Hebert's student recruiting ability.

Extension

Dr. Kathryn Fontenot will be the Southwest Regional Director starting January 2, 2024. ANR Region Coordinator positions have been added to each region. Family Consumer Sciences is being rebranded to Nutrition and Community Health. This will help foster more collaborations with bigger partners.

Ashley Gautreaux, Assistant Vice President; Department, Human Resource Management (Tentative)

1. Updates on the revision to PS-42

The biggest request on PS-42 was to reduce the required number of external letters from four to three. The proposed date of January 1, 2024, will not happen. The new date is still TBD. The council has time to send in any last-minute comments on PS 42. Send additional to Rich Vlosky by Monday, December 18 and they will be forwarded to Ashley.

There is an issue with P&T and Communication Specialists because the positions are slightly different than agent/professor ranks. They are specifically addressed in PS 42 at all. Text from the Board of Supervisors BoS bylaws. Communication Specialists are faculty members and go through a promotion process as defined by the BoS bylaws document.

Tenured track faculty will now have a paragraph on teaching. The biggest change for tenured track faculty is new text that outlines the process for the 3- and 10-year review committee.

For Extension Agents there were conflicting statements on time and rank. The latest version states that agents have 7 years to be promoted from Assistant to Associate.

Salary adjustment to base pay is now 7% from 4% prior.

Welcome New Council Members

Arayna, Kayanush (Kai)	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	Nutrition & Food Science
Gautreaux, Becky	Agent	Extension	Off- campus	Parish Chair, Lafourche Parish
Kirk-Ballard, Heather	Assistant Professor	Research	On-Campus	School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences (SPSS)
McCarter, Kevin	Associate Professor	Research	On-Campus	Experimental Statistics
Newsome, Brittney	Agent	Extension	Off- campus	Richard Parish
Roberts, Richie	Associate Professor	Extension	On-Campus	Ag & Extension, Education, and Eval.

Farewell to Members Rotating Off the Council

Afton, William	Associate	Agent	Extension	Off- campus	St. Tammany Parish
Miller, Donnie	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	Off- campus	Northeast Research Station
Sathivel, Subramaniam	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	Nutrition & Food Science
Stair, Kristin	Full/Associate	Prof	Extension	On-Campus	Ag & Extension, Education, and Eval.

Old Business

1. Motion to accept the minutes from the November 17, 2023, LSU AFC meeting.

Evelyn Watts made a motion to accept the November 17, 2023, LSU AFC meeting notes. Sathivel Subramaniam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Chair & Vice-Chair Elections-January Meeting.

The elections for Chair and Vice-Chair will take place at the next LSU AgCenter Ag Faculty Council meeting tentatively set for Friday, January 19, 2024.

2024 Meeting Dates – 9:30am-1:00pm/Room 214 Efferson Hall or Teams

Dates-For Discussion at January 19 meeting.

January 19
February 16
March 22
April 19
May 10

June 14
July 19
August 16
September 13
October 18

November 15

First Day of Annual Conference **8:00 a.m.-**

***10:00 a.m. (Current and
New Members)***

Adjourn

Andre Brock made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Garner seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting ended at 9:27 AM.