

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
9:30 AM, Friday, February 16, 2024
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order 9:37am

Attendance Ken Gravois, Kayanush Arayna, Chris Dunaway, Rich Vlosky, Carol Friedland (proxy Rich Vlosky), Becky Gautreaux, Stephen Harrison, Maddox Miller, Richie Roberts, and Evelyn Watts

Online

Kerry Heafner, Cecilia Stevens, Vincius Moreira, Andre Brock, Brittney Newsome, Raghuwinder Singh, Mark Schafer, Sara Shields, Heather Kirk-Ballard, Michael Mamp, Claudia Husseneder

Absent

Bruce Garner, Kevin McCarter, Sun Joseph Chang,

Rich Vlosky began with a moment of silence for Ashley Grant and her unborn baby who passed away in a work-related car accident, and for Henry Hebert who was still in critical condition from the accident.

Invited Guests

Hampton Grunewald, Associate Vice President, Office of the Vice President for Agriculture

1. The state's fiscal budget as anticipated is \$3.3 billion lower this year. The income decrease in higher education accompanies a decrease in expenses therefore there are significant budget cuts projected at this time. The governor released his priorities that included the LSU AgCenter and the College of Agriculture. Dr. Lee's office submitted a \$20 million "wish list" to the governor's office. The session starts March 11th and will conclude June 3rd.
2. Hampton explained that current grants awarded have a 53% fringe benefits charge to account for increasing costs. This is considered competitive relative to other similar research academic entities.
3. Capital outlay last year was over budget and this year it is projected to only fund the projects started. Dairy Science and store have moved to the food science building.
4. IT has policy changes. Please use the forms necessary to submit IT-related purchase requests. Any equipment purchased should be approved by IT *regardless of whether*

it is on the approved list. This is a state mandate. The LSU AgCenter receives around 85,000 hacks a day. IT has 1/10th of the staff LSU has.

5. Hampton extended an offer for any employee to communicate with him regarding any grievances, issues, or problems with *any service* that hampers faculty productivity and ability to work efficiently.
6. Rich Vlosky suggests that if an issue is systemic, the Ag Faculty Council should discuss it.

Tara Smith, Executive Associate Vice President, Director Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

1. The livestock show is in full swing. Over 3,600 youth validated just over 8,600 animals this year. The show ends with a recognition ceremony this Saturday evening.
2. Agents are holding advisory meetings around the state.
3. We have a statewide PC training on February 29th.
4. Extension onboarding has been scheduled for June 11th and December 5th. More details to follow.
5. Several positions are in motion. Vegetable specialist application process closes this week. The offer process is in motion for Precision Ag Specialist and Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum Specialist.
6. Jon Carr was hired as the new 4-H Foundation Executive Director, he started today. He brings a wealth of experience from the LSU foundation, and we are excited to move our 4-H portfolio forward.

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

1. Ashley Gautreaux discussed PM revisions and to make sure we check our emails soon for review and final approvals.

Old Business

1. Agricultural Faculty Council 2024 Election Results:
 - a. Chair: Rich Vlosky
 - b. Vice-Chair: Carol Friedland
 - c. Executive Secretary: Becky Gautreaux

2. Council Member Input

- a. Where to bring issues from faculty and students that prior went to the faculty Policy Committee that Dr. Richardson created when he was Vice President, Agriculture. Most council members agreed that we should voice concerns and questions from our constituents and bring them up to Vice President Lee and the rest of the faculty council. As a council, if there is an issue that needs a resolution from us, we will send one to the appropriate leader.
- b. At the January meeting, a council member referenced a letter received from Dr. Bill Richardson. It is not in the council archives. Since this was not part of the faculty council, it will not be archived.

New Business – Council Member Input

1. What about best practices on how to work with the best practices service units and see if we can get an Advisory Council started or a way where people can voice their concerns. Since Hampton Grunewald addressed this in his comments, all concerns need to be relayed to him via phone call or email. Service units are encouraged to attend when invited. The faculty council agreed to start introducing the service unit heads each month depending on their availability. This is to give insight into the service unit.
2. Conduct Service Unit – Faculty Satisfaction Survey?
Years ago, the AgCenter Faculty Council conducted a service unit faculty satisfaction survey. A decision on whether to conduct a follow-up will be on next month's agenda. A faculty council member asked not to have e-mail addresses attached. This was inadvertently the case for 2023 unit head performance review surveys executed by Ag Administration.
3. One point that was raised by faculty concerns the faculty evaluation. It states specifically that people with no teaching appointment should not fill out the teaching section. However, many of us 100% AgCenter people teach modules or co-teach. If someone goes above and beyond their appointment to fill the needs of the department- this should be reported and acknowledged. My department head agrees that he wants to see this in the Annual Evaluation. Apparently, there are some sections in the extension part that have the same restrictions. It would be better to change the wording in the instructions to "optional for people with no teaching appointment" instead of "ONLY people with teaching appointment." Rich Vlosky is going to reach out to Meggan Franks to include this on the portfolio and have it as an optional entry.

2024 Meeting Dates - 9:30am-1:00pm/Room 212 Efferson Hall or Teams

~~January 19~~
~~February 16~~
March 22
April 19
May 10
June 14

July 19
August 16
September 13
October 18
November 15

Adjourn 11:42 A motion was made by Ken Gravois and seconded by Kai Aryana.