

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-MINUTES
9:30 AM, Friday, October 25, 2024
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order Meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Rich Vlosky

Attendance

In-person: Rich Vlosky, Raj Singh, Mark Schafer, Maddox Miller, Kevin McCarter, Steve Harrison, Ken Gravois, , Kayanush (Kai) Arayna.

Online: Chris Dunaway, Carol Friedland, Bruce Garner, Claudia Husseneder, Brittney Newsome, Kerry Heafner, Cecelia Stevens, Sara Shields, Evelyn Watts.

Absent: Michael Mamp, Vinicius Moreira Becky Gautreaux, Brett Wolfe.

Invited Guests

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

1. Updates

- a. **Strategic Planning** is underway this semester for both the AgCenter and College of Agriculture. This plan is aligned with President Tate’s overarching framework—academic, research, extension excellence. The undertaking includes reiterating what we do, setting goals, and implementing metrics and tools to measure goal achievement.

Layer 1-Directors

Layer 2-Department Heads, Regional Directors

Layer 3-Ag Faculty Council Comments

- Next Step will be a Statewide Address on plan overview and status.
- There will be an online mechanism for feedback from a broad range of stakeholders. External stakeholders will have a say. It is always a balancing act-we are accountable to stakeholders, but we captain the ship.

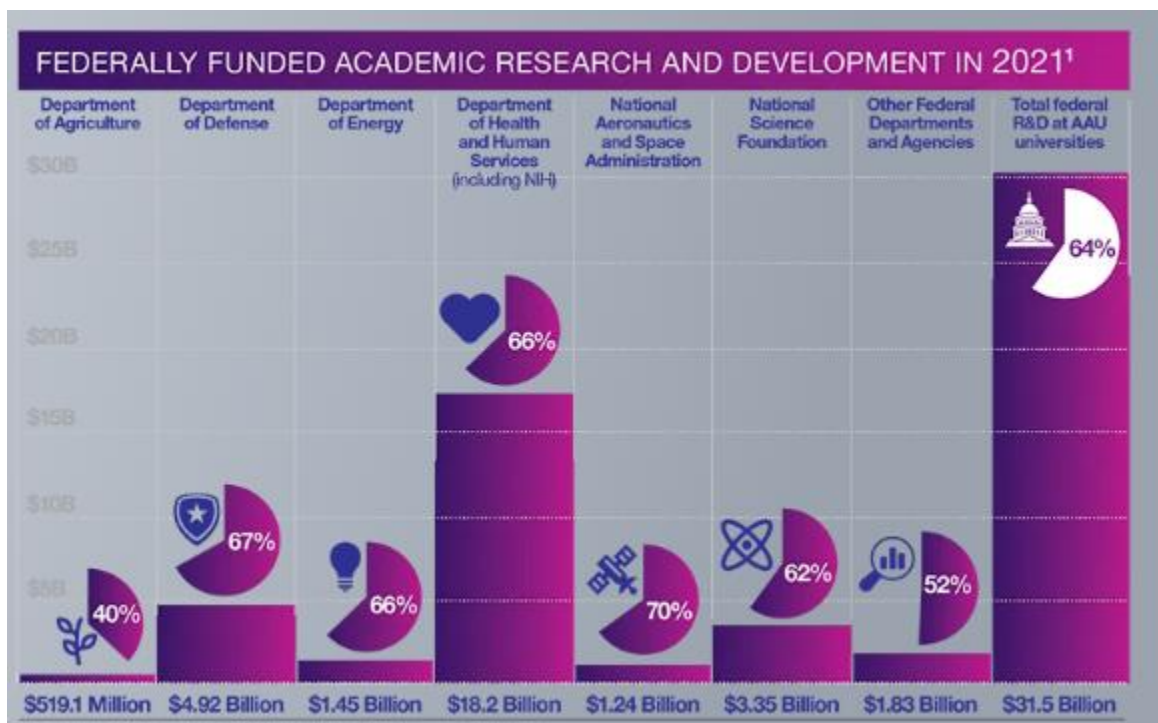
Two documents will be generated:

1. Detailed, academic, research, extension standard set of indicators of productivity.
2. Externally facing glossy document with fewer details for stakeholders; an overview, top level view.

- Main point objective for comments and feedback is on substance of the framework—not editing minutiae. Valuable feedback has been received to date.

b. LSU Goal to become a member of the American Association of Universities (AAU)

- AAU is comprised of America's Leading Research Universities. Founded in 1900, the AAU is composed of America's leading research universities. AAU's 71 research universities transform lives through education, research, and innovation.
- The U.S. Government research dollar amounts received by these 71 universities are staggering:



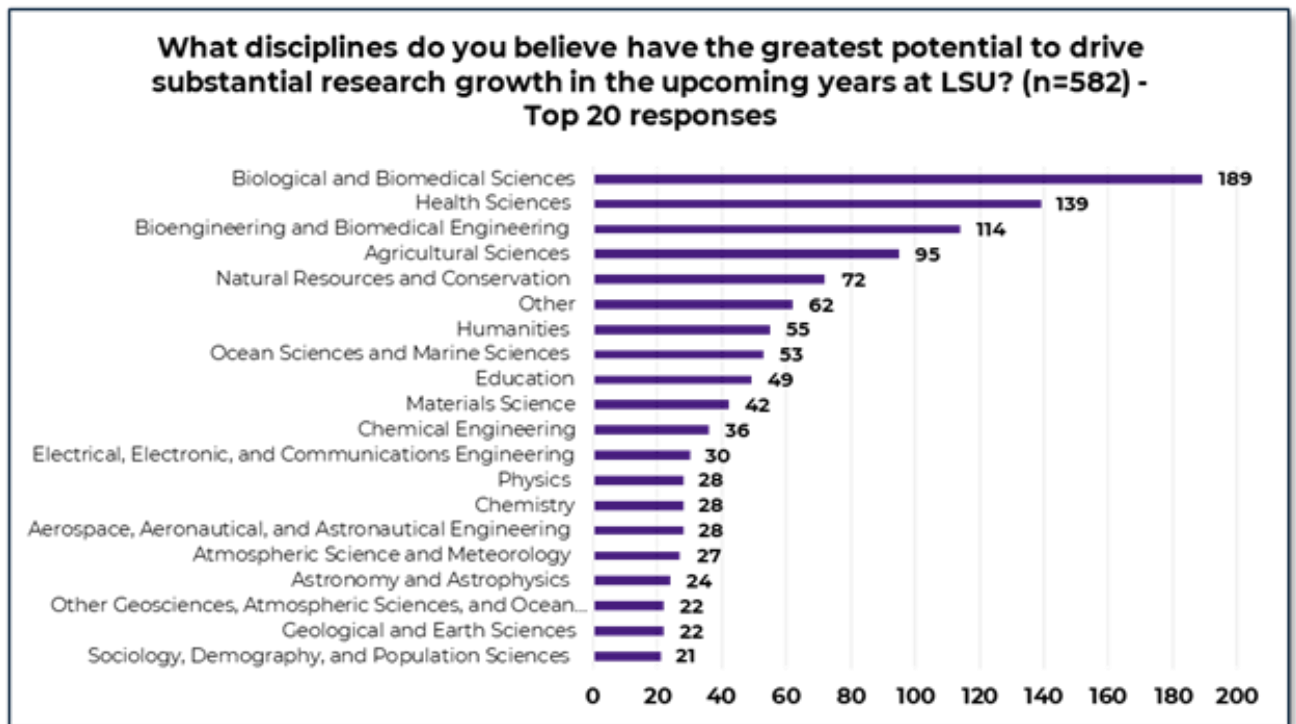
- AAU is a research institution designation—not oriented toward teaching
- For LSU, this is a long-term 10-year plan to achieve membership.
- AAU is a *primary aspiration* for LSU
- Since *South Florida* got in, many other schools are planning to apply.
- LSU is taking a “system approach”—individual campuses in the LSU System cannot achieve requirements for membership—5 research units will apply as a cluster

including LSU Health Sciences-New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences-Shreveport, AgCenter, LSU A&M, and Pennington,

- Indicators: Peer-Reviewed pubs, federal funding, academic press books, receiving of significant awards—national academy of sciences, etc.
- Reality: LSU Agriculture is already operating like an AAU university. The AgCenter is a leader in advancing the goal of AAU membership.
- Annual Reviews are not currently addressed in the current strategic plan draft—but inclusion is needed with appropriate metrics for tactical goal achievement.
- Consulting Company External Review
 - LSU agriculture is the model for other colleges and areas.
 - AAU effort will have little impact on Agriculture.
 - Peer-reviewed pubs are always the gold standard.
 - We will continue to support commodity programs.
 - Need increase in grant funding.
 - Achievable with more people and with current people going after larger grant funding.
 - AgCenter – Perspective
 - Need to provide tools to get larger grants.
 - There is some “talk” about expanding faculty—but current focus is mostly on LSU medical centers and Pennington.
 - All AAU schools have these research enterprises.
 - Need to move clinical trials to operational scale.
 - Agriculture enterprise (AgCenter/College of Agriculture) is expected. to bring in about \$70-\$75 million per year.

b. Current State of Research at LSU Faculty Survey

In July, you should have received a survey requesting your perspectives on the current state of research at your campus, as well as current and potential future growth areas to achieve LSU’s research growth goals. Based on responses from faculty across the five research campuses as illustrated in the graph showing the Top 20, 76% of respondents identified biological/biomedical, health sciences, and bioengineering as the top three areas to drive sustainable research growth. Agriculture and Natural Resources also stood out as focus areas according to faculty.



As we move into Phase 2 of this project, our focus is on developing new research initiatives that will expand LSU's research programs in alignment with Pentagon Priorities. We're seeking input from faculty to help shape these initiatives. Campus leadership has been tasked with developing a series of potential research areas, and we're asking for your feedback to guide their development.

These initiatives will be evaluated against the following considerations:

1. Impact on AAU metrics
2. Impact on the quality of life and inclusive economic growth in Louisiana
3. Potential to garner external, particularly federal funding
4. Complement to existing LSU strengths and facilities
5. Impact on student and faculty recruitment and retention
6. Relevance to institutional goals
7. Institutional readiness
8. Involvement of more than one campus
9. Opportunity for philanthropic success

Please go to the AAU link information

<https://www.aau.edu/who-we-are/membership-policy>

Be assured that we will continue to focus on meeting the needs of stakeholders and clients. All of the great land grant schools have exceptional federally funded

programs and meet the needs of local and state constituents. The two are not mutually exclusive.

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

1. Policy Updates

- a. Convert from ORP to TRSL-Webinars have been presented and are available online. December 31 deadline.
- b. Fair Labor Standards Act-many switched from Salary to Hourly. A second round coming up
 - i. May impact research associates, salary to move to hourly was bumped up to \$58,666.
 - ii. Slim chance that this will not go into effect.
 - iii. Planning to have a large group of people who will “become hourly”. but with pending lawsuits, may not ever go into effect.
 - iv. Does not apply to extension agents or teachers.
 - v. No overtime-will use compensatory time and flex schedules.
 - vi. Government entities are not mandated to pay overtime.
 - vii. Reminder: Can “use/cash-in” 300 hours of annual leave and 200 hours of sick leave at retirement. Use it or lose it.
- c. RS17-Background Checks for ANY research position
 - i. Human Resources must do this by law.
 - ii. Starting August 2024, all relevant employees with “research” in their job description, including student workers, transient labor, post-doctoral researchers, etc. will be required to go through the extensive background check.
 - iii. An estimated minimum of two weeks is expected to conduct a background check.
 - iv. Background check must be completed at least one month before the employee starting date.
 - v. Current employees are “grandfathered in” and do not have to undergo the background check.
 - vi. Be cognizant of the background check requirement in the timing of hiring a new employee.
- d. Annual Enrollment – 4pm November 15-get it done!

Dr. Mike Salassi, Exec. Assoc. Vice President & Director LAES Administration

No Updates

Dr. Tara Smith, Exec. Assoc. Vice President & Director LCES

LCES Updates – October 25

- October is National 4-H Month, National Urban Extension Month and National Farm to School Month.
- President’s Scholarship Bus Tour highlighted stops at the Sweet Potato Research Station and the Louisiana National Shooting Sports Winning Team last week, as well as several other agricultural related stops.
- Dr. Todd Tarifa is serving as Interim Associate Director of Youth Development
- Dr. Kim Williams is serving as Interim Assistant 4-H Department Head
- Mr. Cade LeJeune has been selected to serve as the Executive Director of LA FFA
- The Executive Secretary of FFA position is advertised
- Leandro O. Vieira II. Started work September 1 as a statewide soils specialist for specialty crops.
- Interviews are ongoing for the Community Economic Development Statewide Specialist Position.
- Interviews have been completed for the Weed Science Horticulture position to be domiciled at the Hammond Research Station
- Vegetable Specialist interviews are being scheduled
- Consumer Horticulture position will be advertised soon
- Extension weed science specialist (agronomic crops) is advertised
- Wildlife specialist position has been advertised
- Extension Seed Grant proposals are due November 1, 2024 (up to 20, \$5,000 proposals will be funded)
- The 2025 Extension Annual Report is in preparation
- Extension marketing materials (pop up banners) have been mailed to all parish and regional offices
- Testimonial videos for extension have been created and are posted on the extension site on lsuagcenter.com
- Final preparations are underway for the Extension Summit
- More than 1,500 people attended the 2nd annual LA Homesteaders Conference recently held at the Red River Research Station
- The annual Louisiana Farm to School Conference gathered overed 250 participants from across the state for an opportunity to learn, celebrate, share and inspire the movement of bringing healthy, local, sustainably grown foods to the minds and plates of students in Louisiana and beyond on October 2nd.
- The LSU AgCenter LaHouse Research and Education Center has been awarded two grants aimed at addressing critical flood insurance and environmental challenges faced by Louisiana's coastal communities. These projects will provide essential insights into the future of flood insurance under FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0 system and explore the flood insurance implications of the 2023 Coastal Master Plan.

- The LaHouse Research and Education Center has been awarded \$1.5 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop a software prototype aimed at reducing flood risk across Louisiana.

NCH is meeting to work on a strategic plan for the next five years.

4-H Youth Development and FFA Specific

- Colton Conley made it to the final round of the National Officer Selection Process at the National FFA meeting that is going on now. We will find out if he is elected on Saturday afternoon.
- All three of our speakers, Prepared, Creed, and Extemporaneous, advanced to the national semifinals. They are competing right now. If they make the top four, they move on to the finals this afternoon and tomorrow.
- Congratulations to the Lafayette 4-H Meat Judging Team who represented Louisiana 4-H in Manhattan, Kansas at the National 4-H Meat Judging and Identification Contest. They placed 4th as a team in Beef Judging, and 1st and 2nd place in individual Beef Judging.
- Ag Magic at the State Fair is under way.
- Ag Magic Cenla will be held November 20-21, 2024
- We are excited to announce the 2024 Louisiana 4-H/FFA Bash on the Bayou, scheduled for November 23, 2024! The tailgate will take place at the 4-H Mini Farm on the LSU campus. Once the game time is confirmed, we will announce the official tailgate time.

ANR Specific

- Statewide agent pesticide safety recertification meeting held October 24, 2024
- Precision Ag Summit scheduled for January 23, 2024
- Ag Outlook Conference scheduled for January 14, 2025
- Extension Roundtable discussions were recently held with agronomic and horticulture faculty (agents and professorial rank). I will be meeting with forestry, wildlife and natural resources in December.

Dr. Fred Piazza, Chief Information Officer

1. IT Updates

a. Single Sign-on

- i. To reduce complications with multiple user accounts and passwords
- ii. LSU A&M ITS plans to implement authentication changes for Workday.
- iii. Beginning December 6th, 2024, users will no longer be presented with an authentication selection option for LSUAM and non-LSUAM users. Users will instead be directed to an authentication page directly, where users will utilize their respective campus' account to access Workday. For example, LSU AgCenter employees will use their AgCenter accounts (ending with @agcenter.lsu.edu) to access Workday.
- iv. The following GROK article provides information regarding the user experience - <https://grok.lsu.edu/Article.aspx?articleid=20419>

Old Business

1. 2025-2027 Election Results



Name	Position Title Options	Member Title	Research or Extension	On- or Off-Campus	Term End Year	Unit/Geographic Area	Specialization
Burnett, Michael*	Full/Associate	Full Professor		On-Campus	2026	Ag & Ext., Educ., and Eval.	Research Methods, Design & Analysis
Wolfe, Brett	Assistant	Assistant Professor	Research	On-Campus	2026	Renewable Natural Resources	Tree ecophysiology
Afton, William	Associate	Agent	Extension	Off- campus	2027	St. Tammany Parish	
Aita, Giovanna	Full	Prof	Research	Off- campus	2027	Audubon Sugar Institute	Biomass Conversion
Duhon, Jennifer	Associate	Agent	Extension	Off-Campus	2027	Rapides & Avoyelles Parishes	Nutrition and Community Health
Lutz, Greg	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2027	Renewable Natural Resources	Aquaculture
Miller, Donnie	Full	Prof	Research	Off- campus	2027	Northeast Research Station	Weed Management
Prashant, Jha	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2027	Plant, Environmental, & Soil Sciences	Weed Science
Richards, Jonathan	Full/Associate	Associate Professor	Research	On-Campus	2027	Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology	Host-Pathogen Interactions

* Completing Richie Robert's term of office.

New Business

1. Carol Friedland-LaHouse Director, got invited today to submit a full proposal for the \$160 million NSF Engine.
2. AgCenter IT should do a better job of informing people about the “fix” it took a long time for me to track down the information I needed to access LSU Library. And that was working directly with ITS and AgCenter IT. Apparently the man in the know at AC IT is Antwan. If one is using an AgCenter computer and has major AgCenter appointment, they need the workaround. If one is majority AgCenter appt and using an AgCenter owned computer they need **work around** to access things like the library or teaching evals. Access to workday and Moodle is already routed, but not other A&M service Center’s one might want to use.

AgCenter Access to LSU Library System-A “Work Around”

1. On your computer, open Chrome.
2. At the top right, click More  > **New Incognito Window**.
3. A new window appears. In the top corner, check for the Incognito icon .

You can also use a keyboard shortcut to open an Incognito window:

- Windows, Linux, or Chrome OS: Press **Ctrl + Shift + n**.
- Mac: Press **⌘ + Shift + n**.

You can switch between Incognito windows and regular Chrome windows. You'll only browse in private when you're using an Incognito window.

Third-party cookies are blocked in Incognito by default. You can change this at any time from the toggle on the Incognito new tab page or Chrome settings.

2024 Meeting Dates

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

~~June 14~~
~~July 19~~
~~August 23~~
~~September 13~~
~~October 18~~

November 15
December 13 (Current
and New Members)

Adjourn

12:35 pm-Motion to adjourn by Kevin McCarter; seconded by Mark Schafer.