

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting-*Minutes*
9:30 AM, Friday, November 15, 2024
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order 9:30

Attendance

In-person Kayanush (Kai) Arayna, Carol Friedland, Becky Gautreaux, Kenneth Gravois, Stephen Harrison, Mark Schafer, Rich Vlosky, Maddox Miller, Brett Wolfe, Evelyn Watts, Raj Singh (proxy Maddox Miller)

Online Cecilia Stevens, Brittney Newsome, Bruce Garner, Claudia Husseneder, Michael Mamp, Sara Shields

Absent Kerry Heafner, Vinicius Moreira, Sun Jo Chang, Chris Dunaway, Kevin McCarter, Mike Burnett

Invited Guests

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

1. **Updates**-VP/Dean Lee provided an AgCenter update to all stakeholders and faculty on November 7, 2024. Any input or questions from Ag Faculty Council stakeholders have been received after this update or are not reflected in Dr. Lee's report. His report was:

In lieu of a livestream as a statewide update for this quarter, today I write simply to share a variety of developments illustrating the continued vitality and impact of the LSU AgCenter and College of Agriculture. Fall undergraduate enrollments in the college now exceed 1,600 majors, a 20% increase from 2018. During that same time frame, the relative increase in our graduation rate was 11.5%, placing us well ahead of the average for the university. College of Ag Alumni Association memberships have grown by 28% over just the past year. More students, graduating them more quickly and increasing engagement with our alumni base is what I call **winning**.

The impact of extension and college programming continues to accelerate. The second annual [Louisiana Homesteaders Conference](#) at Red River Research Station attracted approximately 1,500 attendees. Our Future Farmers of America ([FFA](#)) students recently achieved several top awards in extremely competitive events at their national convention. [Dr. Carl Motsenbocker's innovative horticulture course](#) has students growing fresh food and donating 750 pounds to the student food pantry. The diversity of ways in which we deeply impact the lives of community members, youth and college students through core extension and college activities is astounding.

Research expenditures from the end of October indicate a 9.9% year-over-year increase, while new grant awards are up 13%. Vinson Doyle recently co-authored a paper on “ant agriculture” in *Science*, one of the most prestigious scholarly journals in the world. That is **winning** at the most elite level and just one of many examples of the exceptional scholarly work our faculty conduct.

On the horizon are some truly spectacular prospects for growing the research program even further. One example is a proposal for up to \$50 million to expand ag tech related broadband capacity across the state, simultaneously enabling producer engagement and research. In addition, Dr. Carol Friedland and her team at LaHouse are preparing a National Science Foundation Engines program proposal to compete for up to \$160 million! These are projects of a scale far beyond what we have stewarded in the past, and this is the level at which we will have to **win** to achieve our goal of being a top 10 ranked agricultural organization.

To further amplify this momentum, we are deep into a strategic planning process that will provide a road map for excelling in research, extension and learning. If you have not already weighed in, you will be asked to in the coming weeks. The framework is shaping up nicely, and the theme of **Louisiana Solutions, Global Impacts** has a little something for all of us in this organization as we collectively seek to **win** for Louisiana!

While the accomplishments above are impressive, they are but a small sampling of the relentless stream of good news we accrue every day. I could easily have delineated 20 other accolades, such as Dr. Neils de Hoop and Dr. Kristin Stair being recognized as fellows by their national organizations, the Textile and Costume Museum receiving an award for a recent exhibit, or Dr. Sunghun Lim being elected to the executive board of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium. Across this entire organization, you all are posting new accomplishments daily.

I am extremely thankful for everyone in the AgCenter and the College of Ag. You inspire me with your commitment, your hard work and your passion to excel. You are advancing our mission, and you are attracting even more new talent to the organization. Our students and stakeholders are lucky to have you working on their behalf, and for me it is a privilege to work with you all. Thank you for all you do. You are truly **winning in Louisiana, for the world!**

2. Stakeholder Questions

1. Q: Did the Ag Faculty Council conduct a unit head evaluation survey this year? A: No.
2. Q: Will results be provided to the faculty as in years past? A: No.
3. Q: This year, it appears that for the non-AFC evaluation (for performance year 2023), one department head had a sub-standard evaluation. A: In this case, the VP visited with the faculty regarding their concerns and as a result the head was placed on probation. The complaint originated from a department faculty member.

4. Q: The question is: Why aren't Regional Directors afforded the same level of input, consideration, and potential outcomes from their faculty members?

A: We do. Their financial management, employee feedback, graduation rates, etc. are all considered in the evaluation. Two negative evaluations occurred in 5 years. These lean to corrective action. We must ask ourselves, as management were the expectations clear, were proper resources given, was it failure on management or failure on the employee?

COA budget hearing: there were nominal enhancements in the past. We are waiting for the results. 7,900 freshmen started this fall. The Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU) reviewed, and we are watching presidential changes. My belief is that rural communities will have more focus. With the new election, Bozeman from Arkansas is going to be the chair of the ag committee. He just visited the sugar research center. His farm bill has \$1 million in it for research facilities. Mike Johnson and Letlow have a large agriculture involvement. Our government relations team is aware of the CDC and the Department of Health concerns. There is a wait and see for this state tax reform given the upcoming meetings. Our team is monitoring that. One faculty council member asked in what area are the enrollment increases in the College of agriculture? Dr. Lee replied that Pre-Vet is the most enrolled but there is a general increase across the board.

Over the last 28 months extension and research projects have received \$100 million in grants. This happened over 44 months before that. Doctor Lee mentioned he was greatly impressed with the work of both extension and research. He read the promotion and tenure packets and thanks us for a job well done.

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

1. Policy updates

- There are new requirements for background checks. This has doubled the HR budget in one month period this includes any employee that touches research data. Managers should let employers know there is an e-mail coming for them to complete it in a timely manner. If not the applicant is denied, and the process is restarted, and another background check has to be purchased.
- Stipends not professorships are added any in the retirement calculations for teachers. This is not the case for LASERS.
- Today is the last day to comment on PM 57.
- December 18th at 2:00 PM is the award ceremony.
- Annual enrollment ends today at 4:00 PM sharp.
- MDI applications opened soon and are due in December.
- There are changes to the civil service evaluations. They are from July to December and should be completed now. 2025 evaluations will be in Workday. Faculty evaluations stay the same.
- Please complete all mandatory training.

November 21st is the international student research fair.

2. Other

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

Dr. Tara Smith, Exec. Assoc. Vice President & Director LCES (No Updates)

Dr. Fred Piazza, Chief Information Officer (No Updates)

Old Business

New Business

1. Denis Burns has resigned. Options to serve out term: Election now, postpone election until January 2025.
2. Since there is no AgCenter Annual Meeting, Motion to move last meeting to December 20, 2024? Motioned made by Carol and seconded by Becky.
3. New Chair, Carol Friedland, rotates off at the end of 2025. Continuity issues.
4. Need to elect/appoint Vice-Chair, and Executive Secretary for 2025. This will be done at the December meeting.
5. Membership Post-Election 2025-2027

	Rank	Position	Primary Appt.	Location	Term Exp.	Unit/Department/Parish
Burns, Dennis**	Full	Agent	Extension	Off-campus	2025	RESIGNED - NEED TO FILL POSITION
Dunaway, Chris	Assistant	Agent	Extension	Off-Campus	2025	ANR/Jefferson Parish
Friedland, Carol (Chair)	Full/Associate	Associate Professor	Research	On-Campus	2025	Louisiana House-BAE
Garner, Bruce	Associate	Agent	Extension	Off-campus	2025	NE Region, W. Carroll and Morehouse Parishes
Shields, Sara	Full	Agent	Extension	Off-campus	2025	Central Region
Miller, Maddox	Associate	Agent	Extension	Off-Campus	2025	Lafayette Parish
Mamp, Michael	Full/Associate	Associate Professor	Research	On-Campus	2025	Textiles, Apparel Design, and Merch.
Moreira, Vinicius	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2025	Animal Sciences
Schafer, Mark	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2025	Ag Economics & Agribusiness
Arayna, Kayanush (Kai)	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2026	Nutrition & Food Science
Gautreaux, Becky	Full/Associate	Agent	Extension	Off-campus	2026	Parish Chair, Lafourche Parish

Husseneder, Claudia	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2026	Entomology
McCarter, Kevin	Full/Associate	Associate Professor	Research	On-Campus	2026	Experimental Statistics
Newsome, Brittney	Associate	Agent	Extension	Off-campus	2026	NE Region; Richland & West Carroll
Burnett, Michael***	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2026	Ag & Extension, Education, and Evaluation
Wolfe, Brett	Assistant	Assistant Professor	Research	On-Campus	2026	Renewable Natural Resources
Afton, William	Associate	Agent	Extension	Off-campus	2027	St. Tammany Parish
Aita, Giovanna	Full	Prof	Research	Off-campus	Audubon Sugar Institute	
Duhon, Jennifer	Associate	Agent	Extension	Off-Campus	2027	Rapides & Avoyelles Parishes
Lutz, Greg	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2027	Renewable Natural Resources
Miller, Donnie	Full	Prof	Research	Off-campus	2027	Northeast Research Station
Prashant, Jha	Full/Associate	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus	2027	Plant, Environmental, & Soil Sciences
Richards, Jonathan	Full/Associate	Associate Professor	Research	On-Campus	2027	Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology
Vlosky, Richard	Past-Chair	Full Professor	Research	On-Campus		Renewable Natural Resources

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 18
(Current and New
Members)**

Adjourn

Kai Arayna motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mark Schafer seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.