

LSU Agriculture Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
9:30 AM, Friday, October 17, 2025
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order

Carol Friedland called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM

Attendance

In-person

Will Afton (Maddox Miller), Giovanna Aita, Carol Friedland, Kevin McCarter, Maddox Miller, Vinicius Moreira, and Mark Schafer.

Online

Kai Aryana, Michael Burnett, Jennifer Duhon, Chris Dunaway, Becky Gautreaux, Claudia Hussender, Greg Lutz, Donnie Miller, Brittney Newsome, Richard Vlosky,

Absent

Bruce Garner, Michael Mamp, Jha Prashant, Jonathan Richards, Sara Shields, Brett Wolfe.

- A. Remarks and Items from Dr. Michael Salassi, Interim Vice President of Agriculture/Dean, College of Agriculture – Dr. Salassi is unable to attend
- B. Approval of Minutes

Maddox Miller made a motion to accept the September 2025 AFC Meeting Minutes with amendments. Vinicius Morieira seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passed unanimously

- C. Guest Presentations – Dr. Glen Gentry (invited)
Dr. Glen Gentry started with the LSU AgCenter in 1991. He is currently the Southeast Region Director and Interim Director of the LSU Agricultural Experiment Station.

\$2.5M in onetime funds was provided from the state budget for lab renovations. \$900,000 will be spent on branch locations and \$900,000 will be spent on campus stations. These funds need to be expended before June 30. Any construction on campus goes through LSU Facility Services, which slows down the process. Dr. Gentry is trying to shepherd all this along.

Lab space audits have been completed, and they are currently going through all the results. The AgCenter is working to find space for new faculty.

- D. Chair's Report

E. Committee Reports – written report from each committee for inclusion in the minutes, brief summary from each committee

- Executive Committee (Carol Firedland)
The committee met on 10/15/25 at 1:00 PM. A draft of the September 19 AFC meeting was discussed and revised. An agenda for the October 17 AFC meeting was created.
- Bylaws Committee (Mark Schafer)
The committee met on 10/15/25 at 1:00 PM. Scheduling conflicts prevented a meeting with Trey Jones, General Council, and Johanna Posada, Associate General Counsel. The committee will try to reschedule that meeting for the following week. New motions will be presented to make election committee permanent and make the AFC Vice Chair position serve as the Chair of the Bylaws Committee.
- Policies Committee (Jonathon Richards)
The Policy Committee did not meet this month and does not have any pertinent updates. PS-20 will be discussed as an agenda item.
- Strategic Plan Committee (Donnie Miller)
The Strategic Plan Committee has not met since the previous meeting. They are in a state of holding until things finalize with interim positions. The LSU Board of Supervisors has meeting scheduled for 11/24 and 12/10.
- Work Environment Committee (Giovanna Aita)
Michael Brochu is on the agenda for the Land Grant University Summit to provide a presentation titled, “Conflict Resolution”. The session will be held in Patrick F Taylor Hall from 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM. Frankie Gould will assign the room number. The committee met on 10/13/25 at 11:00 AM where they reviewed committee-identified issues within the AgCenter and will work to finalize before the next. They also plan to meet with Dr. Salassi next month.
- Elections Committee (Carol Friedland)
The committee met on 10/16/25 at 8:00 AM. They received council nominations and created a draft ballot.

Discussion of Committee Reports

F. Other Agenda Items

a. AFC 2026 Elections

Someone was nominated from LSU AgCenter Organizational Development and Evaluation (ODE) office. ODE is a service unit and doesn't have representation in the council.

Only one full professor was nominated.

b. PS-20 discussion and feedback to HR

Greg Lutz made a motion to send the LSU AgCenter Human Resource Management (HRM) Office a memo stating that the LSU Ag Faculty Council (AFC) still has concerns about PS-20 and that AFC requests specific responses to the concerns and suggestions sent back on September 18, 2025. Kevin McCarter amended and seconded the motion by adding that if particular suggestions were not integrated, then AFC requests a rationale as to why they were not integrated.

c. Bylaws change discussion and vote – proposed Article X

G. Introduction of New Business

2025 Meeting Dates – 9:30am-12:00pm/Room 212 Efferson Hall or Teams

Dates-Planned for 3rd Friday of Each Month. Meeting Invitations Sent

~~January 17~~

~~February 21~~

~~March 21~~

~~April 25~~

~~May 16~~

~~June 20~~

~~August 15~~

~~September 19~~

~~October 17~~

November 21

December 15 at LaHouse

Adjourn