

LSU Agricultural Faculty Council Meeting Agenda
9:30 AM, Friday, August 21, 2026
Room 212, J. Norman Efferson Hall



Call to Order

Carol Friedland called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM

Attendance

In-person

William Afton, Giovanna Aita, Carol Friedland, Becky Gautreaux, Prashant Jha, Kevin McCarter, Donnie Miller, and Rich Vlosky.

Online

Kai Aryana, Jennifer Duhon, Claudia Husseneder, Greg Lutz, Randall Mallette, Vinicius Moreira, Brittney Newsome, Jonathan Richards, and Joe Willis,

Excused

Eric DeBoer, Erika Derma, Maddox Miller, Tripp Morgan, and Jessica Richard.

Absent

Michael Burnett, Chuanlan Liu, and Brett Wolfe

- A. Remarks and Items from Dr. Matt Lee, Senior Vice Chancellor & Dean, College of Agriculture – invited

Research activity within the AgCenter remains strong. Two years ago, faculty submitted 532 proposals totaling approximately \$117.5M in requested funding. Current submissions have increased to 637 proposals totaling \$199M. Proposal activity has increased but the number of awards received has declined due in part to a slower decision-making process at the federal level. The requests for USDA money have almost tripled. Dr Lee is very appreciative.

The spring graduation class was one of the largest on record. LSU decided to reduce the incoming fall freshmen class by 8%. The LSU College of Agriculture (CoA) freshmen class enrollment is down 18% and Dr. Lee is not happy. He has met with the Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management. One of the big reasons for the lower CoA enrollment is with math preparedness of incoming students. Students who aren't well prepared for science majors were diverted to undeclared science and engineering majors which diminishes the pool. Dr. Lee suggested that there are agriculture-related majors for interested students that aren't strong in math.

Graduate student enrollment isn't known at the moment. The federal government is implementing changes to the student visas and are going to enforce a 4-year student visa program. When about 42% of the graduate students are international students, it presents a big problem. The LSU Senior Internationalization Officer was recognized as Senior Internationalization Officer of the year. There is a top-notch expert working on this. Overall, losing undergraduate and graduate students at a university is a very serious issue. Conversations are being had with the university chancellor and provost.

Frankie Gould has created a system to help solicit information around the state for faculty to submit information on impactful programs. Look forward to communication on this soon.

Dr. Lee appreciates the AFC input on the recent hiring standard directive. It is currently on hold and might be readdressed at a later date.

On the AgCenter IT Policies, Dr. Lee sees two categories of concern: 1. There is a different set of practices between LSU A&M and LSU AgCenter. 2. Some of the language used in the policies statements is a little draconian. Some of these policies come from state law, some from issues with international travel, and some result from serious security breaches. There is also a financial side to IT policy. Some policies are implemented to manage costs. The IT department is the largest support unit in the AgCenter with the most funding. Implementing policy change is a balancing act. Several members commented on IT policy issues. One member commented about antagonistic experiences working with IT customer service. Another commented about waiting excessively long times for IT approval and procurement of research equipment. Another commented that other Land Grant Universities make this work. Dr. Lee understands that these issues won't be solved today and is willing to have a conversation about this over the course of the semester.

Dr. Lee ended his presentation with announcements on several upcoming events on campus. Burger Bash will be held on Friday, August 29 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the 4-H Mini Farm. The LSU Ag Tailgate will take place on Saturday, September 26 at the 4-H Mini Farm. It will begin three hours prior to kickoff. Participants are asked to register before September 11 using this link:

https://lsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8nRsiMUdwkhoX9Y

B. Approval of Agenda

Kevin McCarter made a motion to approve the August 21 AFC Meeting Agenda. Becky Gautreaux seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the agenda was approved.

C. Approval of Minutes – July meeting

Kevin McCarter made a motion to approve the July AFC Meeting Minutes. Donnie Miller seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting minutes were approved.

D. Guest Presentations – none

E. Chair's Report

Carol Friedland thanked everyone for participating with the IT taskforce committee. The committee met to gather input from research and extension faculty and prepared a report that was sent to Dr. Lee. She commended the Hiring Policies Committee for their impactful work. She also asked that committees stay engaged as the end of the year approaches. There are only a few months left before AFC elections.

F. Robert's Rules Briefing – Kevin McCarter

Kevin McCarter delivered a presentation focusing on types of motions and motion hierarchy described in Robert's Rules of Order meeting procedures. The PDF of the presentation will be uploaded to the LSU AFC website.

G. Committee Reports – each committee will provide a brief summary of their meeting and provide a written report for the minutes

- Executive Committee (Will Afton)
The committee met on August 14 to review the initial draft of the July meeting minutes and create a draft meeting agenda for the August AFC meeting.
- Bylaws Committee (Kevin McCarter)
The committee wasn't active during the summer months. Kevin will take the lead on proposal changes for the next meeting.
- Policies Committee (Jonathan Richards)
The committee did not meet but is looking to get started as the semester proceeds.
- Strategic Plan Committee (Donnie Miller)
The committee did not meet last month, but wants to reach out to Dr. Lee about the new proposal involving the recent strategic plan.
- Work Environment Committee (Becky Gautreaux)
The committee did not meet last month. If any council members have work environment concerns, send them to the committee for discussion.
- Elections Committee (Carol Friedland)
The committee met on August 3 to discuss the LSU Faculty Senate election. There were 5 nominees for the five positions, and all will take office and serve as CoA representatives on the LSU Faculty Senate.

- Hiring Policies Special Committee
This committee has completed its purpose.

Discussion of Committee Reports

H. Other Agenda Items

- a. COFA Update – Kevin McCarter, Eric DeBoer
Kevin McCarter added to what Eric DeBoer reported at the last meeting by informing the council that LSU BoS Chairman Mallette has been doing a good job with acknowledging faculty at meetings. The work of Dr. Christine Navarre and Dr. Kristin Healy on New World Screwworm was highlighted at the recent meeting. Kevin contributed to the meeting by presenting the LSU AgCenter report.

- b. Policy Committee Business

I. New Business

2026 Meeting Dates – 9:30am-12:00pm/Room 212 Efferson Hall or Teams

January 16	May 22	September 18
February 20	June 19	October 16
March 20	July 17	November 20
April 17	August 21	December TBD

Adjourn

Becky Gautreaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin McCarter seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.