

LSU Agricultural Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
9:30 AM, Friday, July 17, 2026
Room 212, J. Efferson Hall



Call to Order

Carol called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM

Attendance 16 members in attendance

In-person

Kai Aryana, Eric DeBoer, Carol Friedland, Prashant Jha, Donnie Miller, Maddox Miller, Vinicius Moreira

Online

William Afton, Giovanna Aita, Jennifer Duhon, Becky Gautreaux, Greg Lutz, Tripp Morgan, Brittney Newsome, Jonathan Richards, Rich Vlosky, Joe Willis

Excused

Randall Mallette, Kevin McCarter

Absent

Michael Burnett, Erika Derma, Claudia Husseneder, Chuanlan Liu, Jessica Richard, Brett Wolfe.

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

Dr. Lee was unable to attend.

B. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to remove Kevin McCarter 's Roberts Rules Briefing presentation from the agenda.

Vinicius Moreira made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Will Afton seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes – May meeting

Donnie Miller made a motion to approve the May Meeting Minutes. Kai Aryana seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

D. Guest Presentations – none

E. Chair's Report

Carol attended a St Tammany Parish Levee and Drainage Board Meeting and witnessed the board amend the agenda to include a late added presentation. She expressed thanks to Kevin McCarter for including that process in AFC agenda process.

PS-60 (the AI policy document) was quickly adopted in December 2025. AFC was asked to provide comments retroactively. Carol proposed AFC to create a taskforce that will compile AFC comments and suggestions on PS-60 and related policies, add them to a document, and submit them to administration. Some of the common complaints heard from members with majority AgCenter appointments involve prohibited software and services (DropBox, Google Drive,) and illegal web browsers (Google Chrome, Thunderbird). These are unnecessary barriers to national productivity. Carol asked for members to join the task force committee to compile issues and suggestions on PS-60 using related policy statements (PS-32, PS-54, and PM-50). Joe Willis, Jonathan Richards, Will Afton, Kai Aryana, and Carol Friedland agreed to participate, and the task force committee was formed.

F. 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 executive committee originally met on June 5 to prepare for the June AFC meeting and decided to postpone the June AFC meeting due to no major business being conducted. The committee was scheduled to meet on Friday, July 7, but canceled because of the observed 4th of July state holiday. At the June 5 executive committee meeting the May 22 AFC meeting minutes were discussed and revised and the agenda for the July AFC meeting was drafted.
- Bylaws Committee (Vinicius Moreira)
Did not meet
- Policies Committee (Jonathan Richards)
Did not meet
Carol commented that creating taskforce committees for compiling council comments on policy statements draft is the way to go. The policy committee should create guidelines for the taskforce committees.
- Strategic Plan Committee (Donnie Miller)
Haven't met but Dr. Lee has been in contact with the committee and mentioned that a new initiative will be coming soon.

- Work Environment Committee (Brittney Newsom)

The Work Environment Committee met via Microsoft Teams on July 10 at 2:00 p.m. Committee members in attendance included Brittney Newsome, Becky Gautreaux, Jennifer Duhon, Erika Derma, and Kay Aryana. During the meeting, members discussed the findings and key points from the previous meeting with Dr. Lee. Currently, there are no new issues or concerns to report.

Kai asked a question about the last time unit head evaluations were conducted. Dr. Lee sent out an evaluation back in November 2025.

Carol said she would ask if there was any information from the unit head evaluation that could be shared with the council.

- Elections Committee (Carol Friedland)
Carol sent out a recent email on LSU Faculty Senate elections. It is difficult to compile a list of eligible candidates due to the mix of LSU AgCenter/College of agriculture appointments amongst faculty. Carol asked the council to recruit eligible candidates to be nominated for the College of Ag Faculty Senate seats.
- Hiring Policies Special Committee (Donnie Miller)
The committee is waiting to hear back from Dr. Lee.

Discussion of Committee Reports

G. Other Agenda Items

- a. COFA Update – Kevin McCarter, Eric DeBoer
Eric DeBoer attended the recent CoFA meeting. Majority of the discussion involved 3-year accelerated Bachelor's degrees and whether or not it was a good or bad thing. A 3-year accelerated Bachelor's degree requires fewer credits. CoFA was worried whether each campus was offering consistent degree programs.
- b. Policy Committee Business

H. New Business

Four ANR Extension Agents were recognized at the 2026 National County Agricultural Agents Association's Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. Will Afton (AFC Council Member) and Vince Deshotel were awarded with Distinguished Service Awards. Joshua Salley and Paul Bongerzone were awarded with Achievement Awards.

Dr. Joe Willis (AFC Council Member) received the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Award of Excellence and participated in their annual convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

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

~~January 16~~
~~February 20~~
~~March 20~~
~~April 17~~

~~May 22~~
~~June 19~~
~~July 17~~
August 21

September 18
October 16
November 20
December TBD

Adjourn

Kai Aryana made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vinicius Moreira seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.