

LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

February 23, 2024

LSU A&M Administration Building, 8 a.m.

I. Call to order.

Dr. Kimboj called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: S Kimboj (LSUHSC), M LaBorde (LSUA), R Newton (PBRC), D Tirone (LSUA&M), R Vlosky (LSUAg)

Members absent: A Greaud (LSUE), J Alexander (LSUS)

III. BoS chairman visit

Dr. Monique Cain reported that Chairman Woods was called into a meeting and will try to stop by the group later.

IV. Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2023 meeting

Tirone made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2023 meeting. Newton made the second and the motion passed unanimously.

LaBorde indicated a need to make sure alternates are in place for each CoFA member and that we make every effort to attend CoFA meetings. Kimboj will ask Bazayev to reach out to J Alexander from LSUS to see if he plans to be engaged with this group as Shreveport has not attended this year. Kimboj will also ask for each member to send personal contact information to be shared among CoFA members.

V. CoFA Chairperson report

Kimboj reported that he had received campus updates and would provide highlights to the Board during the meeting. He shared that the group needs to find a way to reimburse CoFA members for expenses traveling to meetings. LaBorde indicated that the permanent memorandum governing the staff advisors indicates that campuses should reimburse members for meeting expenses and that our PM 24 needs to be updated. Kimboj then noted that the Board of Supervisors is making an effort to recognize the CoFA members with certificates.

VI. New Business

Tirone mentioned there would be an expected cut in the state budget that would impact higher education. He also indicated that the LSU Faculty Senate was closely watching the proposed legislation concerning the retirement system which would allow employees to move to the defined benefit model. We will consider to monitor the legislation.

Discussion within the group led to a suggestion that CoFA should arrange a meeting for all the Faculty Senate presidents and ALFS together. Also any senators who might want to attend would be welcome. LSU Faculty Senate has been able to meet with President Tate, but those meetings are more in line with Dr. Tate's role as the head of the LSU main campus. The other representatives expressed interest in meeting with Dr. Tate as the President of the System so he can hear faculty concerns from the entire group.

Tirone also suggested we draft a rewrite of PM 24 to include the items mentioned before, particularly reimbursement for CoFA representatives. He will take the lead. LaBorde offered to assist. Tirone also mentioned that Louisiana Open Meetings Laws are changing, particularly in an attempt to increase participation of those needing accommodation. We need to explore those laws.

VII. Campus Reports

Next, each CoFA member in attendance presented a brief campus update from their respective campuses. LaBorde asked each member to please send their updates via email.

Pennington - Newton reported numerous faculty grants had been received including the following: Dr. Prachi Singh was awarded a \$3.7 million NIH grant to study the cardiovascular risks of limited sleep.

Dr. Ronald Horswell was awarded a \$1.3 million NIH grant to support the efforts of in-state healthcare institutions to share health data for research purposes across a common structure.

Dr. Wagner Dantas, a post-doctoral fellow, received a NIH K99 award of ~ \$226,000 for his project to study sarcopenic Obesity.

Dr. Florina Corpodean, a post-doctoral fellow, was named as the 2024 Resident Research Award recipient by the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract for her work exploring how the brain and intestinal tract communicate.

Dr. Michael Kachmar, Metamor Institute's Metabolic Surgery Research Fellow, was named the recipient of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons research grant for 2024.

The two-volume set of the "Handbook of Obesity," was recently published. The book is edited by former Pennington Biomedical Executive Directors Dr. George Bray and Dr. Claude Bouchard, and Dr. John Kirwan, Executive Director of Pennington, Dr. Peter Katzmarzyk, Dr. Leanne Redman, and Dr. Philip Schauer served as associate editors.

LSU A&M- Alternate member Tirone presented a brief update on the state retirement plan. A bill has been filed for ORP members to go back into the defined benefits plan with some possible amendments. Discussions are ongoing. Want to make sure we have all the information needed to do what is best for faculty. Discussion followed. Cybersecurity was also briefly discussed citing IET issues to approve hardware which could become problematic for faculty.

For campus update: Faculty received NSF Engines grant which is up to \$160 million. There will be a presentation at the board meeting today. Outside of energy and workforce development our faculty are making important strides in improving the health of our community. The development and synthesis of nootkatone, discovered in Professor Roger Laine's lab in the LSU College of Science as a potent insect repellent, is now being scaled up for industrial production through a collaboration with Professors Kerry Dooley and Mike Benton in the Department of Chemical Engineering. The team just received a National Science Foundation grant of \$550,000 to advance nootkatone for tick control and insect-borne disease prevention. It is also effective in

combating termites, ticks, and other insects as well as fleas, lice, mosquitos, and fire ants. While there hasn't been a new insect repellent on the market since DEET, research has shown nootkatone as superior to DEET, even at lower concentrations.

There is also a new-cross campus project to combat adolescent obesity. LSU Professor of Kinesiology Senlin Chen, having just secured a \$450,000 National Institutes of Health R15 grant through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, is leading the project and collaborating with Amanda Staiano and her lab at LSU's Pennington Biomedical Research Center, among others. The project is called ProudMe (Preventing Obesity Using Digital-assisted Movement and Eating) and will have immediate impacts for hundreds of Louisiana children and their families through direct interventions in Louisiana schools.

Of course as a comprehensive university our faculty work in numerous fields in addition to the STEM disciplines and the diversity of our research was on display at the recent Provost's Fund for Innovation in Research Symposium. This event brought together the 70 faculty who collectively won more than 30 total awards, and it was great to see art, science, engineering, creative-writing and other fields showcasing the results of their seed funding.

The faculty are also extremely proud of the recent election of Professor Emeritus Robin McCarley and former LSU Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Kevin Kelly to the prestigious National Academy of Inventors, or NAI. According to a press release from December 13, 2023, "Election as an NAI Fellow is the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors. To date, fellows hold more than 63,000 issued U.S. patents, which have generated over 13,000 licensed technologies and companies, and created 1 million jobs. In addition, over \$3 trillion in revenue has been generated based on NAI Fellow discoveries."

Closer to home, I would like to thank the LSU Foundation for their additional commitment of \$13,500 to faculty awards, bringing the total to \$15,000. It is important to acknowledge the work of our faculty and this will allow these recognitions of excellence to come with substantive financial awards. I would like to also thank the LSU Alumni Association for their ongoing contributions to these awards.

Finally, as you are likely aware there has been an increased focus recently on the issue of engagement on campus. One area where I and many of my fellow faculty feel we have made significant strides in engagement is shared governance on campus, most notably in our relationship with the administration. President Tate recently attended two of our Faculty Senate meetings, speaking frankly and fielding faculty questions for nearly an hour on both occasions. He also met with Senate leadership for two hours early in the semester and both have agreed to hold monthly meetings moving forward to continue our collaboration.

We also have a very productive relationship with Executive Vice President and Provost Haggerty, who upon his arrival at LSU implemented regular meetings attended by Senate leadership and the Vice Provosts. These meetings have allowed us to be proactive in identifying emerging issues and to work together to minimize the disruptions they impose upon our faculty, staff and students.

A particularly good example of the benefits of collaboration between faculty and administration can be seen in the area of information technology. Approximately one year ago we created a Faculty Senate IT Committee chaired by Professor of Physics and Senate Secretary Parampreet Singh and includes Chief Information Officer Craig Woolley and Chief Information

Security Officer Sumit Jain. Their task has been to work together to develop policies that provide the network and data security we need while protecting the ability of our faculty and students to pursue their scholarship. This committee has done tremendous work on policies which are technically demanding and require significant time and attention, and we look forward to continuing this relationship with ITS even after the policies are complete.

Overall, I believe that the current relationship between the faculty and administration is the best I've observed since I arrived in 2012. I cannot deny that as an institution we face significant challenges and no doubt there will be more to come. However, if we continue to capitalize on and grow these positive trends in engagement between faculty and administration, allowing us to work together in a coordinated manner towards our common objectives, I am sure that we will put ourselves in the best position possible to confront whatever challenges may arise and continue our joint pursuit of excellence at LSU.

LSUA - LaBorde reported the following: LSUA continues to be the fastest growing public university in Louisiana with the online programs increasing at an incredible rate. We expect enrollment to top 6000 for the fall 24 semester.

Of note, this semester, our ON-CAMPUS enrollment has grown by 17.6%.

Perhaps the number our faculty are most proud of, however, is our almost 90% retention rate. Faculty are working hard to introduce high impact practices into the classroom to keep students challenged and engaged.

Faculty are engaged in a number of campus-wide initiatives including the Career Champions Institute and our Quality Enhancement Plan that is part of our upcoming SACS-COC reaffirmation visit.

LSU Ag -Vlosky reported that The LSU Agricultural Faculty Council held elections for 2024 Executive Board. The results were:

- a. Chair (Re-Elected): Richard Vlosky, School of Renewable Natural Resources
- b. Vice-Chair: Carol Friedland, Director, LaHouse, LSU AgCenter
- c. Executive Secretary: Becky Gautreaux, Extension Agent, Parish Chair, Lafourche Parish

LSUHSC- Kimboj reported that LSU Health New Orleans are preparing for accreditation visit. They are for 8 years. Medical Education Building is still under construction. also brief discussion about online teaching and working year-long instead of 9 months, sometimes not by choice, which can hinder retention of faculty.

1.The School of Medicine will have a re-accreditation site visit by the LCME in October 2025.

This entails a very rigorous and extensive review of all aspects of medical school education, research, clinical operations, support services, faculty development, policies and finances.

The past three site visits have been very successful, and we received the maximum 8 year term of reaccreditation in 2001, 2009, and 2017. We hope to have similar success in 2025.

2. Beginning a strategic planning process to set goals and objectives for the next five years. This will build upon the strategic planning process for the Health Sciences Center which will be completed soon.

3. Demolition of floors 5, 6, 7 of the Medical Education Building will be completed shortly.

We hope to quickly move on to the construction phase of building out new laboratory space and office suites.

If we remain on the current timeline, we will have three floors of the best laboratory space in Louisiana within two years. This will help us recruit top level research scientists.

Hirings include Physical Therapy Department Head, Hao Liu, began term 12/1/23

Environmental & Occupational Health Grants Awarded • LSUHSC-Wide Intramural Research Program (WIRP) (LSUHSC), (3/1/2024- 2/28/2926) \$160,000.

National Center for Healthy Housing, (4/1/2024-8/1/2024) \$25,000. Increasing Rural Community Capacity for Lead Poisoning Prevention

Grant Funding Updates • Dr. Peggy Honore. Gilead Grant \$350,000. New Orleans Musicians Clinic & Assistance Foundation Cancer Prevention and Patient Navigation.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IX. Additional Agenda Items

There were no additional agenda items.

X. Adjourn

With no further business, Tirone made the motion to adjourn with LaBorde providing the second. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.