

LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

October 20, 2023
LSU A&M Administration Building, 9 a.m.

I. Call to order.

Dr. Kimboj called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Greaud (LSUE), Kimboj (LSUHSC), LaBorde (LSUA), Newton (PBRC), Tirone (LSUA&M), Vlosky (LSUAg)

Members absent: Alexander (LSUS)

III. BoS chairman visit

Mr. Jimmie Woods joined the meeting and was introduced to the group, noting that M LaBorde from LSUA and R Newton from Pennington were new to the Council of Faculty Advisors.

Chairman Woods mentioned that a new Boyd Professor would be recognized today at the board meeting.

CoFA members asked the chairman to please let the deans know that all academic areas are important because Boyd Professor nominations seem to be very weighted toward STEM areas.

The chairman thanked the faculty members for their time and noted that the faculty are the glue that holds us together.

IV. Approval of Minutes from September 08, 2023 meeting

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

V. Election for Recorder

Kimboj nominated LaBorde to serve as recorder for CoFA for the year. Greaud made the second. With no other nominations, LaBorde was accepted by acclamation. LaBorde asked for campus updates to be emailed to her for inclusion in the minutes.

VI. CoFA Chairperson report

Kimboj reported that he had received campus updates and would provide highlights to the Board during the meeting. Each member present then presented a brief campus update from their respective campuses.

LSUE - Faculty achievements: Dr. Maura Cavell recently published poems in *Poets' Espresso Review* and *Amulet*. In *Poets' Espresso Review*, Vol 14, issue 5: "Winter Carnival"; "Star Watcher"; "Christmas Bells"; and "Winter in the South". In *Amulet*, vol. 20: "Black Ice: A World Howling" and "Beautiful Girl," for Anna. She added that Rachel Andrus was selected as the 2023 Louisiana Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (LAPHERD) Recreator of the Year, one of the most prestigious awards given by the association. The award will be officially presented at the

Awards Luncheon on Friday November 3, 2023, during the LAHPERD Convention in Baton Rouge.

As for the campus update, LSUE completed its onsite reaccreditation visit by the SACSCOC team. Per Chancellor Sorenson, "Their report, which we will receive in writing in a few weeks, will confirm that the committee has determined that LSUE has NO FINDINGS and is in compliance with all the SACSCOC standards!! Our QEP received a thorough and expert review. It was met with high praise and with comments to consider in further implementation as we move forward in the dynamic and evolving initiative. The formal reaffirmation of LSUE will not occur until the conclusion of the June 2024 SACSCOC Board Meeting."

Pennington - Newton reported that Pennington faculty have received grant funding. The Louisiana Clinical & Translational Science Center, or LA CaTS, received a grant of nearly \$1.3 million to support the efforts of in-state healthcare institutions to share health data for research purposes across a common structure. Dr. David McDougal was awarded a \$1.8 million NIH grant to look at prevention and treatments for hypoglycemia in people with type 1 diabetes.

Pennington faculty have received awards. The Obesity Society honored Dr. Leanne Redman honored with the Research Achievement Award and Dr. Emily Flanagan with the 2023 Early Career Travel Award.

Pennington has expanded its faculty. Dr. Robert Dubin joined as Associate Professor of Research studying endocrinology and metabolism and Dr. Diana Coulon joined as Director of Comparative Biology Core and Attending Veterinarian and will lead and shape Pennington animal program.

Pennington publication has received recognition. A Pennington Biomedical study lead by Dr. Hui Zhang earned the front cover of Diabetes, a leading journal for metabolic research, treatment, and prevention.

LSU A&M- Alternate member Tirone presented that Faculty are pleased that the Renewal Natural Resources building is undergoing necessary upgrades to address numerous deficiencies with the structure. The process of temporarily relocating faculty offices and labs during the period of the renovation has however highlighted the impact of the tremendous amount of deferred maintenance on campus and the overall lack of space. It has been a difficult and time-consuming process and faculty are encountering great difficulty finding suitable spaces for their teaching and research. As we move forward with the budgeting process we hope that deferred maintenance and the issue of instructional and research space on campus continue to receive the attention and funding they deserve. He also mentioned that A&M had received AI and NAS funding. Finally, he shared results from a statewide survey about perceptions of faculty.

Discussion followed about the various campuses having issues with space. It is an ongoing struggle and we have not heard the last of the issues concerning space and deferred maintenance.

LSUA - LaBorde reported the following: Although we are a small campus, we are a vibrant campus with many opportunities for the campus community to participate and collaborate in service and learning.

Of note: We will be holding a celebration next week in honor of reaching the goal of 5000 students two years before our target of 2025. The campus and community are invited for food, music, fireworks and fun.

We just entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans ensuring interviews for our qualifying graduates.

This week we had a ribbon cutting for our new Dental Hygiene program that is a collaborative program with the LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry.

We have several new programs that are proving to be very popular including aviation, cybersecurity and zoo science.

Our SPERO program for special needs populations is doing well and recently was recognized by and received a \$25,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation's Angel Awards honoring Penny Smith and Melva Villard, two parents who helped create the program. SPERO provides an integrated higher education experience for young people who otherwise would be ineligible for college admission. LSUA's is the only Louisiana program north of I 10.

Recent LSUA Faculty Achievements: Dr. Christopher Stacy, professor of history, has a new book coming out entitled Populism and Professional Wrestling in the Sunbelt South. It will be available in early December; Dr. Bernard Gallagher, professor of English, presented "Making Peace with the Past" at the Louisiana Studies Conference in Natchitoches; Dr. Holly Wilson, professor of philosophy and religion, recently published "Kant's Approach to Alterity and Women" in the Journal of Kantian Studies. She was also invited to speak to the Lisbon Kant Group on "Kant and Environmental Ethics" in Lisbon, Portugal, and Melissa LaBorde, APR, associate professor of communication studies, presented "GOST Hunting: Strategic Planning Doesn't have to be a Horror Story" at the Public Relations Society of America's national conference for employee and corporate communication earlier this year in Orlando. She also served as a content expert and judge for the PR News Platinum Awards for the outstanding national public relations/entertainment campaigns category, and presented a session titled "AI...I, Comms Robot" at the Southern Public Relations Federation annual conference in Huntsville, AL. And finally, Beth Whittington, associate professor of criminal justice, was recently awarded the Debbie Smith Award from the Alexandria Bar Association. The award is presented annually to a non-lawyer who has significantly contributed to promoting the understanding of the rule of law, fostering respect for the judiciary, inspiring civic responsibility, and enhancing good governance.

LSU Ag -Vlosky asked for more information about the survey. Tirone explained that 1300 began the survey and 1100 completed but we don't know where those individuals were. He said he would ask Ashley Arceneaux, the principle assistant to President Tate to share the executive summary.

Sadly, Vlosky also reported that the AG Center had a death of a grad student in the School of Natural Resources about 2 weeks ago. The student's wife had just come from Bangladesh to be with him, and is expecting a baby. It is a very sad situation for the Ag Center.

LSUHSC- Kimboj reported that LSU Health New Orleans received a \$7.5 million gift which is the largest gift ever received. Several faculty members have received grants for various research projects.

CoFA members next discussed the difficulty in hiring faculty. Salary disparity seems to be the biggest issue and many reported to have even have lost faculty on retention offers. There was also brief discussion about online teaching and working year-long instead of 9 months, sometimes not by choice, which can hinder retention of faculty.

It was announced that the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) meeting would be held at LSUA on Nov 11 on the LSUA campus. Tristan Denley from the Board of Regents is going to make a presentation about co-requisite and pre-requisite courses. CoFA members are welcome and encouraged to attend if schedules allow.

Kimboj suggested that the LSU system faculty senates meet together and the idea was affirmed by the CoFA members.

Discussion followed about who is invited to ALFS. They do have a constitution and bylaws. It was noted that the ALFS meetings are open meetings and all faculty are welcome to attend.

VII. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IX. Additional Agenda Items

There were no additional agenda items.

X. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.
