

LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

September 6, 2024
LSU A&M Administration Building, 8 a.m.

I. Call to order.

S Kimboj called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Tirone (LSUA&M), Kimboj (LSUHSC-New Orleans), LaBorde (LSUA), Newton (PBRC), and Kevin McCarter, (LSUAg- Alternate); Megan Flavin (LSUHSC-Shreveport)

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

Guests: Param Singh (LSUA&M)

III. There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes from April meeting

Tirone made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2024 meeting. Newton made the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Introductions followed because of the number of guests in attendance. All were welcomed.

V. New Business:

Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

Dan Tirone was nominated as chair. He accepted that nomination.
Sanjay Kimboj was nominated as vice-chair. He accepted that nomination.
Missy LaBorde was nominated as secretary. She accepted that nomination.
All were elected unanimously by the members.

Campus reports:

LSU AgCenter

- Approximately \$10.7 million in new grants were awarded to LSU AgCenter in first two months of the new fiscal year.
- For the 4th year in a row, LSU agriculture business students placed 1st in the Academic Quiz Bowl at the National Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAEA) Meeting in New Orleans.
- AgCenter Cooperative Extension Service logged 1,209,499 Educational Contacts for FY 24, an increase of a 1/4 of a million over the last 2 years

LSU Alexandria

• LSU of Alexandria continues to ride a wave of momentum as the campus continues to thrive and grow. We are currently over 6,750 students and could reach 7,000 by census day. Most of the growth continues to be in the online programs and we attribute this to our affordability and ability to engage with students. Faculty are continuing to be challenged with larger classes and overloaded teaching schedules, but all are working hard to meet the increased demands with hopes of increased faculty hires coming soon.

- Our SACS-COC onsite visit will take place later this month and it's been all hands on deck compiling data and polishing the Quality Enhancement Plan. We have addressed all identified issues and submitted the focused report, and we anticipate a successful visit.
- LSUA's Martin Family Student Success Center is going up on campus bringing excitement as we watch the construction progress. One of the final steel beams was signed by students, faculty and staff and is being placed this week. Energy is high on campus with the start of the new semester and it's a great time to be an LSUA General!

LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans

- LSUHSC-NO will be submitting its SACS-COC focus report next week to begin its formal ten-year re-affirmation process, with site visits scheduled for mid-2025.
- The university has recently hosted Senator Cassidy, Senator Kennedy, Speaker DeVillier, and Representative Mena to experience new medical simulation facilities and inspect the ongoing scientific laboratory renovations which will produce the most advanced research space in the state by late 2025.
- The first-ever staff senate is being formed, with elections scheduled in mid-September.
- All educational programs of the School of Dentistry remain fully accredited. The Commission on Dental Accreditation granted the accreditation status of approval for the allied dental education programs in Dental Hygiene and Dental Laboratory Technology, the Program in Dental Education, and the advanced dental education programs in Endodontics, Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
- From the School of Public Health: The Public Health Scholars 3.0+ Pledge will admit all applicants to our MPH program who have at least a 3.0 GPA and graduated from a University in Louisiana or graduated from elsewhere but are Louisiana residents.

Pennington Biomedical Research Center

- Pennington Biomedical Research Center is formally launching Greaux Healthy, a public service initiative designed to help reduce childhood obesity across the state. Developed with funding from the State of Louisiana, Greaux Healthy is taking the research done at Pennington Biomedical and bringing it out into Louisiana communities.
- Dr. Jackie Stephens, Professor, was awarded \$2.25 Million from the NIH's NIDDK for her project entitled "Elucidating the roles of adipocyte KAT8 in lipatrophy and systemic insulin resistance." The study is designed to better understand how regulation of adipocyte KAT8 significantly impacts systemic metabolic function.
- Dr. Carrie Elks, Assistant Professor, received a grant of \$1.4 million from NIH's NIDDK and NIGMS for her study entitled project "Adipocyte cytokine signaling as a coordinator of adipose tissue function." The project will study the bidirectional communication loop between fat cells and immune cells and how interruptions in this loop promote obesity and reduces the functioning of fat tissues.
- Dr. Emily K. Woolf, Postdoctoral Fellow, was awarded an F32 grant of \$157,000 from the NIH's NHLBI for her study titled "Examining dietary and metabolomics patterns on cardiometabolic outcome variability in response to calorie restriction." This precision medicine study is designed to enhance understanding in the factors that drive interindividual variability to dietary interventions.
- Dr. Stephanie Compton, Postdoctoral Fellow, was awarded \$217,500 from the American Cancer Society. The study is designed to research the impact of aerobic exercise on postprandial glycemic control and ectopic adipose tissue deposition in colorectal cancer survivors.
- Dr. Leanne Redman, Dr. Casie Lindsly and the Pennington Biomedical Education Programs team secured a grant of \$500,000 for the development of a new course to be held at the Center. The new training course, "Clinical Methods for Nutrition and Obesity Research," was originally developed as part of NORC, but will now operate as its own program. The course will bring the next generation of postdoctoral researchers and earlycareer faculty in obesity and nutrition methods from around the world

to Baton Rouge. The five-day course will provide gold standard and cutting-edge research methodologies for conducting obesity and nutrition related research.

- The annual Men's Health Summit will return to Pennington Biomedical on Saturday, Sept. 14. One of Pennington Biomedical's signature events, the Men's Health Summit welcomes all men in the Capital Region to the Center for a day of educational sessions and a wide variety of health screenings.

LSU Health Sciences Center, Shreveport

- Md. Shenuarin Bhuiyan, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology & Translational Pathobiology, was awarded an R01 grant totaling \$3,301,740 over five years from the NIH's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Dr. Bhuiyan's research focuses on defining new physiological functions of the Sigma-1 receptor (Sigmar1) – a widely expressed protein in the heart – and discovering its protective functions during adverse changes to the heart and heart failure.

- Ana-Maria Dragoi, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Molecular & Cellular Physiology, was awarded an R01 grant totaling \$1,788,500 over five years from the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for her project "Mechanism of macrophages colonization in gonorrhea."

- Dr. Dragoi's and Dr. Bhuiyan's grants are two of 31 active R01 grants awarded to researchers at LSU Health Shreveport.

- Dr. Cory Coehoorn, PhD, Chair of the School of Allied Health PhD Program in Rehabilitation Sciences, serves as the Principal Investigator in a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) signed with the Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC), headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base. The research that will be conducted under the CRADA aims to better understand and create improved protocols for the physiological and cognitive stress that B-52 Aircrews experience on long-duration deployments.

LSU A&M

- Expanded collaboration with national labs: This summer, eight LSU students from computer science and chemical engineering interned at Idaho National Labs (INL) to work on research projects of national significance, including the security of electric vehicles. Meanwhile, LSU's Elias Bou-Harb teamed up with Southern University to win a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to build a more diverse cyber workforce and secure the nation's electric vehicle infrastructure—tapping some of the same students who worked at INL this summer. Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) then sent a contingent of six people down to LSU to explore additional ways of engaging LSU cyber students, who are among the nation's best. Both INL and ORNL are working with LSU LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Report September 6, 2024 4 faculty and students on a new \$25 million Department of Energy research project to protect the nation from nuclear threats.

- Bringing a national defense contractor and jobs to Baton Rouge: A growing partnership between LSU and Integer Technologies on cyber and defense has unlocked a \$10 million Navy contract to develop maritime intelligent autonomous systems, including underwater robots. Integer is hiring LSU alumni and recently opened an office on the flagship campus to work more closely with LSU faculty and students. More on this research will be announced next week. Integer is also sponsoring a senior capstone project competition for LSU engineering students.

- Building a Center for Equity in Faculty Advancement: Blacks and Hispanics make up 30% of the U.S. population but only 8% of its full professors. Ongoing research by LSU, University of California Merced and University of Houston with findings forthcoming in the journal Nature Human Behavior shows how bias in promotion and tenure review leads to minority candidates often being judged more harshly. With a new \$4.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, Tracey Rizzuto, professor in the LSU School of Leadership & Human Resource Development, will offer solutions and co-lead the creation of a Center for Equity in Faculty Advancement in collaboration with Texas A&M University, Purdue University, Georgia Institute of Technology and others.

- National recognition of LSU chemistry faculty: Zakiya Wilson-Kennedy was recently named a fellow of the American Chemical Society and, just this week, Fatima Rivas' research on using ergosterol peroxide from mushrooms to treat cancer was featured on the cover of ACS Omega.
- The combination of LSU, the AgCenter and Pennington Biomedical collectively increased its research and development expenditures from FY 20 to FY 23 by 34%, with \$384 million in expenditures for the last fiscal year. This number increases to almost \$488 million when you add in the Health Science Centers in Shreveport and New Orleans, a 37.5% increase over the same time-period.
- We have also seen correspondingly impressive outputs in scholarship. From 2019 through 2023, our approximately 1,700 faculty at LSU A&M and the AgCenter published 8,276 articles, 375 book chapters, and were cited 141,395 times. They have also published 435 books in the last ten years.

Newton suggested we have parameters for the campus reports. Kimboj clarified that we can have a summary type report and include additional details in the written report.

It was suggested that we perhaps look at a date for a Senate Summit outside our regular meeting time so that we are not so constrained by time to get to the board meeting.

Provost Haggerty briefly stepped into the meeting to say thanks for CoFA's service to the system.

Discussion followed about the legislative session and about the new opportunity to move to the defined benefit program. Tirone has been following the topic and provided a brief update.

Discussion followed about the retirement plans. Singh mentioned there is a retirement taskforce that has been formed. There will be a meeting on Sept 11 of that group. (HR 169 -McCullough)

Tirone is staying attuned to the legislative activity. ALFS meeting is on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 10 a.m. in Alexandria. The speaker of the house is scheduled to attend. Faculty members from Louisiana higher education institutions are invited to attend.

VI. Adjourn

With no further business, Tirone moved for adjournment with the second by Newton . The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Attachments:

Agenda for 9/6/24

LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

8:00am CST, September 6,
2024 UAB Building, Room 112
LSU, Baton Rouge

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- BoS Chairperson Mr. Jimmie M. Woods Sr. and Vice Chair Mr. Patrick C. Morrow
- Public Comments*
- Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2024 Meeting
- New Business
- Elections for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary
- Campus Reports

Adjournment before 9:00am

*It is intended that public comments may be made (1) when they relate to a matter on the agenda and (2) when individuals desiring to make public comments have registered at least one hour prior to the meeting by emailing facultysenate@lsu.edu. When registering, individuals should identify themselves; the group they are representing, if appropriate; and the topic on which they would like to comment. To ensure that the meeting is conducted in an efficient manner, each individual will be limited to 3 minutes for their public comments and the Chair reserves the right to limit the total number of public comments if necessary.