

# LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

April 26, 2024

LSU A&M Administration Building, 9 a.m.

## **I. Call to order.**

Dr. Bazayev called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

## **II. Roll Call**

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

Members absent: Alexander (LSUS)

Guests: Carol Friedland (LSUAg), Cassie Jobe (LSUE) Param Singh (LSUA&M) and Dan Tirone (LSUA&M)

## **III. There were no public comments.**

## **IV. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2024 meeting**

Kimboj 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.

## **V . New Business:**

### *PM 24 revision*

First item to consider PM 24 revisions. Tirone reported that he and Bazayev looked at the Staff advisors PM and some of the content was carried over into the PM 24 draft. Of note: the draft includes - membership updates, one-year terms, authority to determine how the representatives are elected or appointed is still given to the individual institutions. The document indicates that terms run June to July and gives a chair pro-temp from July to first meeting for continuity. One issue of concern was reimbursement, but he wanted to make sure we noted reimbursement should include hotel accommodations for those driving traveling out of town for the meetings. LSU General Counsel directed that we are to include per diem as well. The consensus was to keep the PM somewhat broad.

Discussion followed about the makeup of CoFA since some members are the presidents of their respective Faculty Senates while others are elected from among the Faculty Council. Asked to clarify membership. It was also clarified that only the primary member has voting privileges except in cases where the alternate is attending the meeting as the official campus representative. Verbiage was adjusted to clarify the membership and also in the Quorum section.

Discussion followed.

\*\*Past Chairman Jones and BoS Executive Director Cain joined the meeting to thank CoFA members for their service. They also delivered certificates of appreciation to the 2022-23 representatives. Members assured the Past Chairman that the certificates would be delivered to the various representatives. Kimboj was recognized for his service as past chair of the group.

Discussion returned to PM 24.

Discussion followed about should we add anything about attendance. Consensus was to keep as is and that the campuses should engage with the group. Hopefully covering travel will help.

Kimboj suggested that terms be set at one or two year terms as determined by the institution. Tirone noted all of the suggested changes so that he could submit the updated document for approval by the president.

Kimboj moved and Greaud offered the second to accept the updated PM 24 with changes as noted during the discussion. All voting members approved. Tirone will send to everyone for their review and then forward to academic affairs for approval.

*Campus reports:*

Bazayev will submit our campus reports in writing to the board and will give a brief oral report today. LaBorde asked for reports to be sent to her for inclusion in the minutes. Bazayev indicated that she will send it since she already has the reports. Reports will be attached to the minutes from this meeting. Newton asked how long we want our reports to be and Kimboj mentioned that reports should be faculty focused. We will discuss in June how to best present our reports. Perhaps a way to do this would be to focus on themes.

*Shared governance:*

With the robust discussion on PM 24 revisions, shared governance was not addressed and will be a focus for the next meeting. It was suggested to schedule a meeting with President Tate and Provost Hagerty. Possible topics of discussion might be evaluations and faculty governance.

LaBorde reminded everyone of the ALFS meeting in Alexandria on May 4.

**VI. Adjourn**

With no further business, Kimboj moved for adjournment with the second by Greaud. The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

***Attachments:***

Agenda for 4/26/24

Campus Reports for 4/26/24

Approved draft revisions to PM 24

**Council of Faculty Advisors' Report**  
Prepared and delivered by Inessa Bazayev, chair, CoFA

26 April 2024

Dear Supervisors,

Since our last meeting, there has been a lot of good progress at the LSU System.

**LSU-Alexandria campus** continues to thrive and grow with applications and admissions increasing over this time last year. They anticipate topping enrollment of 6,000 in the fall semester. LSUA continues to be the fastest growing public university in the state.

The campus recently recognized outstanding faculty and staff at the annual employee recognition banquet where various awards were presented including the campus' highest award, the Bolton Award for Teaching Excellence. It was presented to Cathy Cormier, professor of nursing. The faculty would like to thank the LSUA Foundation for its work in providing faculty opportunities for endowed professorships and other recognition for faculty excellence.

The university has entered agreements with the LSU Health Sciences Center and the School of Veterinary Medicine to provide opportunities for LSUA students who meet certain criteria to automatically be granted interviews for these professional programs. This is just one of many ways LSUA is leveraging partnerships with other system campuses to better serve our students.

LSUA had a record on Giving Day this year which raised over \$123,000 for the campus. This shattered our previous Giving Day totals.

Progress continues on the construction of our Student Success Center which is exciting for the LSUA campus. Fundraising continues through private and state/federal funds for the proposed Health Education Center in Alexandria. LSUA is thankful for the state and federal legislative delegations for helping champion this project that is so needed for Central Louisiana.

Finally, LSUA currently anticipate 443 graduates for the spring semester and looks forward to having BoS Mary Werner – a long-time friend of LSUA – present at the commencement address.

**LSU Health New Orleans** preparing for an accreditation site visit in October 2025 from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education—better known as LCME.

Progress on the complete renovation of three floors of the Medical Education Building in creating a 180,000 square foot of state-of-the-art laboratory space is on schedule to be completed in approximately 18 months.

The School of Medicine has begun its Strategic Planning process, and expects this to be completed in the Fall.

The School of Public Health has also been engaged in strategic planning. They envision “a healthier Louisiana population with a workforce addressing the structural and emergent issues affecting public health.”

For the upcoming year, Governor Landry has released his priorities that included the **LSU AgCenter** and the **College of Agriculture**. Dr. Matt Lee, Vice President of Agriculture and Dean, submitted a \$20 million “wish list” to the governor’s office for the current legislative session. Current grants awarded at the Ag Center/College have a 53% fringe benefits charge to account for increasing costs. This is considered competitive relative to other similar research academic entities. Finally, the 2024 AgMagic-Baton Rouge had nearly 8,000 students, teachers, volunteers, and visitors from the public over the seven-day event. Ag Center’s volunteers contributed nearly 2,000 hours which totals an economic impact of \$63,000. AgCenter’s in-kind sponsorships topped \$100,000 which is a new record for this event.

Research continues to thrive at **Pennington Biomedical Center**, especially on cancer and diabetes. Postdoctoral fellow Stephanie Compton was recently awarded \$217,500 from the American Cancer Society to study the impact of exercise on glycemic control and adipose tissue deposition in colorectal cancer survivors.

Dr. Vance Albaugh led a team that has developed a new cancer screening tool to better detect endometrial cancer. The screener incorporates obesity, endometrial cancer, and abnormal menstrual bleeding.

Dr. John Kirwan and Dr. Philip Schauer were lead investigators on a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) showing that people with type 2 diabetes who underwent bariatric surgery achieved much better long-term blood glucose control compared to people who received standard medical management.

The GRADE study, involving investigators Drs. Daniel Hsia and Frank Greenway, found that participants taking insulin for diabetes had better compliance compared to the other medications and there were no effects on self-reported distress. The GRADE study occurred at 36 sites and enrolled more than 5,000 people with type 2 diabetes. These findings are important because they counter the common beliefs that insulin therapy results in non-compliance and it diminishes quality of life.

Here at **LSU A&M**, Baton Rouge, shared governance has been greatly strengthened between administration and faculty. A few weeks ago, we finished the on-site visit from the accreditor the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges—better known as SACSCOC. This was a visit that we had been preparing for more than a year that involved submission of thousands of pages of documents related to our academic programs, faculty, and overall structure of our campus. The on-site visit of about a dozen members SACSCOC involved a lot of meetings with faculty, staff, and administration, and we should be receiving a report within

the coming weeks. A successful university accreditation is crucial, for it enables us to receive the hundreds of millions of federal funding that support our research and educational mission and overall pursuit of excellence.

Earlier this year, President Tate has articulated in his commitment to have LSU system join the elite group of other universities that belong to the Association of American Universities—better known as the AAU. The association was founded over a century ago as a champion of leading research universities. President Tate underscored this again at our end-of-the-year meeting with the faculty earlier this week. To provide an analogy that may resonate with a broader segment of the Louisiana population, the AAU is the academic equivalent of the Southeastern Conference in athletics: the premiere group of institutions in the country who expect and deliver excellence. We know that LSU is fully capable of setting high goals and achieving them, as evidenced by recent national championship in football, baseball, women’s basketball, and now gymnastics. The lesson we can also take away from these successes is the importance of institutional commitment. The sustained success in athletics is a reflection of LSU’s unwavering support to funding the programs and recruiting the best student athletes and coaches and providing them the tools they need to compete. The pursuit of AAU will require a similar and equally unequivocal investment in academics so we can recruit and retain the best faculty and students possible and provide an environment in which they can stay and flourish. We know that, if properly supported, we can achieve this coveted status and that it will provide us with national and international recognition for our outstanding research and academics on par with our athletic accomplishments.

The faculty welcome this challenge and look forward to working with President Tate to realize his vision. However, we cannot do it alone. As with any team, success is only achieved if every member fulfills their role. We will need your leadership, vision and support to reach the benchmarks required to join the association. Events such as the recent SACSCOC reaccreditation visit are a useful reminder of the importance of an independent board committed solely to the management of its university system without any competing external influences for the success of our university. We are fortunate to have benefited from this Board’s support over the past years and have been happy to inform you over the last few months of the many successes your efforts have made possible. Moving forward we hope to continue to benefit from your support and to work with you and the President to reach the goal of joining the AAU.

As this is our last meeting of the academic year, I’d like to especially thank the outgoing members of the board. Your commitment to and support of LSU is greatly appreciated. We are a better institution thanks to your efforts.



