

# LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

December 5, 2024

LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport 9 a.m.

## I. Call to order.

Dan called the meeting to order at 9:03a.m.

## II. Roll Call

Members present: Daniel Tirone (LSUA&M), Melissa LaBorde (LSUA), Robert Newton - (PBRC), Megan Flavin Deininger (LSUHSC-Shreveport), Kevin McCarter-alternate (Ag)

Members absent: Kimboj (LSUHSC-New Orleans), Rachele Brown, (LSUE)

Guests: none

Vice Chair Morrow stopped by with Dr. Monique Cain to say hello.

## III. There were no public comments.

Kimboj asked about the process for public comments. Tirone clarified that potential speakers should register one hour before the meeting.

## IV. Approval of Minutes from October meeting

The minutes were approved from the September meeting.

Update on bylaws change - Tirone met with General Council and the Board was going to correct the bylaws at the December meeting, but the proposed change to protect faculty search committees has been put on hold until the February meeting so that it can be in the regulations instead of the bylaws. We need to make sure it is not merely being delayed. Tirone will meet with Dr. Tate and General Council about getting everything out from under this appointment authority. The Boyd professors are aware of the issue. For today's meeting, Tirone will include a nod to the issue in the faculty report. Tirone will be sending a broadcast email to A&M next week. All are reminded that it is the responsibility of the Council of Faculty Advisor members to advocate for faculty and to ensure that the Board understands our role.

Discussion followed about policies and how practice on all campuses should follow established policy. Particularly in hiring. PS 1 is at A&M is an example of how searches should be conducted.

In legislative matters, the state may be proposing a 4% limit on raises for administrators.

ACT 109 update– CoFA members and faculty can view the townhall meetings. The legislative task force is working on it and says the committee is making some progress. Everyone should also continue to pay attention to the recent tax session dealing with paying of the AUL. The discussion is continuing.

Tirone reported that we are unsure what the budget situation looks like for next year and whether it's going to be revenue neutral. We will be watching during the legislative session.

Tirone will send his report to the A&M campus for CoFA members to use anything from it. The "What Every Faculty Member Should Know" information can be found at [LSU.edu/senate](http://LSU.edu/senate). The site has a great deal of information and all are welcome to use it as a resource.

## V . New Business:

Campus reports: Dan went over the oral report he will be presenting today and reiterated that the full report is presented to the members.

### **LSU AgCenter**

- LSU AgCenter mycologist Vinson P. Doyle and LSU Department of Biological Sciences professor Brant C. Faircloth lent their combined expertise to a study led by Smithsonian Institution entomologist Ted Schultz, that studied ants farming fungi after an asteroid struck Earth 66 million years ago. This study was published in the prestigious journal Science in October.
- Eggs are a staple food item for millions of house-holds; however, raw eggs have a limited shelf life and are susceptible to contamination by such bacteria as Salmonella. LSU researchers, led by LSU AgCenter researcher Witoon Prinyawiwatkul, are helping to address these issues through their work with chitosan, a natural substance created from the shells of crustaceans that has shown promise as a food preservative and coating to help keep foods safer from bacteria.
- Louisiana commodity groups annually award grants to LSU AgCenter Researchers and Specialists from their Check-off funds. For 2025, the Louisiana Rice Research Board funded \$1.67 million in AgCenter proposals and the Louisiana Soybean and Feed Grains and Promotion Board funded \$1.59 million in AgCenter proposals.
- The LSU AgCenter grants awarded from July 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024 was \$18.87 million.

### **LSU Alexandria**

LSU of Alexandria continues to thrive and the contributions of our faculty are playing a major part. Enrollment may surpassed 7,000 this semester and several new faculty searches are underway to help cover the teaching load.

- Professors Christof Stumpf, Julie Gill and Krista Redmond have been working as research mentors this past year for students in biology and kinesiology. All three have student articles published in Volume 4 of the Oak Leaf which is LSUA's Journal of Teaching and Research.
- Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Melissa LaBorde, and six of her students attended the Southern Public Relations Federation annual conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, where LaBorde served as a session moderator and as an education roundtable panelist. The students attended keynote and breakout sessions with industry leaders and educators. They were particularly excited to accept a Lantern Award for LSUA's Shrimp Jam fundraiser on behalf of the university.
- Assistant Professor of Nursing, Crystal Smith was recently named the director of the EF Mulder Center for Teaching Excellence. The Center provides programming to support faculty development in order to enhance the learning experience of LSUA's students.
- The Communication Faculty in the College of Liberal Arts recently welcomed 50 students and area professionals for the fourth annual Student Mini Conference as part of their Command Your Career programming. This year's conference featured two professional panels with presentations for interviewing skills and social media branding. Students won prizes such as resume reviews and mock interviews with local professionals. Several students have interviews for internships as a result of the conference activities.
- Just yesterday (Dec. 4) more than 15 LSUA Faculty members from across the university participated as judges and mentors in the Scholar Day, Fall Academic Showcase on campus. The half-day event featured poster presentations and oral presentations on academic research conducted over the past semester.

### **LSU Eunice**

Assistant Professor of Computer Information Technology, Laurie Seeder, successfully presented the AAS in Computer Information Technology – Systems Analysis & Programming and the AAS in Computer Information Technology – Cyber Security at the October Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) accreditation hearings. As a result of this and a Visiting Team Report, these two LSU-E programs have received ATMAE accreditation with a progress report due in 2026. ATMAE accreditation is a nationally recognized standard of quality and excellence.

In late November LSU Eunice and LSU Alexandria officially unveiled their Surgical Technology partnership. The collaboration was spurred after a recent survey conducted by the Department of Allied Health at LSUA highlighted a critical need for Surgical Technologists and other allied health professionals in central Louisiana. This innovative approach combines LSUE's teaching expertise with LSUA's financial support in a newly renovated health education facility to provide students in central Louisiana with the training necessary to

pursue careers in Surgical Technology. The synergy also allows each institution to conserve costs by consolidation programmatic efforts.

Three LSU-E faculty members have been named “Meauxmentum Scholars” by the Louisiana Board of Regents. The inaugural scholar program features more than 100 faculty members chosen from around the state to participate due to their commitment to excellence and student success in the classroom. Drs Sumer Ford, Robert Jones II and Bridget Thibodeaux will support faculty professional development and equip fellow faculty with tools to improve student learning. Faculty cohorts for specific learning begins in Spring 2025 semester.

LSU-E wraps up a Fall semester that saw all-time highs in applications, credit hours, preparatory credit hours, LSU online students, total online students and part-time students. The greatest gain is a 24-percent increase in online students. 63 of the 64 Louisiana parishes are represented in the LSUE Fall 2024 student population.

### **Pennington Biomedical Research Center**

*Obesity Medicine Fellowship* - Pennington Biomedical was recently awarded a new Obesity Medicine Fellowship from the US Obesity Medicine Council. The program is a collaboration between Pennington Biomedical and Louisiana State University Health New Orleans School of Medicine. The fellowship training will take place at the Metamor Institute at Pennington Biomedical.

*Most Cited Researchers* - Dr. Steven Heymsfield and Dr. Peter Katzmarzyk were recognized as being among the most influential researchers in the world by Clarivate Analytics' 2024 List of Highly Cited Researchers. This honor highlights researchers whose work has had significant global influence, as evidenced by their exceptional citation records in leading scientific journals. The 2024 Highly Cited Researchers hail from more than 1,200 institutions in 59 nations and regions.

*International ObesityWeek 2024* - Faculty, staff, postdoc trainees and more represented Pennington Biomedical at the Obesity Society ObesityWeek 2024, held in November in San Antonio, TX. Pennington showcased its best research during the conference. A highlight was the presentation of the 2024 George A. Bray Doctoral Dissertation Award to postdoctoral fellow Dr. Kaja Falkenhain, who is a member of Dr. Leanne Redman's Reproductive Endocrinology and Women's Health Laboratory

*New Hires* • Dr. Zubaidah “Zuby” Nor Hanipah recently joined Pennington Biomedical as an Associate Professor in the Clinical Metabolic Surgery Laboratory. Dr. Nor Hanipah’s research interests encompass a comprehensive study of metabolic and bariatric surgery outcomes. Dr. Hanipah was recruited from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Putra Malaysia and the Cleveland Clinic. • Dr. Timothy Gilbert joins Pennington as Clinical Research Physician and Director of the Diabetes and Metabolism Care Clinic. He is a board-certified clinical endocrinologist with more than 15 years of experience in the management of patients with type 1 and 2 diabetes, along with other rare endocrine disease states. Dr. Gilbert was recruited from Lake Charles, Louisiana. • Dr. Stephanie Waldrop recently joined Pennington Biomedical as an Assistant Professor in Clinical Science. She is a board-certified pediatrician with additional training in public health. Her research will focus on pediatric obesity and clinical nutrition. Dr. Waldrop was recruited from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

*Symposium* - Pennington Biomedical hosted one of its annual scientific symposiums with the theme "Optimization of Health, Performance & Resilience: Courtside, Warside & Spaceside" in which experts from across the world shared scientific findings related to physical and psychological health, human performance, and resilience in military, elite athletes, and astronauts. The symposium was led by Pennington Biomedical's Dr. Tiffany Stewart and Adjunct Associate Professor Dr. Guillaume Spielmann of LSU.

### **LSU Shreveport**

• LSUS sets another enrollment record this fall with 10,851 students, an 11 percent increase from the previous fall. Growth in undergraduate and graduate programs accounted for the increase.

• Computer Sciences’ Dr. Subhajit Chakrabarty is the lead on research measuring health access for colorectal cancer outcomes in Louisiana that received a grant from the NIH’s Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning

Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity. The nearly \$130,000 project has already received two intents to publish based on the creation of a Locational Health Access measure, which determines how far Louisiana patients have to travel to receive treatment for colorectal cancer in-state.

- Dr. Minseong Kim has been recognized for the third straight year as one of the top researchers in the Sport, Leisure and Tourism field by Stanford University, which compiles the “Top 2 % Scientists List” using citation database Scopus and the Elsevier Data Repository. Kim ranked No. 48 in that subfield out of more than 9,000 researchers and ranked 11,400 among all 176 subfields.
- Business Dean Dr. Mary Lois White was a finalist for the ATHENA award, a Chamber of Commerce honor that recognizes professional excellence, engagement in community service and active assistance of others, particularly women.
- The Master of Health Administration program has been ranked as the top one-year online program of its kind by Intelligent.com. The site’s rankings aggregate other national rankings like the U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard and the U.S. News & World Report and then evaluates top programs on academic quality, graduation rate, cost and return on investment, and educational resources available to students.
- Computer science students designed applications that provided key support to BENTELER Steel/Tube Manufacturing Corporation’s new \$21 million expansion at their Shreveport facility. Facilitated by Dr. Subhajt Chakrabarty, students Sarah Okpe, Tahmina Anondi, and Mridula Mavuri worked on applications that improved the accuracy and efficiency of BENTELER’s operation.

### **LSU Health Sciences Center, Shreveport**

- Dr. Cherie-Ann Nathan, Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at LSU Health Shreveport was inducted as a “Living Legend” into the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery’s Hall of Distinction.
- Dr. Ana Dragoi, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Molecular and Cellular Physiology received her first R01 grant from the NIH Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for \$1.8 M
- Dr. John Vanchiere, MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research was awarded a \$1.7M Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant for equipment and software to support the expansion of basic and clinical research by the Louisiana Addiction Research Center (LARC).
- In the last six months, six investigators in the School of Graduate Studies have received extramural funding support from the NIH or other federal agencies totaling \$11.8 million.
- Jillian Danzy, Assistant Professor of Cardiopulmonary Science and a PhD candidate in Rehabilitation Sciences received a Doctoral Scholarship award from the American College of Respiratory Therapy Education, National Board for Respiratory Care for her dissertation project titled “Acute Ventilatory Impacts of Rapid Heat Stress in Firefighters”.
- The School of Allied Health Professions hosted the first Joe McCulloch endowed lecture as part of our annual alumni and family day in October. The inaugural speaker was Nicole L. Stout, DPT, CLT-LANA, FAPTA, Senior Director of Survivorship and Wellness at the American Cancer Society. Her lecture addressed the use of prospective surveillance for rehabilitation needs and survivorship in transforming 21st century cancer care.

### **LSU A&M**

- Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering Anthony Engler, who was recently recruited by LSU, has received nearly \$2 million from the National Science Foundation to develop polymers to address some of the bottlenecks that continue to plague computer chip production and electronics manufacturing. The project adds new capabilities for LSU’s Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices synchrotron.
- Kam-biu Liu, the George Barineau III Professor in the Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences, recently received the Gilbert F. White Award from the American Geophysical Union, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association of Geographers’ Climate Specialty Group, and LSU’s Presidential Laurel. Called the “father of paleotempestology,” Liu studies sediment to understand ancient storms. Stanley Wilder, the Kathleen and Joel Ory Dean of LSU Libraries, has been elected to serve on the board of the Association of Research Libraries.
- In summer of 2024, an LSU-led team of researchers - working with scientists from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, SEARCH, U.S. Geological Survey, and Florida Institute of Oceanography - took multiple research cruises to sites off the Louisiana coast, including visits to two World War II era-shipwrecks. The team hopes to gain a better understanding of how these important historic sites – and the biological communities that have come to inhabit them - are impacted by the moving sediments of the Mississippi River. The trips are

part of a larger LSU-led investigation of underwater landslides in the Gulf of Mexico, called OASIS. Better understanding of how and when sediment moves along the floor can have big implications for the future of offshore infrastructure safety, development, navigation, communications, and other activities of the Gulf, an area critical to navigation, fisheries, and energy infrastructure.

- Retinoblastoma is rare, but also the most common type of eye cancer in children. It has high mortality rates and often causes blindness wherever there is limited access to chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. Now, LSU Biological and Agricultural Engineering Assistant Professor Qi Cai and a team of LSU researchers supported by the Provost's Fund for Innovation in Research are creating eyedrops that provide an easy, effective, and less expensive and invasive approach to treat retinoblastoma. According to Dr. Cai, "The outcomes of this project will provide an effective and less invasive approach to treat retinoblastoma, which may enable at-home treatment with excellent patient compliance."

- According to the Baton Rouge Business Report, the LSU Cybersecurity Clinic will host a free seminar on ransomware for members of Louisiana's small business community. Topics to be covered include: case studies on real-world ransomware incidents; how ransomware infects businesses and spreads laterally; and practical ransomware protection strategies. Participating businesses will also have the opportunity to take a Ransomware Readiness Assessment that can help them evaluate their preparedness and identify areas in need of improvement. The seminar is presented in partnership with the Louisiana Small Business Development Center at LSU and will be held on the LSU A&M Business Education Complex Friday, December 6.

**New Business** (Continued) The group is in favor of offering a Spring faculty summit -particularly after the law school faculty member issue with academic freedom. The AAUP has a statement about academic freedom and LSU's PS 15 addresses the matter as well. Perhaps system-wide faculty could have a symposium about academic freedom. It was suggested that we could maybe piggy back those two items (shared governance and academic freedom.) We will discuss it more over the coming months.

It was shared that there are new rules for food at meetings coming from the state level. We may be hearing more about it.

## **VI. Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

### ***Attachments:***

*Agenda 12-5-25*

## **LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting**

9:00am, December 5, 2024

Room 2309

The Center For Medical Education  
LSU Health Science Center, Shreveport

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Public Comments\*
- Approval of Minutes from October 10, 2024 Meeting
- Visit with Board Chair and Vice Chair
- New Business
  - Campus Reports
- Adjournment before 10:00am

\*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](mailto: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 public comments if necessary.