

LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

April 25, 2025
LSU Admin Building 8 a.m.

I. Call to order.

Dan called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Daniel Tirone (LSUA&M), Melissa LaBorde (LSUA), John Apolzan, alternate- (PBRC), Megan Flavin Deininger (LSUHSC-Shreveport), Kevin McCarter (LSUAg), Rachelle Brown, (LSUE); Sanjay Kimboj (LSUHSC-New Orleans)

Members absent: Cassandra Williams (LSUS)

Guests: Parampreet Singh, VP of LSU Senate

III. There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes from February meeting

The minutes were approved from the February meeting. McCarter made the motion and Deininger provided the second. All approved.

Tirone mentioned that the chair or vice chair may stop by as well as President Tate.

Chairman Ballard then stopped by and expressed his appreciation to the faculty group. He mentioned his focus on higher ed and history with the Regents and with the Board as this is his second term. We were assured that bylaws would be adjusted as promised at the June meeting.

V . New Business:

There was brief discussion about Workday certifications for 9-month faculty over the summer. Most indicated that faculty who are not on the summer payroll should not be required to log-in to certify leave as logging in indicates they are actually working.

Tirone then went over the items that will be included in the oral report. The full report items are included below.

LSU AgCenter *Louisiana Solutions, Global Impact*- During National Ag Week, the LSU AgCenter premiered their new strategic plan. The AgCenter is an exceptional research, extension, and teaching enterprise seeking to position LSU as one of the top agricultural institutions in the country. This plan serves as an integrated instrument articulating our strategic vision to attain national and international prominence and impact. It defines strategic goals and aspirational targets, and details the tools, talent and culture needed to achieve success. The vision is elegant: Providing solutions to Louisiana challenges will generate transformational global impact for production agriculture, natural resource stewardship, human health and community well-being. In short, our strategic vision is to secure our future through Louisiana Solutions, Global Impact.

AgMagic- AgMagic Baton Rouge was held March 24-30th. There were 252 school tours during the week for a total of 7,331 students and adults. On the weekend the event was open to the public with 2,678 attending for a weekly total of 10,009. 570 volunteers gave 2,258 hours totaling an economic value of \$64,811.78.

Industry-based Certification (IBC)-One of the values of our Extension youth programs is talent and career development. Through FFA and school programs, youth can earn Industry-based Certification (IBC). This past year 3,500 IBCs were granted (5,000 since 2017) in Agricultural Mechanics, Agricultural Career Development & Leadership Development, Agritechnology, AWS Structural, CITF Carpentry, Ecology Conservation & Management, Forestry and NCCER Carpentry, Electrical, and Welding

LSU Alexandria

More than 60 faculty members have been working with over 160 students on undergraduate research projects that will be showcased at Scholar Day 2025 next week. The event is coordinated by assistant professor of biology, Dr. Cheryl Bardalas who is also the director of LSUA's Center for Opportunity, Research and Experiential Learning (CORE). Every college on campus is represented this year by both faculty and students. The day will consist of poster presentations, oral presentations, project demonstrations, performance/reading and online scholars. Top presenters will be recognized. Scholar Day is a highlight for our campus as we watch our students shine as they present their research projects.

The LSUA Online programs continue to grow at a rapid pace leading to our unprecedented enrollment increase over the past year topping 7,000 students as of the Spring 2 session! LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Report April 25, 2025 2 The LSUA Faculty are the engine that drives the online offerings with faculty having converted 388 courses to the online format. We have 167 different faculty teaching almost 400 online sections this spring alone. We offer 40 different concentrations in 21 different degrees which are fully online. We will have over 400 online graduates for May commencement.

Sixteen endowed professorships will be presented to deserving LSUA faculty on Monday, April 28 at the annual Employee Recognition Dinner. Faculty presented projects to the selection committee last week. The LSUA Endowed Professorships are competitively awarded to faculty for campus-wide projects. The awards are held for two-years and include a \$6000 annual stipend and varying amounts of funds for development/project activities.

Associate professor Susan Myrick, and assistant professors Dr. Krista Redmond and Emily Weeks from the School of Education recently presented at the National Field Experience Conference held at Sam Houston State University. Their presentation was titled "Elevating Clinical Practice Through High-Impact Feedback."

Dr. Bernard Gallagher, professor of English, presented a paper titled "No Way Out: James Lee Burke, Linguistic Subjugation, the Confederacy, and the South" and also read a collection of poetry "Love's Failures" at the national Pop Culture Association 55th National Conference earlier this month. Dr. Gallagher also curates the Verbatim website for the College of Liberal Arts. This site features local poets and writers and has helped Central Louisiana celebrate National Poetry Month by featuring local authors and poets.

Dr. Cole Franklin, assistant professor of communication, recently attended the Southern States Communication Association annual conference in Norfolk, VA where he was named Vice-Chair Elect of the Association for Communication Administration Internet group of SSCA.

LSU Eunice.

Faculty Publications and Features - Dr. James Cordes, co-authored a paper recently published in *Sonoran Herpetologist*, "Traumatic injury and recovery to an individual of triploid parthenogenetic *Aspidoscelis exsanguis* from Presidio County, Texas." Mrs. Symantha Jones, Assistant Professor of Fine Arts and Dr. Robert Jones, II, Assistant Professor of English have been invited to present at the 13th Annual European Beat Studies Network Conference at the University of Hildesheim September 15-17, 2025. Mrs. Jones presenting, "Copy, Print, Repeat: A Zine Making Workshop" and Dr. Jones presenting "I Offer You Nothing: The Radical Philosophy of William S. Burroughs." The recent edition of Beat Spotlight showcased Dr. Jones' presentation at the 2024 American Literature Association in Chicago.

Faculty Professional Awards and Honors - Jeff Willis, LSUE faculty member in Health, Education Physical Education and Recreation, as well as Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach received the Walter Hauck NJCAA Coaches Association President of the Year award. Willis is in his 21st year as Athletic Director of LSUE Athletics. Gloria Parrino, Instructor of Mathematics, is the new President of Louisiana Mississippi

Mathematical Association for Two-Year Colleges and Amanda Dunlap, Assistant Professor of Mathematics was elected as Webmaster. Michael Ray Taylor, History Instructor, has been appointed the Director for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at LSUE.

General Faculty News- LSUE faculty attended Meauxmentum Summit III, hosted by the Board of Regents. LSUE will receive a \$100K grant from the Board of Regents in partnership with Ascendum to implement innovative approaches to course design to directly impact student success and retention in catapult courses. • LSU-Eunice Faculty members representing four academic program areas continue their collaboration in the Campus-wide Strategic Planning Committee led by Chancellor Nancee Sorenson. The Committee is crafting an updated LSUE Mission, Vision and Values and will continue through the summer months in the creation of a new Strategic Plan. The “AI on campus” Faculty and Administrative Committee continue to work on policies and best practices with recommendations anticipated in Fall 2025. Advanced infrastructure through Workday for Students and Faculty for advising is now available campus-wide. LSUE Bengals Softball and Baseball continue their winning seasons, with NJCAA regional tournaments beginning in May. Congratulations to our student athletes and coaches!

Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Two faculty from Pennington Biomedical were recognized by the American Society for Nutrition: Dr. Catherine Champagne was selected as part of the inaugural group of 55 Excellence in Nutrition Fellows and Dr. Leanne Redman was honored with the E. V. McCollum Award, which is given to a researcher perceived as a major creative force, actively generating new LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Report April 25, 2025 4 concepts in nutrition. Both will be honored at the annual Nutrition conference, held May 31 to June 3 in Orlando.

Dr. Adithya Hari joined the Pennington Biomedical faculty on April 21, as an Assistant Professor and Physician/Nuclear Oncologist in Clinical Science. He will develop a research program in nuclear medicine. A portion of his time will be spent on direct patient care through a clinical partnership with Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center. Dr. Hari will be a member of the Louisiana Cancer Research Center and participate in project initiatives and research activities to enhance the consortium’s readiness for future submission of the NCI Cancer Center Support Grant.

Two recent events welcomed hundreds from the Greater Baton Rouge Community to Pennington Biomedical. Recently, on April 12, the Senior Black American Health Fair welcomed close to 300 people for important health information as well as fun and engaging exercises and dance activities to get everyone on their feet and moving. In March, the Irene W. Pennington Wellness Day for Women celebrated its 25th anniversary with hundreds of attendees joining us for a day focusing on body wellness and mental health and wellbeing.

The expanded Pennington Biomedical Endocrinology and Diabetes Clinic – a major step forward in research-driven patient care under the leadership of Dr. Tim Gilbert – welcomed its first patients at the end of March. This expansion strengthens the Center’s ability to provide comprehensive, research-backed care for a full spectrum of endocrine disorders, including Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, thyroid imbalances, adrenal and pancreatic diseases, endocrine hypertension, polycystic ovary syndrome, and more.

LSU Shreveport – no report

LSU Heath, New Orleans

The School of Medicine completed its Strategic Plan 2025-30 in December 2024 and it is posted on the school website. It aligns with the Health Sciences Center plan and the LSU System strategic plan. We continue to prepare for our LCME accreditation site visit in October 2025. We are ahead of schedule in preparing the documents for submission to the LCME in July 2025. The School of Medicine has matched great residents for its residency programs.

Occupational Therapy: National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy Exam Pass Rate - Achieved a 100% pass rate in 2024, surpassing the national average of 93%.

Medical Lab Science: Largest MLS Class- Started a new cohort of 32 students in January, the largest MLS class to date.

Speech-Language Pathology (SLP): Program Expansion - Starting Spring 2026, the SLP program will offer a second admissions cycle for students with alternate academic backgrounds.

LSU Health, Shreveport

Faculty Senate The LSU Health Shreveport Faculty Senate passed resolution 25-01: "Commendation for Administrative Leadership at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport." School of Medicine LSU Health Shreveport is proud to announce that 96.1% of the School of Medicine's applicants matched through the National Resident Matching Program,[®] as compared with a national match rate of 93%, proving that LSUHS remains a strong competitor at the national level. Twenty-two percent will be staying at LSU Health Shreveport for their residency with a total of 46% of the 2025 graduates staying in Louisiana. 76% of those staying in Louisiana for a residency will be doing so at an LSU medical school. School of Graduate Studies LSUHS has had remarkable success in recruiting funded research faculty to our campus, bringing with them new opportunities for incoming students and postdocs. To work with these new faculty, the School of Graduate studies has recruited our largest PhD class ever (26 students so far), including students who are transferring here along with their mentors. We anticipate the growth of the School will parallel the increase in the number of funded researchers.

School of Allied Health Occupational Therapy Faculty member Dawn Sonnier was inducted to the Roster of Fellows of the American Occupational Therapy Association. The Roster of Fellows recognizes occupational therapists who through their knowledge, expertise, leadership, advocacy, and/or guidance have made a significant contribution over time to the profession with a measured impact on consumers of occupational therapy services and/or members of the Association.

LSU A&M

We recently completed our annual census and the number of full-time faculty at the rank of instructor or above has grown to over 1,700 on the A&M campus, an increase of approximately 4.5% over last year. Over 200 of these faculty joined the Deans and other members of the campus community at our annual end of year meeting with President Tate on Monday, March 14th. The President laid out his vision for addressing current and anticipated challenges over the next few years and fielded a number of fair but challenging questions from the attendees. The faculty appreciate these opportunities to interact with the President and it was an encouraging demonstration of campus solidarity. • In March the Faculty Senate hosted an event titled "What Do Academic Freedom and the First Amendment Really Mean? A Conversation with David M. Rabban," and it was a tremendous success. Professor Rabban's talk and the panel with LSU faculty which followed provided stimulating discussions of these two important tenets of higher education and citizenship, and the response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. If you are interested in hearing Professor Rabban's talk, a video is available on the Faculty Senate YouTube channel. The Senate also has a number of copies of his book, "Academic Freedom: From Professional Norm to First Amendment Right", to lend to those who may be interested.

Baton Rouge, Shreveport and New Orleans Research Campuses

In the 2023-2024 academic year, LSU's research campuses in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport achieved a record-breaking \$543 million in combined research activity. Not only did this lead to life-changing discoveries and support thousands of jobs—the direct economic impact of LSU research on Louisiana is higher than ever, estimated at \$1.5 billion. Under its Scholarship First Agenda, announced in 2022, LSU set a bold goal of 10% research growth year over year. The 2023-2024 leap, from \$488 million to \$543 million, represents an increase of 11.5%, exceeding our target.

New Business

Updates: It looks like appointment authority will be addressed in June. Tirone will attend the executive committee meeting where it will be discussed. He reported that there is no bill concerning tenure during this session. However, there are a couple of bills of concern...the TOPS bill, capping the lower levels of the award. Introduced by a representative from Ruston, it could be targeted to redistribute students to the UL system. Brown suggested a graphic that could be shared with stakeholder groups to show the information and the

impact on the smaller system campuses. Perhaps this could help show the big picture across the state. Discussion followed about the TOPS issue.

Retirement bill – passed and was recommended to move forward to appropriations. Tirone does not foresee this bill creating much of an issue. It boosts contribution of employers to 8%. The task force did a great job on this bill. Employees still have until June 30 to go back into TRSL. An advisory committee will be formed and yesterday TRSL agreed to have someone from higher ed on the board (an ORP participant). Pennington was instrumental in getting this done. The contribution of employee and employer combined is 14.2%...we are almost 10 points lower than Mississippi. LSU A&M Faculty Senate passed a resolution supporting the 8% in hopes of helping get this passed in this session. Tirone will resend his email with the links to the TRSL videos.

Other bills of note: Chenevert's DEI bill is basically an extension of what was done before. The issue is that it defines programs of instruction. The concern is the definition of "programs" and "instruction" and does this encroach on the classroom. Tirone has asked for this language to be clarified so it doesn't unintentionally impact classroom teaching. Also, a bill that defines post-secondary education as a public benefit could be problematic. The issue is that students on visas are not eligible for public benefits. We are hoping to strike that line so college students wouldn't be grouped into that bill. Discussion followed.

The group then briefly discussed concerns over the ousting of the LSU Health Chancellor and the coming resignation of Provost Haggerty. Tirone clarified to the CoFA members that rumors of the president stepping down are believed to be false.

The state's hiring freeze shouldn't apply to LSU system campuses from the executive side. But LSU has its own hiring freeze in place. We assume that we should be able to hire if we can justify the need.

VI. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m. Kimboj made the motion and McCarter

Attachments:

Agenda 4-25-25

LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

8:00am, April 25, 2025

UAB Building, Room 112

LSU, Baton Rouge

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Public Comments*
- Approval of Minutes from February 21, 2025 Meeting
- New Business
 - 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 public comments if necessary.