

# LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

June 27, 2025  
LSU University Administration Building  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

-Approved-

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

## **II. Roll Call**

Members present: Daniel Tirone (LSUA&M) - Chair, Suresh Alahari (LSU Health New Orleans), Rachelle Brown, (LSUE), Nadejda Korneeva (LSU Health Shreveport), Kevin McCarter (LSU Ag), Robert Newton (PBRC), Cynthia Thomas (LSUA), and Cassandra Williams (LSUS)

Members absent: None.

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

## **IV. Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2025 meeting**

The minutes were approved without amendments.

Chairman Ballard then stopped by and expressed his appreciation to the faculty group.

Provost Blanchard then stopped by the meeting to introduce himself to the committee members and thank them for their service.

President Lee then stopped by the meeting to introduce himself to the committee members and thank them for their service.

## **V . New Business**

The Chair went over the items that will be included in the oral report. The full report items are included in an attachment.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 am following a motion by McCarter which passed without objection.

Minutes prepared by Daniel C. Tirone, Chair

## **Attachments:**

*LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Report June 27, 2025*

# LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Report

June 27, 2025

Assembled by Daniel C. Tirone, Chair

## LSU AgCenter

### Professorship

**Arthur Villordon**, Professor at the LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, was awarded the **Floyd S. Edmiston Sr. Professorship in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management**. This professorship was established to support the activities of a field faculty member at the LSU AgCenter engaged in teaching, research or extension.

### Rice Research Station Field Day

The LSU AgCenter H. Rouse Caffey Rice Research Station held its **116th annual field day** June 24. A **new medium-grain rice variety, “Venus”** was debuted, which has a **10% higher yield** and strengthened domestic market potential. Over 300 people attended the Rice Field Day, including an international group visiting from Indonesia.

### 4-H University

**4-H University** just completed its **111th** rendition on the LSU campus. This year’s theme was **“Leading the New Frontier”**. More than **1,500 students, volunteers and 4-H agents** participated in the 3-day event. They competed in 41 contests and attended more than 20 educational programs.

### Louisiana 4-H'er going to the World Archery Youth Championships

**Brody Wonch, St. Tammany Parish 4-H**, represented Louisiana on the 2024 compound bow archery team at the 4-H National Championships in Nebraska. Recently, Brody competed in a **USA Archery Tournament in Florida** and earned a spot on the **USA Archery Youth Team**. He will represent the United States at the **World Archery Youth Championships in Canada** later this summer. Only 3 spots were available in his age category.

## LSU Alexandria

- Dr. Christof Stumpf, professor of biology, was recently elected to take the role of Faculty Senate president beginning this fall. This summer, Dr. Stumpf is heading a research project with students from LSUA and Grambling who are extracting DNA from crawfish and then sequence the mitochondrial DNA. Dr. Stephen Baca, LSU assistant professor of entomology and Director of the State Arthropod Museum is assisting Dr. Stumpf with this project.
- Dr. Julie Gill, professor of kinesiology, was recently awarded the Bolton Award for Teaching Excellence which is the highest faculty honor on our campus. The Teaching Innovation Grant was presented to Dr. Cheryl Bardales, assistant professor of biological sciences, and the Teaching Innovation Award was presented to Mr. Rafael Romero Moreno, instructor of business. The Faculty Award for Outstanding Service was presented to Ms. Elizabeth Azusa, instructor of radiologic technology. Also, during the awards ceremony, fourteen LSUA faculty were presented endowed professorships for a wide variety of projects. At LSUA, professorships are competitively awarded and are project-based. Faculty hold professorships for two years.
- LSUA held its largest graduation ceremony to date this past May with 628 Spring 2025 graduates. Enrollment continues to climb and faculty are a big part of the growth with outstanding advising and classroom teaching leading to high retention rates for campus.
- The LSUA College of Liberal Arts recently hosted the Public Relations Association of Louisiana (PRAL) for their state-wide conference and awards program. “Confident Content Capture: photography and videography masterclass” included several professional speakers focusing on creating effective visual content. During the conference, past Educator of the Year recipient Melissa LaBorde, APR, associate professor of communication studies at LSUA, presented the 2025 PRAL Educator of the Year award to Sadie D. Wilks, APR, senior instructor from the Manship School of Mass Communication at LSU.
- The Computer Science Program is launching a new AI area focused on deep learning, machine learning, data mining and ethics to give computer science students a deeper experience in artificial intelligence. We are also launching a minor in artificial intelligence for any major on campus which will include survey courses and an exploration of how AI fits into any curriculum. An additional program upgrade is in the agricultural sciences area looking at drone technology and AI. Dr. Nathan Sammons, dean of the College of STEM, was featured on KALB-TV recently to discuss these and other new program offerings for our campus.
- Numerous faculty are working with summer programming on the campus including the Esport, Drone & Robotics Camp; Art, Theatre and Photography Camp, and the Children’s Academic Program for Summer. These camps are targeted to elementary and middle school students and are held on the LSUA campus. Many of the classes are taught by LSUA faculty.

## LSU Eunice

### Faculty Features

Two new deans began in June: Dr. Charles Stewart; Dean of Arts and Sciences and Ms. Kristie Broussard Leger; Dean of Health Sciences, Business and Technology, and Public Protection & Safety.

### Faculty Professional Awards and Honors

#### 2025-2026 Endowed Professorship Recipients and Their Award Plans:

- **Lisa LaFleur** - A leader in allied health research with a focus on student retention.
- **Braneshea Moore** - focus on the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the nursing curriculum for a more resilient, practice-ready nursing workforce.
- **Domingo Jariel** - research in environment and agricultural biology including the management of the Native Prairie Restoration Project on the LSUE campus.
- **James Cordes** - continued research of whiptail lizards in six localities in Texas. His research has been the subject of several published articles in journals.
- **Symantha Jones** – funding to revitalize the arts on campus including equipment and leading LSUE Art Club beautification projects.
- **May Stone** - research to complete book on literary criticism.

### General Faculty and Campus Achievements

**Spring 2025 Graduation** of 473 representing Louisiana, 10 other states, plus Canada and Mexico. Of those, 115 were honor graduated, 46 Summa Cum Laude and 69 Magna Cum Laude distinctions.

**LSUE Respiratory Care program** students once received multiple awards at the Louisiana Society for Respiratory Care's (LSRC) 53rd Annual Educational Meeting and Exhibits:

- **2nd Place:** *Hunter Miller and Dylan Wilson* for their project, "*The Smart Inhaler.*"
- **3rd Place:** *Chloe Colwart and Cathryn Broussard* for their project, "*mRESVIA Vaccine for RSV in the Adult Patient.*"

In addition, LSU Eunice earned 1st Place in the video competition and was awarded the Spirit Award for the second consecutive year—highlighting the group's leadership, energy, and outstanding volunteer support throughout the conference.

The number of **veterans** among LSU-E students continues to grow, with \$1 million dollars in veterans benefits awarded in the last academic year. Next week, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, LSU-E will hold a Vet Fest to showcase benefits and resources to new and returning veteran students.

**LSUE has four NJCAA Academic All-American Teams:** Softball, Baseball, Men's and Women's Soccer. We are very proud to report a record number of 58 Academic All-Americans across various sports: 3 women basketball players, 9 women soccer players, 13 softball players, and 20 baseball players.

## LSU Health New Orleans

### Vice Chancellor's office

- Continuing to re-organize the Office of Research Services
- Search for an Executive Director of the Office of Research Services is in progress
- Three Centers of Excellence will be reviewed at this Board meeting for approval - two renewals (Neuroscience and Cancer Center) and on new one for Injury and Trauma

### School of Nursing

- Off campus instructional site in BR to admit first class fall 2025 - about 35 students
- LSUHSC New Orleans SON continues to move toward competency-based education curriculum
- Initiating a new program - DNP Nurse Educator role

### School of Medicine

- The graduating class of 2025 had excellent results in the match: approximately 50% remained in state (far more than any other medical school in the state), and 80% of those students chose to train in our residency programs. Many of those students who left the state will train at some of the best programs in the country.
- The SOM has its LCME accreditation visit in October 2025, we should know the outcome in February 2026.
- We continue to make key recruitments in cancer research and cancer clinical care.

### School of Allied Health

- Master's Degree in Medical Laboratory Science approved by BOR
- 5 Certificate Programs in Counseling approved by BOR (Clinical Mental Health, Marriage & Family Therapy, Rehabilitation Counseling, School Counseling, & Play Therapy)
- OCIS anticipated start date for Respiratory Therapy Summer 2026
- PT (Summer '25), Cardiopulmonary Science (Summer '25), Medical Laboratory Science (Spring '25), Counseling (Spring '25, Summer '25, & Fall '25), & Speech Language Pathology (Summer '25)– largest admitted cohorts to date

## Pennington Biomedical Research Center

### Greaux Healthy Publicly Launches, Going on the Road Statewide

Pennington Biomedical Research Center publicly introduced its Greaux Healthy initiative, a public service initiative designed to help improve Louisiana kids' health at every age, on Thursday, June 5. Developed in partnership with the State of Louisiana, Greaux Healthy implements 35 years of Pennington Biomedical research and discoveries to inform tools, resources and programming for children, parents, healthcare providers and educators throughout the state. To reach Louisianians, Greaux Healthy is launching a tour with its Healthy Moves bus traveling to all nine Louisiana Department of Health regions of Louisiana. The Pennington Generation research study will also take part in the statewide tour, enrolling Louisiana families who want to learn more about how physical activity, nutrition, sleep habits, and other factors affect children's health and development.

### Nutrition 2025

Pennington Biomedical was proud to be well-represented at NUTRITION 2025, the flagship meeting of the American Society for Nutrition, held in Orlando. Center researchers contributed to important discussions on ultra-processed foods, GLP-1 guidelines, and the future of precision health through well-attended talks, poster presentations, and panels. Congratulations to Drs. Catherine Champagne and Stefan Pasiakos on being named among the inaugural Excellence in Nutrition Fellows, and to Dr. Leanne Redman for receiving the prestigious E.V. McCollum Award.

### American Diabetes Association

Researchers from Pennington Biomedical Research Center presented their latest findings in diabetes research and treatment at the American Diabetes Association's flagship conference, the 85th annual Scientific Sessions that took place June 20 – 23 in Chicago. Presenters included Dr. Steven Heymsfield, Dr. Eric Ravussin and Dr. Donna Ryan, among others, sharing research findings at the world's largest scientific meeting focused on diabetes research, prevention and care.

### Faculty Retreat

On May 14, Pennington Biomedical faculty and postdoctoral fellows for the Center's annual Scientific Retreat, hosted by the Faculty Advisory Council. Participants enjoyed a day of learning about one another's research through poster sessions and blitz presentations. The day featured light-hearted activity, panel discussions on GLP1s and the current state of federal research funding, and an overview of the Center by Dr. John Kirwan. The day was capped off by the announcement of various award winners. The recipient of this year's Publication of the Year was Dr. Tim Allerton. Winning the poster competition was Elizabeth Heintz, and the winner for the blitz competition was Ecem Diktas.

### New Additions

Since the last board meeting, Pennington Biomedical have brought on two new research faculty:

- Dr. Stefan Pasiakos, Professor and Director of Human Performance Optimization. In this role, Dr. Pasiakos will lead groundbreaking research aimed at enhancing human performance and physiology across diverse environments – from the battlefield to deep space.
- Dr. Emily Flanagan, Assistant Professor-Research Her research focuses on early life nutrition and energy balance. Dr. Flanagan has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at Pennington Biomedical for the past five years, enhancing her training under the mentorship of Dr. Leanne Redman in the Reproductive Endocrinology and Women’s Health Laboratory and will now lead the Developmental Physiology Laboratory, which is dedicated to investigating the physiological mechanisms that underpin pediatric growth and the developmental origins of health and disease.

## LSU Health Shreveport

LSU Health Shreveport is offering three summer programs for high school students with varying degrees of time commitment.

**Allied Health Education and Discovery Program (AHEAD):** This free, 5-day program is for Louisiana high school students interested in exploring the health career programs offered in the School of Allied Health Professions. Participants will engage in full-day sessions that include hands-on, interactive activities within each discipline and field trips. Students will receive tips for success in college and guidance on how to pursue a professional career in healthcare.

**Science & Medicine Academic Research Training Program (SMART):** The Bobbie Cates Hicks SMART program provides academically advanced high school seniors who are interested in careers related to medicine, scientific research, and biomedical engineering opportunities to engage in intensive research with medical clinicians, researchers, and academic staff. Funded by the BRF since its inception in 1997, 217 students have been trained in this program. The students enter into the lab full-time over the summer before senior year (a stipend is provided) and then come to the lab for at least 10 hours per week for their entire senior year (they receive high school science credit). Based on tracking performed in 2012, all of the students attended undergraduate university, with 79% obtaining degrees with science majors. 80% of those employed worked in science/health related fields.

**Biostart Program:** Eight to ten students participate each year from Southwood High School in the Biostart Program funded locally by the Biomedical Research Foundation. One of the goals of the program is to enhance the education of a community in Shreveport. In addition to research time each morning during the fall semester, the students attend a lecture series on laboratory skills and responsible conduct in research. They also participate in a hands-on science day for 160 eighth grade students from our area to help promote STEM education. The program ends with a poster presentation.

## LSU Shreveport

- Record number of graduates for the second straight semester at spring graduation (1,721).
- History professor Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze presented in Oxford, England, in early June on the global impact of the Napoleonic Wars and the Eastern Georgian Monarchy in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.
- History professor Dr. Cheryl White appeared on at least three episodes on The History Channel popular series “History’s Greatest Mysteries” and “Holy Marvels” this spring.
- Baseball completed its perfect 59-0 season en route to the NAIA national championship. It’s the first-ever perfect season in college baseball history. This is a really big deal!
- Six computer science students designed an AI-powered weather app for the US Air Force which filled an immediate need for that military branch as they explored the long-term possibilities of AI in weather prediction.
- The Noel Collection acquired a significant document, a handwritten version of “La Florida del Inca.” The document details Hernando de Soto’s trek into Florida and the southeastern U.S. in the 1530s and 1540s. It’s the first work of the first historian (Inca Garcilaso de la Vega) of mixed European and indigenous descent (Spanish and Incan).
- LSUS and the City of Shreveport joined to create the first GIS certificate program, which addresses a workforce need in the city and region. Eight participants finished the first three-week course with other courses planned in the coming months.
- The Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning lab is working with LSU Health Sciences Center to apply AI principles to medical data. It’s completing projects that’s making more efficient and effective analysis of medical data possible. The lab is publishing research in both medical and other fields in some of the most prestigious AI publications, which includes the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ International Conference of Bioinformatics and Biomedicine.
- The LSUS Debate Team captured a scholastic tournament national championship, which includes all undergraduate debate divisions in the IPDA. It’s the fifth national tournament championship in program history. Debaters CJ Longino and Cameron Thoele won the team debate championship with Addison Jacobsen earning the junior varsity individual championship.

## LSU A&M

- The Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) expects to close out the year with year-over-year growth in research awards, an important achievement which underscores the importance and significance of the research conducted on the A&M campus. Despite the tremendous uncertainty surrounding federal research funding ORED will stay focused on providing supporting faculty in their research careers and we are still submitting high quality proposals.
- LSU has received a \$7 million E-RISE award from the NSF to advance research related to transforming agricultural wastes into high-value liquid fuels for transportation. LSU’s statewide team is led by Ingmar Schoegl, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the LSU College of Engineering, in partnership with Dorin Boldor, Professor of Biological and Agricultural Engineering in the LSU AgCenter with a joint appointment in the LSU College of Engineering. Education and research partners include Louisiana Tech



University, Southern University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and River Parishes Community College, all of which already collaborate on research and workforce development as part of the LSU-led \$160 million FUEL project, also funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and announced last year. More information about this award will be announced soon.

- Five LSU faculty received prestigious NSF CAREER awards, placing us in the top third among SEC institutions for this key “Top 50” metric.
- The 2024 class of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been joined by three LSU faculty: Professor of Chemistry Les Butler, for his contributions to solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and X-ray interferometry; Professor of Chemical Engineering Krishnaswamy Nandakumar, including for his work in computational fluid dynamics and modeling; and Professor of Chemistry John Pojman, for his contributions to polymer science.
- LSU Ogden Honors College junior Gerard Lorio has been selected as a Goldwater Scholar, a prestigious honor reserved for only an elite few students nationwide. The Goldwater Scholarship program provides scholarships to college sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering, helping ensure that the U.S. produces highly qualified professionals in these critical fields.
- Two LSU assistant professors of geology and geophysics, Eirini Poulaki and Brandon Shuck, recently joined a historic expedition to drill into Earth’s mantle between its crust and core under the Mediterranean Sea. The mantle makes up 84% of the planet’s volume, powers volcanoes, and can flow like honey or break in earthquakes. One of the team’s discoveries is that mantle rocks can naturally capture and store carbon dioxide. The recovered samples contained carbonate-filled veins, suggesting that natural CO<sub>2</sub> had crystallized in narrow cracks and got trapped within the rocks permanently. If scientists can replicate this process on a larger scale, it could provide a method for long-term carbon sequestration, offering an important tool for addressing environmental concerns. Their key findings were published in *Nature Communications*.