

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER

Effective Date: July 6, 1995

AG CENTER PS-6

Version: 1

SERVING IN ELECTED OR APPOINTED POSITIONS FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND HOME ECONOMICS COMMODITY AND RELATED FARM AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Purpose

To establish and define the policy governing LSU Agricultural Center personnel holding office and/or advocating political positions or actions in organizations which are related to their area of specialization. This includes all offices (President, Vice President, Treasurer, etc.), except Recording Secretary.

Agricultural Center personnel are prohibited from serving as Treasurer for commodity and related farm and youth organizations. Under no circumstances will they be permitted to have check signatory authority for these organizations.

General Policy

It is permissible for the faculty and staff of the LSU Agricultural Center to serve in the following capacities in agricultural, forestry, fisheries and home economics, commodity and related farm and youth organizations:

1) *Recording Secretary* (without voting privileges) when determined to be a staff position required or recommended as a

result of the employee's area of responsibility. Correspondence concerning routine meeting date information, transmittal of minutes, or other routine matters can be sent under the signature of the recording secretary. Policy correspondence or political action requests should not be sent under the signature of Ag Center personnel, but rather under the signature of the appropriate elected officer of the organization.

2) *Ex-officio member* (without voting privileges) of a board or organization as a result of employee's position and duties in the LSU Agricultural Center.

3) *Any office in an agricultural alumni organization or appropriate professional societies.*

Other than these exceptions, it will be considered improper for Ag Center faculty and staff to serve as an elected or appointed officer in agricultural, forestry, fisheries and home economics, commodity and related farm and youth organizations. To do so offers the **possibility of conflict of interest** and also the **possibility of advocating political positions or actions** which may not be to the best interest of the total role of

the Ag Center. It is essential that LSU Agricultural Center employees conduct themselves in such a manner as to maintain an unbiased and professional stance in any controversial matter. It is imperative that “we” be perceived by the public, regulatory agencies, and the legislature as completely objective in our scientific and technical communications, and not by the individual’s position in a commodity or farm related organization.

If any Ag Center faculty or staff member has not followed the September 1, 1988 PS-6 and is now serving as an officer (other than those exceptions previously defined) in agricultural, forestry, fisheries, or home economics, commodity or related farm and youth organizations, he or she should submit his/her resignation to those organizations and report such to this office. Persons so affected should advise the organization of this policy statement. However, they should also advise the affected organization that they, the Ag Center personnel, will be pleased to continue as a resource person provided it is appropriate for their area of responsibility.

There will be no exceptions to the restrictions for holding elective or appointive offices, such as President, Vice President, or Treasurer, in the previously described farm and youth related organizations.