

LSU AgCenter Budget Limbo

(aka ... How Low Can You Go?)

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Vice Chancellor and Director



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State Appropriations LSU AgCenter

Jul 1, 2008 ~ \$93,300,000

Jan 1, 2012 ~ \$62,600,000

~ 33% Reduction - reduced state appropriation +
unfunded increases in mandated costs

Down >300 employees since 2008

Stepwise reduction, each insufficiently large to trigger
financial exigency



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Reactions and Responses



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Dr. Elizabeth Kübler-Ross

'On Death and Dying' (1969)



Five stages of grief:

denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance

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Reactions and Responses

- Hiring freeze on state-supported positions – Governor
 - Consolidating faculty & staff responsibilities
- Implemented standard cost-saving measures:
 - Reduce operating & equipment, increase fees
 - Self-generated fund management
 - Loss of Director's slush funds
 - Morale-boosting jargon
 - More with less, working smarter



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Reactions and Responses

Need to reduce workforce – low-hanging fruit

- Retirement incentives – 2 (58 then 24 employees)
 - Maximum of \$25K bonus + leave payouts
 - Another would decimate ANR agent ranks
- Research station closure (20 – 3.5 = 16.5)
 - Limited use, marginal or redundant programs
 - Leased to individuals or returned to Parish
 - Retain ownership when possible
 - Release employees (incl tenure track)
- Business plan



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Reactions and Responses

Business plan – public Jan 2012

- Core programs (stakeholder need & engagement)
 - Includes faculty and staff
- Collapse campus departments
- Collapse station admin support (where practical)
- Add'l station closures/consolidations projected (n=10?)
- Remaining stations focused on core areas
 - Fewer fully-staffed 'Centers of Excellence' (research and extension)
 - Shift resources away from campus to address stakeholder needs



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Reactions and Responses

- Remaining stations focused on core areas
 - Consolidate beef activities to 3-4 sites
 - Unfund small ruminants and swine
 - Phase out dairy and equine

Currently, LAES expends all state dollars by Mar 31.

Residual supported by federal, royalties (IP and minerals), right-of-ways, F&A, etc.

Ag Coalition, dedicated funding stream



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