

DAFVM Faculty Senate Meeting minutes

August 16, 2018

1.30 pm in Bost Room 205

Call to order 1:30: Dr. Bindu Nanduri

Roll Call

Present: George Hopper, Reuben Moore, Gary Jackson, Jason Camp, David Christiansen, Jason Barrett, Simone Hinz, Caleb Lemley, Charles Fulford (Taze), Jonas King, John Long, Rebecca Melanson, Jay McCurdy, Florencia Meyer, Mariah Morgan, Bindu Nanduri, Wes Neal, Brittney Oliver, Donna Peterson, Raja Reddy, Brent Frey, Tricia Knight, Amanda Stone, Josh Maples, Kelley Wamsley, Andrew Stevens, John Willis, Lifang Yan

Excused: Tom Allen, Stephen Meyers, Julie Parker, Jason Street

Absent: Taya Marquardt Ezell, Matt Griffin, Skip Jack, Anna Linhoss, Keun Seo, George Popescu

Reading of the minutes May 2018 meeting: Approved.

Roster circulation for verification of senator term.

Standing committee reports

Director of Extension: Dr. Jackson addresses the DAFVM senate

- Budgets are balanced and approved for FY19.
- A 2% increase from the legislature has been destined to increase salaries of faculty and staff based on merit.
- Challenges still remain, since the Federal budget has not increased. Extension directors nationally meet to discuss best ways to spend funds from the farm bill.
- We will have another year with several vacancies: ~20 research faculty and ~40 extension positions are still vacant.
- An example of collaborative effort on the county level: Craig Hankins (Bolivar Co. Extension Agent II) and Alex Deason (Sunflower Co. Extension Agent II) are working with Washington Co. Extension Agent IV Alma Harris on addressing agricultural needs in her county.
- Working on long range technologies for extension. For example, ATLAS - system to input data into public-access platforms and social media.

Dean of the College: Dr. Hopper addresses the DAFVM senate

- Welcome back. Summer is a time to take time off and also travel to seek professional development opportunities.

- Filled a few vacancies, still others to come, and some are underway.
- Requested the DAFVM senate to take their responsibility as senators seriously and bring any concerns and questions to him at any time. Maintaining open channels of communication is the key.
- Daily enrollment notifications indicate increased enrollment in the student body, but will not know officially until 10 days after classes have begun. Incoming freshman and transfer students are better prepared (ACT measures) than previous years.

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Moore addresses the DAFVM senate

- Thanks to the DAFVM senators for the role they play. Stressed the the importance of maintaining open channels of communication. Don't let a little problem turn into a big problem. Don't totally rely on email and texts as a form of communication, sometimes picking up the phone and having a conversation is a better form of communication.
- DAFVM Summer Celebration was last week: the awards received reflect the great talent and productivity of our faculty.
- Facility updates: Muscle biology meat laboratory is completely moved to its new location. Official ceremony will be later this Fall. Several different offices are still located in Balew Hall (Food Nutrition, Health & Promotion, Water Resources), but it needs renovation. Dorman Hall is next on the list, but will require a lot of money to renovate.
- Animal & Dairy Sciences building is "on schedule" and the department should be moving out by February 2019.
- Poultry science will begin construction in about one month. Will be joining the Animal Science complex.
- Grants & contracts are at near record levels.
- Record levels in private contributions (30M)
- Significant increase in enrollment in all colleges in the Division.

Holland Faculty Senate: Dr. Jason Barrett

- Holland Faculty Senate (HFS) meets next week, thus the August HFS report will be in September.

Chair Report: Dr. Nanduri, none

New Business:

- DAFVM role is to facilitate communication between faculty and administrators.
- There are 6 standing committees. Dr. Nanduri will send out the list of current standing committees and new members can fill voids left by former senators that ended their term.
- Roster Updates and Corrections- Still no replacement yet for GRI
- Dr. Nanduri has met with all administrative leaders to ensure that they will reach out to DAFVM senate for assistance with any topic.
- Dr. Nanduri brought the grant writing workshop to the attention DAFVM senators. This opportunity is available to all CALS/MAFES and CFR/FWRC Faculty.

- Dr. Hopper met with Department Heads and made the recommendation that a unified faculty review form is adopted. DAFVM still uses its own form because the University document lacks the extension & outreach portions. The university is considering adopting DAFVM's form. It is not clear if this review form has been reviewed by the faculty.
- Dr. Hopper asked for feedback on Digital Measures (DM), whether faculty members use it and if they like it. DM is important to collect data to build larger reports. *At a minimum* everybody should complete DM once a year.
- Functionality of DM is limited for extension. Some faculty see it as a duplication of efforts because elements don't end up in the correct category. DM allows you to retrieve different output options.
- DM has not been fixed yet.
- Dr. Jackson initiated a discussion on non-formal teaching evaluation. Current evaluations contain 11 questions on a scantron format. It is a valuable tool but not usable for short courses, seminars, outreach type of work. It is difficult to implement. We need a unified, formal evaluation tool in this regard. Any implementation will have to be vetoed by the faculty senate.
- Evaluating the non-formal teaching is important for the tenure evaluation.
- Current teaching evaluations will now be online. as of August 2018. Dr. Hopper indicated that MSU was the last SEC school to adopt online teacher evaluations.
- Dr. Neal indicated that the current teaching evaluation instrument does not evaluate knowledge transference, but whether they liked you or not. He proposes that we should get away from the current evaluation rather than adopt it as a non-formal teaching evaluation.
- Dr. McCurdy indicated that for extension, the scantron method would have more responses than online. It is difficult to engage students to respond to an assessment, even with technology like qualtrics, and many users do not have email/phone/computer available.
- A question was raised to whether or not a prototype of a teacher evaluation that could be reviewed by the DAFVM Senate and comment on.
- Dr. Peterson responded that Dr. Denny had taken the lead on this and that she would follow up with Dr. Denny on the status of the evaluation.
- Dr. Nanduri indicated as part of the Senate's educational component, the Senate would be touring the CVM in order to educate everyone on what each division does
- Dr. Nanduri indicated the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year, and that the DAFVM Senate Picture would be taken at the September 13th meeting

Motion to adjourn made and approved, adjourn 2:37 pm.