

## DAFVM Faculty Senate Meeting on Oct 8, 2020

<https://msstate.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/msstate/recording/play/b19bc8df76384b609f007083d023ab1c>

**DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:** Barickman, Thomas (Casey); Correa, Sandra; Ezell, Taya Marquardt; Gholson, Drew; Grala, Robert; Grissett, Gretchen; Jack, Skip; Karunakaran, Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Lee, Alison; Lee, JuYoung; Lemley, Caleb; Lemus, Rocky; Lloyd, Debra; Maples, Josh; Matthews, Rahel; Melanson, Rebecca; Morgan, Mariah; Nanduri, Bindu; Parker, Julie; Popescu, George; Reddy, Raja; Seo, Keun; Siegert, Courtney; Stone, Amanda; Yan, Lifang

*Excused:* Barnes, James; Knight, Tricia; Meyer, Florencia; Wamsley, Kelley

*Absent:* Camp, Jason; Fulford, Charles (Taze); Howell, George (Trey); King, Jonas; Street, Jason; Yu, Fei

**Meeting called to order 1:32 by Dr. Julie Parker**

**Reading and approval of September 2020 Minutes**

- Roster check
- Motion – Dr. Rocky Lemus; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dr. Taya Marquardt Ezell

**Standing Committee Reports:**

- **Office of the Vice President: Dr. Reuben Moore**
- **Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble**
- **Interim Dean, CALS: Dr. Scott Willard**
  - Thank you for having me today on the agenda.
  - Emily Shaw's position in the Dean's Office has been replaced with Jessica Graves. Emily Shaw has moved over to the Registrar's Office.
  - The biggest task we are undergoing now is building schedules with the Registrar for the winter intersession and spring.
  - Spring semester will be similar in terms of social distancing, time between classes, abbreviated semester, and need for non-traditional spaces. We will try to move more towards in-person instruction. There will be additional guidance from the Provost Office regarding absenteeism.
  - I have discussed a pathway suite established with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. The signing of the documents had to be rescheduled to December.
  - Since last time I visited with you, we had a meeting with Delta Community College to discuss an agreement pathway regarding science, landscape architecture, and technology. We had colleagues from the College of Business and College of Education to interact with them and had a good full-day session.
  - Tomorrow, we will have Food Prize Global Youth Institute. Number of year ago, we started Mississippi Youth Institute in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and we had students from across the state and teachers to talk about food insecurity issues, hunger, natural resources and anything that impact countries with disparities in food access. In May, we had the virtual Youth Institute for the State of Mississippi. We will

have five students and four teachers representing Mississippi and Mississippi State University in the Youth Institute that starts tomorrow.

- Our CALS Advisory Board is scheduled virtually this afternoon at 3:00 pm. This will be 1 to 1.5 hours of questions, answers, and feedback.
  - Beta testing of electronic P&T system in Banner – see how Extender system might work for the comprehensive committee. Perhaps, the next year the system might be available down into the departments.
  - There are 13 Taskforce Committees that Dr. Shaw set up. Two reports are posted and third is coming from the Health Science Committee. I will ask DAFVM Senate to review those in terms of opportunities and impacts on the division.
  - Many of you won awards. Please, forward that information to us so we can recognize you. Dr. Reddy won International Cotton Advisory Committee's Researcher of the Year Award which is a big award for a cotton researcher.
- **Interim Dean, CFR & FWRC: Dr. Wes Burger**
    - Thank you for the opportunity to visit with DAFVM Faculty Senate.
    - I want to congratulate Dr. Reddy. This is one of many awards he has received. He was also our faculty nominee for the SEC Faculty Achievement Award last year. I congratulate you on behalf of MAFES, division, and the university.
    - We received notification yesterday that our Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters ranked #1. This is the third time in a row they ranked first. For the last 20 years, they ranked in the top 3. We are very proud of the Department of Forestry and students in the chapter.
    - The Department of Forestry has had an online thesis and non-thesis Masters program for number of years.
    - In August, the new online Masters program has been approved for the Department of Wildfire, Fisheries and Aquaculture. That program is in environmental conservation and education.
    - The second online program has been approved for the Department of Sustainable Bioproducts. So, now we have online programs across three departments and each department is in the process of developing an accelerated program that would allow us to recruit high quality students and at the end of sophomore year get them accepted into accelerated program – 4 plus 1 – they would have Bachelor's and Master's degrees.
    - Not specific to CFR but to all units involved in undergraduate research, I would like to point you to several items. The Office of Research and Economic Development sent a link to undergraduate research and creative discovery portal. It provides faculty members with an opportunity to advertise undergraduate research opportunities.
    - During October 21-23, there will be Shackouls Honors College Undergraduate Research Symposium. If you work with an undergraduate researcher, one of the requirements is to present outcomes of their work. There are three opportunities to do that: in fall, spring, and summer symposium. The deadline for submitting abstracts to that symposium is October 15 and the actual symposium will be during October 21-23.
    - In terms of other updates, the Maintenance Director sent a request for new equipment purchases to all department heads. Due to change in Hatch Fund rules, we are able to purchase new equipment. We put a priority call for equipment to be purchased and

received requests for \$2.5 million. From that we identified a priority list and will fund \$700,000 in new equipment. Department heads will be notified.

- In terms of university announcements, there is a new cooperative agreement with USDA ARS. They are going to locate all their high performance computing capabilities on Mississippi State University campus. And, you are well aware of HPC<sup>2</sup> Facility. We also host a supercomputer for NOAA. Now, we are going to provide the same function for ARS. The supercomputer will be called Atlas. A substation for that computer will be located on North Farm. Mississippi State University has the fourth high performance computing capacity among research universities in the country. The initial agreement will focus on geospatial epidemiology and high performance computing.
- For MAFES faculty, we going to commit \$1.2 million to fund 25-35 projects. The deadline is October 19 and the portal is open. It doesn't require IAS but it requires the proposal and department head signature.
- We have been working to fill an experimental statistician position. We have had three failed searches as this position is difficult to fill but we hope that we might be able to fill this position in near future and we will reinstate the process.
- Question from Dr. Julie Parker: Shackouls Honors College Undergraduate Research Symposium – Will it be virtual this semester? Dr. Wes Burger: Yes, it will be virtual for this fall. We hope to have an in-person symposium after the next semester.

- **Extension Service: Dr. Gary Jackson**

- Good afternoon everybody. Glad to be with you and see all of you.
- First if all, I would like to start with our program planning process.
- People often ask me: As a faculty, if you have an extension appointment, what are your responsibilities? Obviously, it is the scholarship of outreach and it is non-formal teaching along with research and service as any other faculty does in terms of service to the department and center, your professional associations, and public service. The heart and soul is non-formal instruction/teaching and we document it through the program planning process. We started the process in 2013. We submitted a call to faculty to submit their programs into the system. We have 200 programs in our electronic system divided into three categories: for extension agents to prepare to teach and train the trainer based on county needs; another third is for faculty with extension appointment who teach directly to clientele (stakeholder organizations and associations, and the general public); and another third is competency building. This process is a key to scholarship of outreach. We had a short timeframe for submissions due to COVID but programs are in place and locked in for 2020 and part of 2021. We need to adjust the programs due to pandemic. We are trying to work closer with MAFES and FWRC on the research side. And, also to develop certificate programs – these will be part of our program planning process and applied research activities.
- In terms of certificate programs, we have about 30 of 205 programs in our system. We would like to get them into a virtual format, and some of them already are. I really appreciate faculty, regardless of appointment, who have already done such programming virtually.
- I am going to share statistics about delivery of extension during the upcoming virtual Annual Extension Conference.

- Extension is written into MEMA plan – our role is to provide extension education to the public as related to pandemic – health and nutrition information as related to COVID-19. Also, the Extension will have the responsibility in the transportation of vaccine pods. On MSU campus, the Student Health Center will administer those.
- We have our strike team on a standby to address hurricane season. We have five strike teams in the state. They address issues related to human shelter, food and nutrition, family consumer sciences, early childhood support, agriculture crop damage assessment reports, forestry damage assessments, and animal care.
- We have had many briefing meetings on COVID-19 and Hurricane Delta.
- Along with Drs. Willard and Burger, I have been visiting with our promotion and tenure committees, comprehensive committees, and we are always asked to explain expectations of extension faculty for promotion and help define the scholarship of outreach. I always go back to the expectations for any professorial position. You need to teach but those who have an extension appointment teach non-formally through the program planning process. All professors are expected to do research and contribute to the knowledge base, including publishing. With an extension appointment, you would need to publish extension referred publications but certainly journal articles as well. And, all faculty do service. We have discussed that with our comprehensive committees. We have a taskforce on faculty performance and I hope that in the future we can incorporate an extension section from the DAFVM form under teaching (as non-formal instruction) on the university form. And that group is working on this. We also refer to our other program planning documents to help. In 2011, I appointed the Scholarship of Outreach Committee and they indicated the need for the document that would clarify what the expectations are. I have appointed other committee to draft that document and now I would like this group to look at this support document perhaps through the committee. I believe it needs to be vetted through DAFVM Faculty Senate process.
- We have an upcoming conference scheduled for October 27, 28, 29<sup>th</sup> of this year. It will be virtual this year. Our keynote speaker will be the new Executive Director of Cooperative Extension. On 28<sup>th</sup>, I will make the state of extension address and some accomplishments of 2020 and plans for 2021. On third day, we will do annual conference awards. We have 19 awards this will be given that morning.
- Development is going really good in Extension. We are seeking to increase support towards 4-H. We received a \$1.2 million gift from the 4-H Foundation through the MSU Foundation. We also recently received another gift to support Thad Cochran Agricultural Leadership Program. I am really proud of our development activities.
- Issue that we have are resources. We have 15 faculty positions that need to be filled and 36 extension agents positions to fill, and technology upgrade needs. We have the assessment of our technology upgrade needs. We trying to build on technology.
- Question from Dr. Rocky Lemus: Due to the new pandemic a lot of delivery had to be done online and this affects faculty. Have you been working with College Promotion and Tenure Committee to see how virtual teaching (for example, Facebook Live) can be included in the P&T packet? Dr. Gary Jackson: This is a really good question and the answer is yes. We have also spent a lot of time talking about this at an administrative level because we need to reward that innovation. The mechanism of sharing knowledge

has changed from in-person to virtual. To reach our clients we had to do that and I think it needs to be rewarded.

- Question from Dr. Julie Parker: Dr. Jackson, please share the supporting document with us to review. I am happy to send it out and we have a subcommittee, a Faculty Affairs Subcommittee that would look at it and make recommendations. So, we definitely would like to be able to look at it and share our perspective. Second question: Is there a link available for the extension conference for registration? Dr. Gary Jackson: there is one already available. Dr. Julie Parker: If you send it to me, I will send it out as well.

- **Holland Faculty Senate: Dr. Amanda Stone**

- IHL changed the enrollment policy. We have reached over 23,000 students for the first time in university history.
- There were some questions regarding international students, graduate students in particular. MSU hasn't stopped reviewing these applications.
- The plan is that we will in person graduation in December in multiple ceremonies.
- The Dean of Library Search Committee is being created.
- The SEC Faculty Achievement Award is coming soon. If you know of somebody to nominate, please go ahead.
- There is a Twitter account to promote the outstanding and innovative works that you and your colleges have accomplished.
- Question from Dr. Julie Parker: It is on our agenda to talk about the clinical instructor taskforce report. Is there anything from the Holland Faculty Senate on that? Dr. Amanda Stone: Not at this moment.

- **Extension Advisory Council: Dr. Julie Parker**

- Extension Advisory Council hasn't met since our last meeting. We will meet next week and will have another report for us during our next meeting.

- **Chair Report from Dr. Julie Parker:**

- We have revised our roster and have all the data information that we need to move forward with knowing in what year you are in and your term is.
- I have put under new business a clinical instructor task report. I would like to receive some comments about it. Have anyone had a chance to look at this? There are four recommendations from that taskforce to look at instructional positions with focus on teaching. I think this is an important topic for any faculty body in regard how it is going to impact your department. This is the recommendation report that is posted on Provost's website. All of these recommendations are non-tenure track options: senior lecturer, and additional options with tiered instructor levels – also non-tenure track but allowing promotion. So, these are opportunities for faculty in instructor positions with heavy teaching load. We have faculty who are very talented in that area of teaching and instruction. The third is Professor of Practice (Assistant, Associate, Professor). The last one is Clinical Professor. We have those positions already, in Vet School but also in other departments. I would encourage to you share that with your fellow colleagues and during faculty meetings to bring some feedback to our next meeting.

- Question from Dr. Robert Grala: Do these recommendations mean that it will become an official pathway for these different positions or it is a subject to future changes before the final pathway is established. Dr. Julie Parker: These are recommendation about how these options might look like from the taskforce. At this point, I haven't heard when the decision will be made. The university is looking for faculty bodies like our DAFVM Faculty Senate to make recommendations of what would be a good fit. There might be a diversity of what might be good for a department.
- I will put these recommendations together, so we can send a document from the whole Faculty Senate body.

### **New Business**

- No new business

### **Old Business:**

- We had a conversation about Digital Measures - Drs. Baham and Wamsley met to discuss Digital Measures. Re-C Carter in the School of Human Sciences was responsible for new developments for Digital Measures, specifically for Extension. She left her position at the beginning of this academic year but the position will be filled and that person will have the opportunity to work with Extension to look for best fit for Digital Measures. Dr. Wamsley will be with us next month to talk about where we are with Digital Measures and how it will look like in January.
- I will send out a recorded version of our meeting, especially for those who couldn't attend, and additional documents that Dr. Jackson has sent to us.
- Please, share information about clinical faculty report with faculty and send feedback to me.

### **Floor is Open - Senator Updates**

- No update.

**Motion to adjourn** – Dr. Taya Marquardt Ezell, Meeting Adjourned at 2:55 PM