

**DAFVM Senate Meeting
Minutes
November 12, 2020**

<https://msstate.webex.com/msstate/ldr.php?RCID=eca5ad9d09074d488299da72a4a7bef6>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Barickman, Thomas (Casey); Barnes, James; Camp, Jason; Correa, Sandra; Gholson, Drew; Grala, Robert; Howell, George (Trey); Jack, Skip; Karunakaran, Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Knight, Tricia; Lee, Alison; Lee, JuYoung; Lemley, Caleb; Lemus, Rocky; Maples, Josh; Matthews, Rahel; Melanson, Rebecca; Meyer, Florencia; Morgan, Mariah; Parker, Julie; Reddy, Raja; Siegert, Courtney; Stone, Amanda; Wamsley, Kelley;

Excused: Ezell, Taya Marquardt; Lloyd, Debra; Nanduri, Bindu

Absent: Fulford, Charles (Taze); Grissett, Gretchen; King, Jonas; Popescu, George; Seo, Keun; Street, Jason; Yan, Lifang; Yu, Fei

Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Dr. Parker at 1:30 PM

Roll Call – recorded by Drs. Parker and Wamsley

Reading and approval of October 2020 Minutes

- Motion: Dr. Rocky Lemus; Second: Dr. Skip Jack

Standing Committee Reports:

- Office of the Vice President: Dr. Reuben Moore/Dr. Keith Coble
 - Dr. Moore
 - Thanked the group for their time and input; as always, open-door policy
 - COVID #s – continue to be really low #s, as of yesterday or day before 26 active cases (23 students, 3 employees) – last 14 days; lots of testing – 517 to get those 23 students, 3 employees; looks really good – attributes that to faculty and staff to prevent the spread
 - COVID not over, # in MS (and all over US) continue to increase, but hope vaccine out soon for mass vaccination
 - Starting next week, try to test as many students as possible before they leave for Thanksgiving
 - COVID Challenge: allow student organization to receive monetary compensation to get tested – 7 organizations have done so (so far)
 - Working on antibody testing at CVM, hope to be going by early Dec – waiting on 1 machine
 - Cut the ribbon on the new Poultry Science Building
 - Construction to begin soon on Blackjack facility – where forestry, greenhouse, and aviary located
 - You received guidance (Nov 6) – telework agreements revised; current agreements end Dec 31; telework still allowed, but more restrictions will be applied

- COVID leave expires Dec 31
 - Changes made at one of experiment stations, some employees were given an opportunity to come to Mississippi State (none terminated) – refocusing the mission and coming back soon – selling the cattle but coming back with a revised mission
 - VP DAFVM search: the committee has gotten back together – trying to have a VP in place by JUNE 2021
 - Other positions will be filled; not sure of the structure, but won't be filled until VP
 - Newsletter from VP office: please read, continue to share for content, send feedback; trying to control the length of the newsletter, ex) student award 1st place would be mentioned, but maybe not 2nd, 3rd, etc
 - Welcome your input for how it can be improved
 - DAFVM administration watching state tax collections closely
 - Significant increases since July 1 in revenue collections, up \$20 million this Oct vs. last Oct
 - Hopeful no midyear cuts and that we can have an increase in budgets next year
 - Question from Dr. Lemus – What is the vaccine plan for University?
 - Dr. Moore – Hope to distribute widely on campus; haven't discussed much in meetings, but it will be a conversation that will be had; expecting mass vaccinations
 - Question from Dr. Julie Parker – In reference to students testing prior to Thanksgiving, any contingency plan for students that test positive next week and helping them if they cannot go home?
 - Moore – all through holidays, dorms and quarantine facilities will be open
 - As you probably know, most students are going home if they test +; there will be facilities as options for them though
- Extension Service: Dr. Gary Jackson/Dr. Paula Threadgill
 - Dr. Threadgill
 - Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson sends regrets for not being here (conflict in meeting)
 - Annual Conference (Oct 27-29) was a success; Virtual, 1-1.5 hr on each day; Awards program gave 39 awards and over \$25,000 for reward money
 - Remind you all and to tell colleagues – MSU will be holding classes in Bost Building B in Spring; there will be some other meetings held – but over holiday break – classes will be there any other time
 - Last month, Dr. Jackson spoke about documents for Extension P&T - those will be sent by Dr. Jackson to Dr. Parker
 - State Fair was held; Extension participated/helped, all went well and safely
 - Agents are having some F2F meeting, but following University/CDC guidelines

- Interim Dean, CALS: Dr. Scott Willard
 - Official IHL enrollment # released Nov: 2609 for CALS, 1.59% increase from Fall 2019
 - 2167 UG, 442 grad
 - Karen Brasher (and her team) has been working on accessibility on our websites – our current accessibility #s are 99/100% - industry avg is 76%
 - Provost's office ran # yesterday, Fall 2020 – CALS avg was 69.1% F2F; ranged in Dept 11% to 60% online
 - Spring currently 83.86% F2F for CALS, which was Keenum/students, asked – appreciate faculty and department efforts on this
 - Winter session all online – CALS 27 classes offered; 6-8 monitoring for enrollment – benefit for students and faculty (extra pay)
 - Already talking about next Fall for scheduling – stay tuned – some planning needs to happen now regardless
 - Graduation F2F - Nov 25 at 2pm (Hump) paired with College of Business; PhD students will not be hooded on stage; have 10 PhD students that plan to attend - may try to plan a social distance hooding and photo opp before graduation; Willard will be reaching out to those students and their major professors soon
 - Sit with major professor, walk across stage and exit
 - Mentioned last time moving to electronic P&T review system for comprehensive CALS/MAFES/Extension committee – ITS has set up in extender
 - New faculty mentoring session on grants and contracts was held; Dr. Burger talked about CRIS and grants/contracts
 - Will be planning a new session on P&T, Annual Evaluation process
 - In DAFVM newsletter that Dr. Moore mentioned student award winners – pleased with how they did in the Graduate Student Association Competition and Graduate Research Symposium; 2 CALS students compete in 3 minute thesis competition today
 - Had a preliminary meeting with an architect in Ballew hall
 - Something you might want to discuss as DAFVM Senate, GRE and GMAT are being waived through Fall 2021; right now, it is for accessibility for graduate students and not to compete with neighboring institutions that have decided to waive, but looking forward need to consider for Spring of 2021 and beyond
 - In article Dr. Willard found: nationally, 70% of college and universities are moving to optional (or even eliminating) GRE/GMAT
- Interim Dean, CFR & FWRC: Dr. Wes Burger
 - Unable to attend – no update
- Holland Faculty Senate: Dr. Amanda Stone
 - Some updates, but old – meet again tomorrow
 - Guest speaker –Ms. Ra'Sheda Forbes, new VP for Access, Diversity & Inclusion
 - Makeup of student body – 40% low income (based on Pell Grant eligibility); 26% identify with underrepresented racial or minority ethnic group; trying to create ways to include/recruit everyone

- Partnership with HR (and Deans, DH, hiring managers) to work on how pools for faculty and staff positions are diverse; Mississippi State has applied to be in a cohort that will increase diversity of faculty in STEM fields
- Dr. Shaw - hoping to have finalists identified for VP Research and Economic Development before Thanksgiving
 - Teaching goal: More “normal” (F2F classes)
 - Still require masks and social distancing
 - Back to original attendance AOP
 - Target for Spring - 70% F2F
- Encouraged everyone to take a few days off
- Discussion on dropping formal Faculty Annual Evals for 2020
 - Dr. Shaw said he could see pros and cons and would think on it
- Clinical/Instructional Task Force Discussion [CITF Report \(msstate.edu\)](https://www.msstate.edu/citf-report)
 - Dr. Stone is on Faculty Affairs Committee, which will be presenting recommendations on the Clinical Professor topic
 - Please take a look at the report, do so today by Friday at 1
 - Dr. Parker asked if a vote would be called for tomorrow or if they were waiting on some faculty ratios; Dr. Stone replied that it would not be voted on tomorrow, just her committee’s findings/comments received would be reported
 - Dr. Stone shared the following Fall 2019 Faculty by Tenure Status:
 - Total= 1457
 - Tenured= 474
 - On Tenure Track= 276
 - Non-Tenure= 707
 - % T/TK: $750/1457=.5147$; (51% not yet tenured or not going to be tenured)
 - Dr. Parker commented that Dr. Freeman in her department commented that it would be important for there to be guidance as to how many tenure track faculty needed to be in departments vs. other faculty, etc.
 - Dr. Wamsley commented that her department has feedback, will share in a PDF to Dr. Stone, but briefly:
 - Clarification of scholarly activities
 - No issues with details under instructors/lecturers
 - Suggestion to change verbiage for teaching responsibilities → “...up to 100% teaching responsibilities with up to 50% released for scholarly activities..”
 - For teaching professor, would “scholarly activities” include UG coordinator? For some departments, it would be counted, but for others, it would be teaching?
 - Dr. Stone: The goal was to leave vague because every department is so different. The Faculty Affairs Committee don’t want it to be too strict; want it to be

similar across discipline. If you have ideas on how to word that or make it “fair,” that would be helpful.

- Scholarly expectation at pedagogical level due to having PhD? If not, what separates individual from lecturer/instructor?

Dr. Parker

- Extension Advisory Council: Dr. Julie Parker
 - No report

Chair Report

- Clinical/Instructional Task Force Report
 - Dr. Parker requested any other feedback from Senate members
 - None
- Dr. Parker commented that Dr. Freeman from her department commented that for Holland Faculty Senate, there may be some discussion regarding the way that descriptions for grad coordinators (and potentially UG coordinators) descriptions were written about it – potentially UG coordinators
 - Per Dr. Stone: Each department will select at least 1 member of faculty to serve; typical for departments to give course release and recognition for service; those on 9 month, can get 1 class compensation if perform duties over summer (AOP 12.8)

New Business

None.

Old Business

- Digital Measures
 - Dr. Parker: Dr. Newman serves on subcommittee on task force for annual eval – components on DM being changed for extension; as soon as those recommendations come out, Dr. Parker will be sharing with DAFVM Faculty Senate
 - Dr. Wamsley: Reminder that under “Office” and the login for DM, there is a box that has scrolling information where updates are noted.
 - Met with Dr. Tracey Baham, member of Faculty Performance Evaluation Task Force, leading subcommittee on University-wide Evaluation form
 - Her committee’s report has been submitted to the full task force for their review
 - The goal for the University-wide Evaluation form – go into effect 2021; therefore, no big changes to DM
 - If form goes into effect early in 2021, then changes will be made to DM based on that form; previously Baham made custom changes for each department and she hasn’t done that recently due to potential change in annual evaluation form
 - Spot in curriculum/Development that never populated on evaluation form – it will now

- New spot under service for “Clinical Diagnostic Field” where you can fill in your own narrative, and it will populate in the evaluation form
- Slight changes to streamline Extension – display in tables

- No other comments/questions

Floor is Open - Senator Updates

Important Dates

- Dr. Parker – Should we hold a December 10th meeting?
 - Dr. Lemus – motion to reconvene in January; Dr. Correa – 2nd
 - We will meet back in January 2021

Adjourn at 2:45 PM

- Motion – Dr. Lemus; 2nd – Dr. Gholson

Minutes prepared and submitted by Kelley Wamsley, DAFVM Faculty Senate Secretary

Approved on 7/14/2021