

**DAFVM Senate Meeting
Minutes
1:30 pm. March 11, 2021**

Recording Link:

<https://msstate.webex.com/msstate/ldr.php?RCID=493cd0a7de67417997182b2f2e0aaaf3>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Barnes, James; Correa, Sandra; Ezell, Taya Marquardt; Grala, Robert; Grissett-Hardwick, Gretchen; Howell, George (Trey); Knight, Tricia; Lemley, Caleb; Lloyd, Debra; Maples, Josh; Mathews, Rahel; Melanson, Rebecca; Meyer, Florencia; Nanduri, Bindu; Parker, Julie; Reddy, Raja; Siegert, Courtney; Stone, Amanda; Street, Jason; Wamsley, Kelley; Yu, Fei

Excused: Barickman, Thomas (Casey); Jack, Skip

Absent: Camp, Jason; Fulford, Charles (Taze); Gholson, Drew; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; King, Jonas; Lee, JuYoung; Lee, Alison; Lemus, Rocky; Morgan, Mariah; Popescu, George; Seo, Keun; Yan, Lifang

Call to Order at 1:31 PM by Dr. Parker

Roll Call – Drs. Parker and Wamsley

Reading and approval of February 11, 21 – Minutes

- Changes made to Feb minutes: Dr. Grala was moved to present; the spelling of Dr. Rahel Mathews' name corrected
- Motion: Dr. Taya Marquardt Ezell; 2nd: Dr. Bindu Nanduri

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble**
 - Advocate for separately funded units at legislature; hopeful to make progress, will know more in a month
 - Report released today on economic impact of Mississippi State University – will have meeting to look more into report to see what was/wasn't captured in report
 - Will be hearing more in couple months on transformational change – replacement for strategic plan → branding – how we tell our story, how do we recruit students, make peer institutions respect our faculty
 - NSF rankings released – Mississippi State ranked 12th in nation for Ag and Natural Resource; great ranking, but some things can be done to move up further
 - More people getting vaccine and getting closer to normalcy (hopefully by August)
- **Interim Dean, CALS: Dr. Scott Willard**
 - Summer/fall schedules; working with UCCC for courses online this summer, as well as course matrices; essentially returning to “normal” in terms of F2F delivery for next Fall
 - CALS grad – Friday April 30th 8:30 AM
 - Probably will have separate hooding event

- In process of CALS/MAFES awards – wrap up process I next week or so and decide on how to recognize award winners appropriately
- In process for submitting/revising Environment and Sustainability Minor and Certificate
 - College Teaching Minor for graduate students – working with College of Ed – hopefully for Fall
- Gamma Sigma Delta – sending email to new inductees this afternoon; there is also a research, teaching and extension awards process
- Taskforce update– Meetings with Access/Diversity/Inclusion, Student Success, Strategic Planning, Master Planning, UG Program Strategic Planning, etc.
 - There are a lot of these groups across campus; they will be coming together and should be included in strategic planning soon

- Question from Dr. Parker – Will there still be an online component for students in Fall? Will faculty be required to offer online component?
 - Dr. Willard – Some classes F2F and online, some F2F and Distance Ed – these are different tracks
 - Campus 1 will not be able to take distance without override to understand added costs
 - Encouraging faculty to use canvas and online platforms, but not required
 - Some on a case by case basis
 - In theory, will be F2F in non-Covid environment; normal health accommodations made, if documented

- Question from Dr. Florencia Meyer – Why is college level education not in tier priority group for vaccination?
 - Dr. Coble: A request has been made; stay tuned – announcement soon
 - Dr. Willard: If you talk to people in other states, MS is doing good with vaccination rate; preparations in place to handle logistically on campus; stay tuned

- **Interim Dean, CFR & FWRC: Dr. Ian Munn for Dr. Wes Burger**
 - Grants/Contracts very strong at 7 mil as of end Feb vs. 12.8 mil all of last year; keep up good work; FWRC accounts for 5.7 mil.
 - Spring enrollment down 1.5% vs Spring 2020; however, grad enrollment up 25%
 - Continuing to expand degree program – added since last year, 3 new nonthesis masters programs and looking at more
 - College committee for Diversity and Inclusion – revisiting strategic plan and revising to make more dynamic document
 - As college – trying to understand the Student Success Task Force report means for Teaching and Research faculty – as far as advising loads
 - Reminder: 3-day rule from OSP, as of Feb 1; if you submit outside that window, then need special approval from VP ORED
 - Links to distribute:
 - [Time Line for Proposal Submissions | Office of Sponsored Projects \(msstate.edu\)](#)
 - [OP 70.01 final 2020 \(msstate.edu\)](#)

- **Extension Service: Mr. Richard Swann for Dr. Gary Jackson**
 - Promotions – 13 partial or full Extension Appointments recommended to President
 - 14 agents go up for promotion
 - 3 faculty searches with partial or full Extension Appointments going on
 - Budget requests – cautiously optimistic; revenue #s around 500 mil above estimate in MS – which is good news
 - # 1 on radar – pay raises, then faculty and agent positions – 31 counties below normal staffing plan and 10 key faculty positions
 - Upgrade in technology (including internet) at various offices – benefit of Covid
 - Dr. Jackson finalizing supplementing guidelines for P&T for Extension appointed faculty
 - Currently being reviewed by EAC, then will send to DAFVM FS to review
 - Program planning time for Extension
 - Bost will not be in teaching rotation for Fall
 - COVID vaccine – don't know details, but did get call about -80 freezer to confirm – indicator good news on the way
 - Still a few hundred slots left at Horse Park for those of you that qualify

- **Holland Faculty Senate: Dr. Amanda Stone**
 - Congrats to Kelley Wamsley to being elected to Holland FS
 - Interstate passport – a way to make Gen Eds easier to transfer
 - There was a town hall that had more information; FS will be potentially voting on tomorrow

- **Extension Advisory Council: Dr. Robert Grala**
 - Some items already mentioned - Dr. Jackson discussed the budget and Dr. Coble's vision
 - Discussion of different Task Forces established by VP; Dr. Jackson discussed need to include Extension in Online Task Force
 - COVID 19 vaccine – MSU is ready for shipment – drive through next to student health center; MSU waiting for shipment to come
 - Program planning for 2021-2022
 - Different funding opportunities for Ag that will be coming out at diff stages – keep eye out

Chair Report

- DAFVM Senators rolling off at the end of this academic year
 - Dr. Parker needs to know who is rolling off; Eligible for 2nd term?
 - Dr. Grala has a spreadsheet that will be distributed
 - Bylaws state we need to have nominations for officers by April meeting
 - After April meeting, need to have voting
 - Qualtrics survey after April meeting for voting on officer positions

Old Business

- **Digital Measures- Dr. Tracey Baham joins to provide updates and insights for DM.**
 - 3 Overview Statements to make:
 - 1) The contract we were under with DM expired in Dec – contract has been renegotiated
 - a. Goal: Connect DM to Banner
 - 2) DM was bought out by Watermark, so will be using their tech support and adding another component called “workflow”
 - 3) Several members from this group participated– University-Wide Taskforce for Faculty Evaluations – has turned in report
 - a. Currently, 13 forms annual evals – all customized, moving to University-wide form will make it easy to collaborate
 - Question: Dr. Bindu Nanduri – DM is here to stay?
 - Dr. Baham: Watermark bought DM, there were some other systems that were considered, but Watermark won out
 - Academic analytics – you cant actually control what it pulls
 - Transition to Watermark will preserve all existing data; might be some changing in screens, but hopefully very little in data loss
 - Question: Dr. Bindu Nanduri – Should we wait for the transition to complete before we get training in DM?
 - Dr. Baham: Yes, that would probably be easier
 - Question: Dr. Rebecca Melanson – Timeframe for transition?
 - Dr. Baham: June 1 is the contract start; hope to transition is for early June
 - Would appreciate if any one is interested to volunteer to test with us
 - Question: Dr. Julie Parker – How do you volunteer to test Watermark?
 - Dr. Baham: You can email me directly or they can reach out to Dr. Parker
 - Question: Dr. Bindu Nanduri – How long is this contract valid?
 - Dr. Baham: 3 years

New Business

- As per our By-laws, we need to hold nominations for DAFVM officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary). Need nominations emailed to Dr. Parker (JCP162@msstate.edu) by the end of March.

Floor is Open - Senator Updates

- **None**

Important Dates

- Departments need to hold DAFVM Senator elections by end of April.
- Email elected new members to chair: Julie Parker (JCP162@msstate.edu).

Adjourn at 2:25 PM

Motion: Dr. Bindu Nandurij; 2nd: Dr. Taya Marquardt Ezell