

**DAFVM Senate Meeting
Minutes
1:30 pm. February 10, 2022**

205 Bost

<https://msstate.webex.com/msstate/j.php?MTID=mdd21d6f8d1c32d376f5c067ead92e749>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Attendees: Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Basu, Priya; Camp, Jason; Gholson, Drew; Grala, Robert; Hardman, Alisha; Howell, Trey; Jaffe, Michael; Knight, Patricia; Lee, Allison; Lemley, Caleb; Lemus, Rocky; Li, Tongyin; Maples, Will; Matthews, Rahel; Melanson, Rebecca; Nanduri, Bindu; Siegert, Courtney; Sparks, Darrell; Stone, Amanda; Vance, Carrie; Yu, Fei;

Excused:

Absent: Barickman, Casey; Barnes, James; Correa, Sandra; Fulford, Charles; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Jack, Skip; Karunakaran, Ganesh; Lee, JuYoung; Lloyd, Debra; Morgan, Mariah; Popescu, George; Street, Jason; Yan, Lifang

Call to Order at 1:34

Roll Call-Record via sign-in sheet and Webex

Reading and approval of minutes from January 13, 2022

Motion-Dr. Rocky Lemus

2nd-Dr. Alisha Hardman

-Minutes approved as presented

Standing Committee Reports:

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Ashli Brown

- Dr. Coble is at the Dixie National Sale of Jr. Champions and apologizes for not being here.
- Faculty should have received email about an ORED seed grant opportunity for collaborative research. There will be two tracks. It will focus on broad teams targeting complex problems.
- Administration continues to visit with the state legislature. They have asked for a 9.9% increase. It is too soon to know the outcome.
- Don't know the outcome of the ARPA infrastructure funding. Originally asked for \$7 M, but were allowed to increase that to over \$15 M.

-Conversations about threats, including cybersecurity, involving agriculture are taking place. African Swine Fever and its potential for spread using drones is a particular concern. Data security and intellectual property are also concerns. Related trainings are being revamped.

Questions: Dr. Grala asked if the ORED collaborative funding was similar to the opportunity several years ago.

Yes although the funding amounts are higher and it is hoped that more preliminary data can be generated. It may help existing teams.

Dr. Lemus asked if the funds can be used for subcontracts?

Believe so, but will confirm.

Dr. Nanduri asked if the projects will focus on external collaborators?

May need to in order to be successful for external funding. Seed grant opportunity will be focused more on MSU investigators.

Dean, CALS/Director, MAFES: represented by Dr. Darrell Sparks

-MAFES:Dr. Angus Catchot-Associate Director of Operations, Dr. Jamie Larson Interim Associate Director for Grants and Contracts

- CALS: Dr. Darrell Sparks-Associate Dean, Professor Cory Gallo-Interim Assistant Dean

-Undergraduate Research Scholar's Program is currently under review, but a call for applications will be coming out later this spring.

-MAFES Multi-state Travel Awards program is open. This is specifically for multi-state research projects. Up to 30 awards will be made each year with a max of \$1,500 per award.

-CALS/MAFES Awards are due February 22. These include Excellence in Teaching, Outstanding Staff, and Outstanding Faculty Service.

-University Advising Awards are due March 21.

-Summer/Fall schedule building is underway. Make sure the entries are correct.

-There is a permanent change for the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony. It will be a standalone event on May 11 in Bettersworth Auditorium in Lee Hall with a reception to follow in the Union Ballroom.

-The Disability Resource Center is encouraging more discussion about student accommodations for assignments and attendance.

-Data Science Concentration for Undergrad and Grad Degree programs are in development. CALS and CFR will have an Ag/Natural Resource concentration.

-Poultry, Ag Economics, DREC, ADS, and FSNHP have department head vacancies.

Questions: Will the M.S. Hooding ceremony also be separate, or just the Ph.D. Hooding ceremony?

Just the Ph.D. ceremony will be separate. M.S. ceremony will continue as-is.
Is there a deadline for applying for Multi-state Travel Awards? No. List the multi-state project number and CRIS number on the form.

Dr. Lemus mentioned he was a mentor last fall. He suggested it might be good to increase the funding levels for the URSP to encourage applications to grad school or for students applying for a second year.

Dean, CFR & FWRC: Dr. Wes Burger

- Successful academic event this past weekend for CFR and FWRC with good student and family participation.
- Dr. Burger will remain as Associate MAFES Director until July 1 to assist with the transition. Send related information to both Dr. Burger and Dr. Larson.
- Departments will keep existing contracts and grants specialists.
- Will fill a single Associate Dean/Director position, and is in the process of making an offer.
- There are two degrees in Data Science. The M.S. program is already approved. They are working on an Ag and Natural Resources track within that. Nothing has been approved at the undergraduate level. It is at IHL.
- Will be rolling out their undergraduate research proposal soon, probably will be due by the end of March.

Director, Extension Service: represented by Mr. Richard Swann

- Dr. Jackson is with Dr. Coble at Dixie National. \$300-400 K of scholarships to students is presented at this event.
- Just wrapped up agent orientation for 16 agents hired over the past year. The #1 session was meeting faculty.
- There are six faculty positions in some stage of their search.
- Four to six agent postings.
- Will have first interviews for regional coordinator positions in the next couple of weeks.
- In discussions about a 4H day in the fall. Looking at more of a recruitment format.
- All legislative reports are positive.

Questions: Dr. Grala asked about programs working with minors and going through a background check?

Anyone working with minors through a University-based program or 4H program must have a background check every three years. There is a gap with people hired more than three years ago. To address this gap and catch up, Extension will begin with county-based employees and then to others working with youth. If your department head identifies you as a person working with youth, Extension will pay for the check. If there is a red flag, it would initiate a conversation to see what caused the flag and address it.

Dr. Grala asked if students and faculty involved with student organizations that might interact with youth need to go through a background check:

Joy Graves in the University Attorney's office should be consulted.

Dr. Lemus asked about Field Day events where parents bring kids?

Check with Dr. Linda Mitchell. It is probably a non-covered event since the employee doesn't control whether parents bring kids. Most are public events open to everyone. Covered events are where an employee might be alone with a kid.

What about non-Extension people going to schools?

Work through your department head or Dean to find out proper procedure

Holland Faculty Senate: Dr. Amanda Stone

-Next meeting is tomorrow.

-Let her know if you have questions about the agenda.

DAFVM Executive Council: Dr. Robert Grala

-Dr. Coble updated attendees on the budget and legislative session.

-Dr. Ra'Sheda Forbes, Vice-President for Access, Diversity, and Inclusion presented an update.

-A new high speed computer will be installed and faculty will be able to request access for data processing.

Extension Advisory Council: Dr. Robert Grala

-Met yesterday.

-Background checks were covered as previously mentioned.

-Working to secure funding for broadband and data security.

-Faculty incentives were discussed. Bonuses for high levels of productivity with more details coming soon.

-Disaster education and response non-formal instruction was mentioned.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee: Dr. Robert Grala

-Pandemic housing market has made this more important.

Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

-Dr. Jaffe will chair the Charter and Bylaws committee.

-Need chair for Ancillary Affairs and Faculty Affairs

Unfinished Business

-None

New Business

-A motion was made to invite a representative from the Vet School to attend DAFVM Faculty Senate meetings and provide a report.

Motion: Dr. Allison Lee

2nd: Dr. Carrie Vance

Motion carried.

-Digital Measures

-Data doesn't fill reports as it was entered in the system.

-There is faculty fatigue so data isn't being entered.

-A Pilot Study was done. We may receive an email to look at overlap, things that aren't working, or other things that need to be included in the system.

Dr. Lemus mentioned information entered into Digital Measures should follow the format of the P & T document.

Dr. Brown was part of a mock group looking at making the P & T process completely online. There will be another mock process following the conclusion of this year's P & T process. There are concerns about external access to the system, especially for external letters.

Dr. Nanduri mentioned there is an annual evaluation committee looking at one standard form for the whole university.

Dr. Brown mentioned they are still working on this.

Dr. Grala asked if the P & T applicant will be able to track progress through the system:

Dr. Brown responded that the applicant would be notified during each step of the process.

What happens to applicants for the coming cycle?

Dr. Brown responded the new system probably won't be operational for the coming cycle.

Dr. Lemus suggested reach versus engagement be looked at on social media to determine impact.

Dr. Camp mentioned there continues to be a lack of training or centralized way of doing things for Digital Measures.

Dr. Grala asked if we need a Task Force or if Digital Measures challenges should be through an existing committee? An email will be sent for volunteers.

Floor is Open - Senator Updates

- Dr. Rocky Lemus mentioned that R & E Center Commodity Advisory Meetings are coming up:
NMREC-February 17, CMREC-February 23, CREC-February 24
- Dr. Alisha Hardman reminded everyone impact statements are due by February 18.
- Dr. Acharya Adhikari mentioned that a committee is being formed for the Poultry Science department head search.

- Dr. Grala will be sending emails about the Digital Measures Task Force and standing committee chair volunteers.

Important Dates

Next meeting is March 10, 2022

April 14, 2022

May 12, 2022

Adjourn

Motion-Dr. Rocky Lemus

2nd-Dr. Bindu Nanduri

Meeting adjourned.