

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

205 Bost

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DAFVM Faculty Senate Attendees: Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Barickman, Casey; Basu, Priya; Gholson, Drew; Grala, Robert; Jaffe, Michael; Knight, Patricia; Lee, Allison; Lemus, Rocky; Li, Tongyin; Maples, Will; Matthews, Rahel; Nanduri, Bindu; Stone, Amanda; Street, Jason; Vance, Carrie

Excused: Correa, Sandra; Hardman, Alisha; Lee, JuYoung; Melanson, Rebecca

Absent: Barnes, James; Camp, Jason; Fulford, Charles; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Howell, Trey; Jack, Skip; Karunakaran, Ganesh; ; Caleb; Lloyd, Debra; Morgan, Mariah; Popescu, George; Siegert, Courtney; Yan, Lifang Yu, Fei

Call to Order at 1:35

Roll Call-Record via sign-in sheet and Webex

Reading and approval of minutes from February 10, 2022

Motion-Dr. Michael Jaffe

2nd-Dr. Will Maples

-Minutes approved as presented

Standing Committee Reports:

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Ashli Brown

- Introduced Dr. Steven Bullard as the new CFR/FWRC Associate Dean and Director
- No budget update. Waiting for bills to come out of conference
- The DAFVM Newsletter that was just published has two opportunities:
 - A Sr. Communications Manager position posted today. This position will coordinate between DAFVM colleges and units
 - The Office of the Vice-President is seeking Associate Professor or Professor level interns to help with special projects. One project will be to develop a program to support mid-career faculty development. Focus groups and listening sessions will be held. People are encouraged to apply.

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

- Dr. Willard is attending an artificial intelligence in agriculture meeting in Auburn. MSU is a co-host.
- Undergraduate Research Scholar's Program proposals are due April 15. Applicants need to find a student to pair with prior to submission. If you don't normally work with undergraduates, talk to the undergraduate coordinator for your unit. There will be an opportunity for additional funding for students accepted to present at external conferences.
- CALS/MAFES Advisory Board met last week after a one year hiatus. It was great to have everyone back on campus. Input was given for vacant department head positions.
- 1st Day Complete is a program already in place at several Mississippi educational institutions. It works through Banes and Noble to provide cost-effective textbook options to undergraduate students. Students can look at individual costs of textbooks or the 1st Day Complete program which would offer textbook rental at \$20/credit hour (\$300/15 hr semester). Can decide to opt in or out on a per semester basis. IHL is currently looking at this. Would be effective next fall if approved.
- Faculty will be given the option to select some additional evaluation questions for student feedback starting in mid-April. Will eventually be able to add additional questions to the bank for a more tailored evaluation for each course.
- The Doctoral Hooding Ceremony will remain a separate event this spring. B.S. and M.S. ceremonies will have the same COVID regulations in place as December graduation because planning had to incorporate worst-case-scenario.

Questions:

Dr. Grala-Have other schools that have adopted 1st Day Complete seen an increase in text adoption by students?

Dr. Sparks-Performance has improved. He believes it has led to increased text use.

Dr. Grala-Will course evaluations be in Canvas or Banner?

Dr. Sparks-Evaluations will continue to be administered through Canvas with the new questions added at the end of the existing forms. He isn't sure about how results will be accessed.

Dr. Jaffe-Are there any options for graduate or professional students to enroll in 1st Day Complete?

Dr. Sparks-Not at this time.

Dean, CFR & FWRC: represented by Dr. Steve Bullard

- Dr. Burger attended a Jackson luncheon with a member of the appropriations committee. He feels the legislature will provide some money to offset the increased cost of insurance.
- CFR/FWRC is in the process of filling vacant positions.
 - Forestry
 - Forest Health-Dr. Ashley Schulz started this fall
 - Spatial Technologies-verbal offer tendered
 - Forest Genetics-interviews start next week
 - Environmental Scientist search open and underway
 - Sustainable Bioproducts-Mass Timber/Materials-Dr. Mostafa Mohammadabadi started in February.
 - Forestry Extension-Appreciate Dr. Jackson for moving on vacancies.
 - Sustainable Bioproducts Extension Wood Scientist-waiting on signed offer letter
 - NMREC Applied Silviculturist search underway
 - Forest Health Extension Specialist-position description being developed
 - Forest Economics and Policy Extension Specialist position will be advertised this summer
- CFR/FWRC Undergraduate Scholar's program should be released next week.
- 2023 Commencement will be in Davis-Wade Stadium.

Dean, CVM: represented by Dr. Jack Smith

- CVM just completed their 7 year accreditation visit. Preliminary feedback is positive. Expect final report in the next few days.
- There will be curriculum changes May 2023. There were 112 students in this year's starting class. Rotation lengths will be changed starting May 2023 to accommodate class size.
- This year's graduates have a 92% first time pass rate.
- 1300 applications were made for next fall's class. More than 450 interviews were conducted. This includes Mississippi, at-large, and contract students. Offers have been made and those students have until April 15 to accept.
- Renovations are ongoing in the Dean's office and at the affiliate site in Flowood. Flowood will include dorm space.
- B.S. Vet Tech degree completed their site visit for their accreditation.

Director, Extension Service: Dr. Gary Jackson

- Have formally presented the budget request at least four times. All has gone very well with lots of support. Requested almost a 10% increase and expecting a nice increase. Faculty and staff salaries are the highest priority. Operating budgets and

technology are also priorities. There are some good proposals for infrastructure improvement. Extension is focusing on broadband education. A number of unofficial presentations have been made.

- 4H Legislative Awards and Recognition was Tuesday in Jackson at the Farmer's Market. Legislative turnout was the highest he's seen. 4H Leadership Team did an excellent job.
- FY17 and 18 saw a reduction in Forestry Extension positions from 10 to 4 FTEs. Trying to rebuild that with three searches.
- The revamp of Brown Loam will include agronomic crops and beef. It will also include a structural pest position.
- Charges to the Poultry Science (Chaired by Dr. Dodds) and Ag Econ (Chaired by Dr. Newman) department head search committees have been given.
- Three interviews have been conducted for the CREC Regional Extension Coordinator position.
- The Program Planning Team will be meeting in the next few weeks. Collaborative program planning work isn't functioning. They also hope to revisit Digital Measures to make it more user friendly and better able to capture program information.
- Spoke to the Holland Faculty Senate last month about outreach and engagement, Extension, and informal education.
- New Extension faculty orientation will be April 6-8. It is the first since 2019 and will include 18 new faculty.
- Minor protection policy. Any Extension employee working with youth younger than 18 will have to undergo a background check every 3 years. Agents have already started this process. Faculty at R & E Centers will be next and followed by campus. Unsure of the specific timeline.

Holland Faculty Senate: Dr. Amanda Stone

- Next meeting is tomorrow.
- Dr. Jackson spoke last month.
- Let her know if you have questions or concerns about the agenda.

Extension Advisory Council: Dr. Robert Grala

- Dr. Grala was unable to attend.
- Dr. Jackson covered the update in his comments.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee: Dr. Robert Grala

- No recent requests.

Report of the Chair and Vice Chair

- Email was sent regarding chairs for standing committees. Some nominations were received. May have to appoint others.
- Email was sent regarding Digital Measures Task Force. Multiple volunteers were received.

Unfinished Business

- Digital Measures Task Force
Motion to create the Task Force was made by Dr. Michael Jaffe. Motion was 2nd by Dr. Allison Lee. Motion was approved.

New Business

- Digital Measures update.
None
- Digital Measures pilot study summary from CVM was presented via handout.
- DAFVM Faculty Senators will solicit their departments for feedback related to this year's Digital Measures annual evaluation process. Feedback will be sent to Dr. Grala, and it will be based along to the Task Force.

Questions: Dr. Basu asked if the Digital Measures CV conversion program mentioned in the CVM pilot study would result in duplicate entries? The consensus was probably.

Floor is Open - Senator Updates

None

Important Dates

Next meeting is April 14, 2022

May 12, 2022

Adjourn

Motion-Dr. Allison Lee

2nd-Dr. Will Maples

Meeting adjourned 2:37 p.m.