

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

**205 Bost**

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

DAFVM Faculty Senate Attendees: Barickman, Casey; Barnes, James; Camp, Jason; Grala, Robert; Hardman, Alisha; Karunakaran, Ganesh; Knight, Patricia; Lee, Alison; Lee, JuYoung; Lemus, Rocky; Li, Tongyin; Maples, Will; Melanson, Rebecca; Nanduri, Bindu; Popescu, George; Siegert, Courtney; Sparks, Darrell; Stone, Amanda; Street, Jason; Vance, Carrie; Yan, Lifang; Yu, Fei;

Excused:

Absent: Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Correa, Sandra; Fulford, Charles; Gholson, Drew; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Howell, Trey; Jaffe, Michael; Jack, Skip; Lemley, Caleb; Lloyd, Debra; Matthews, Rahel; Morgan, Mariah;

**Call to Order at 1:35**

**Roll Call**-Record via sign-in sheet and Webex

**Reading and approval of minutes from October 14, 2021**

- No changes
- Minutes approved as presented

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Office of the Vice President and MAFES: Dr. Keith Coble**

- We continue to deal with Covid vaccine mandate. The federal mandate has been delayed. It is challenging. MSU list received last Monday contained many mistakes. Please let him know if there are glitches in the process. MSU Covid committee is meeting weekly again. He will present any issues the Division is experiencing. Amount of Covid has been declining in Oktibbeha county which has resulted in mask requirement changes.
- There are issues with software that tracks inventory with the MAFES Cheese Store. Online ordering has been disabled and probably won't be restarted until after the holiday season.
- About 15 members of the MS House of Representatives Agriculture Committee visited campus a few weeks ago. They had a great visit. We're trying to get their support for

our work. Thanks for Farm Bureau and all faculty and staff that helped with presentations.

- State revenues remain strong, well ahead of last year's revenue. State has \$1.8B to spend on some items. Goal is to ask for money this spring for infrastructure, salaries, research, extension, and etc. Requests were submitted at 9%.

- Expecting some significant increases in Washington in terms of competitive USDA funding as well as other agencies. Much is tied to climate change, supply chains, and carbon sequestration. Hopeful that acceptance rates are higher than average.

- Had exit interview with CVM accreditation group for their onsite visit. Was very positive.

- Southern Rural Development Center was recognized by their national board for their efforts in equity, diversity and inclusion. 27 states are involved. Commendation to Rachel Wellborn.

- Completed interviews for the candidates for CFR Dean. Working on summarizing comments. Three candidates were interviewed.

- Expect to interview 2 candidates for CALS/MAFES Dean/Director in December.

- MAFES has made an offer to a grant writer. Will be targeted toward large multi-disciplinary teams. Will probably work on 5-6 proposals per year, \$1M plus. Will start January 16, 2022.

Questions: Dr. Grala asked for more details about the specific role of the new grantwriter? Dr. Coble responded that the person will have duties related to people management as well as wordsmithing.

Dr. Grala asked if the vaccine proof portal issues will be cleared or if people will have to resubmit? Dr. Coble and Dr. Willard responded that there may be cases where some clearer documents may be requested or a different format may be requested. There is some clean up being done. You can see your status in myState. Hoping that the list next Monday will be more accurate.

Dr. Lemus asked if we submit data to the website, how is it being handled in terms of HIPAA? Dr. Coble responded that the information is being held very tightly with HR and university attorney. The information is separate from the health center. He isn't sure of the legal difference, but it is held very tightly. Will try to get a clearer answer especially for med certs. HR does not share med cert information with supervises.

### **Interim Dean, CALS: Dr. Scott Willard**

- Fast-tracking the promotion process for instructors into the Associate Dean's Council and by a separate subcommittee that Dr. Willard serves on. Hope to offer this option in FY 2023. Need to have a submission, a review, and enter into the budget process by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Two documents were sent today. One was the Holland Faculty Senate recommendations and the second was where we currently are with the instructor

transitional process. A process has been created, forms have created, and it was sent to the Associate Dean's Council yesterday. Associate Deans Council approved it to go forward to the Dean's Council. After probably three years, it would probably come back into normal processes-departmental promotion and tenure committees and things of that nature. The current plan is that each college would create a committee separate from the college P&T committee that would represent the instructional footprint of the college. Recommendations would go through from the department head through an application process to the college onto the dean and provost. The task force subcommittee is still taking into advisement the edits and changes. Dr. Willard requested this group or any other to send him any questions, concerns, edits or anything of that nature.

-Task force looked at instructional ranks. Instructor I, II, and II, Teaching Professor, and Professor of Practice. Those were reviewed, faculty were surveyed, Holland Faculty Senate recommended approval of those designations.

-Holland Faculty Senate recommended that OP 56.06 be converted into an AOP. This would merge all nontenure-track titles. Associate Dean's Council elected to remain silent on the recommendation until further information is provided.

-They are making some adjustments to Digital Measures, currently known as Watermark. On page 8 and 10 under educational scholarship, creative works, and research, there is an a-j drop down menu. Those are their own pages in Digital Measures. When reports are pulled and those items aren't selected, things are being left off. Should we convert menus that would allow book chapters, proposals, programmatic criteria, monographs, theses/dissertations, etc. together rather than risk them not showing up in a report? Everything would still be there, but would be dropdowns rather than separate pages.

Questions: Dr. Lemus asked why it should be separate from the college P&T process. Shouldn't everyone be held to the same evaluation standards? Dr. Willard responded that the standards will be the same. Questions about the composition of the existing committees lead to the formulation of a transitional process.

### **Interim Dean, CFR & FWRC: Dr. Wes Burger**

-CFR Dean/Director interview process was completed last week.

-The taskforce on faculty development has met two or three times. The charge was how can MSU best prepare faculty for effective teaching, develop an inventory of best practices from other institutions on higher education teacher training, and consider how we can require training or not for new faculty and refreshers for existing faculty. A mentee survey was conducted and results were provided. Dr. Burger provided the survey to the DAFVM Faculty Senate for input. Three subcommittees are working the components of the charge. Hope to have a report out in January. Dr. Burger asked for feedback on voluntary versus mandatory trainings.

Questions: Dr. Coble asked to what extent student evaluations have been discussed? Dr. Burger responded that another committee is looking at that.

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

- The taskforce for teaching effectiveness is an excellent idea. Don't forget about the assessment part for faculty. Build the annual evaluation and P&T documents to adequately capture effort.
- There are 17 Extension Instructors. Want Extension Instructors to go the same route as academic Instructors.
- Encourage evaluation document for Instructors to mirror faculty evaluation taskforce recommendations to the Provost that had a formal and informal teaching component under teaching rather than having informal efforts under service.
- Extension has 716 employees. About a third are on the noncompliance list. There are some errors, and they are responding to those. Overall, things are going very well.
- Dr. Jeff Gore is the new interim department head for DREC, effective Nov. 16. Dr. Steve Martin will return to campus. Will discuss Dr. Martin's changing responsibilities at the next meeting.
- Just did annual awards. Dr. Rachel Carter received the Franklin Burns Community Development Award, Dr. Blake Layton received the Joe Street Agriculture and Natural Resources Award, Ms. Quala Madkin won the Charles Akin Award, Dr. Jerome Goddard won the Keenum Outstanding Faculty Award, Dr. Mariah Morgan won the Leopold Outstanding Extension Program Award in STEM Education, the Grantsmanship Award went to Dr. Drew Gholson, the Director's Award went to Dr. David Buys.

Questions: Dr. Coble asked if Dr. Jackson had heard of any issues of off-campus people not being able to access the vaccine? Dr. Jackson replied that he had not heard of any issues.

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

- Senate will meet tomorrow.
- Grisham Master Teacher award packets are due on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Undergraduate student advising is less than ideal. There is a lot of variation in how it is handled. Dr. Willard commented that there is a pilot program. There is an Executive Director of Advising. There was a \$1M donation and they will be placing professional advisors in some of the colleges to pilot a program in professional advising. Freshman and maybe some transfer students would go see a professional advisor.

### **DAFVM Executive Council: Dr. Robert Grala**

- Dr. Grala provided a DAFVM Faculty Senate update at the last meeting.
- SRDC has a new head.
- Dr. Coble discussed the IHL Diversity Award.

### **Extension Advisory Council: Dr. Robert Grala**

-Covered in updates provided by Dr. Jackson during this meeting.

### **Faculty Housing Appeals Committee: Dr. Robert Grala**

-Approved three requests for extensions. Looked at faculty vacancies and have no one on the wait-list so those requests were approved.

### **Report of the Chair and Vice Chair**

-Link was sent yesterday to a folder with documents. One is an Excel file where you can sign up for committees. Need people to sign up for charter and bylaws committee and need a Parliamentarian.

### **Unfinished Business**

-When assignments are complete, each committee will elect a chair, and the chair will serve on the Executive Committee.

### **New Business**

- Digital Measures, no update at the moment beyond what Dr. Willard mentioned.
- Motion to defer December meeting to January by ? Second by Dr. Will Maples. Motion carried.
- Group photo, will try to get this set up before the January meeting.
- DAFVM Faculty Senate website. Look at website and see if you want to suggest any improvements. Dr. Grala suggested a link with each member back to that person's home department. Also need to update minutes on the website.

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

-None

### **Important Dates**

Next meeting is January 13, 2022

February 10, 2022

March 10, 2022

April 14, 2022

May 12, 2022

### **Adjourn**

Motion: ?; 2nd ?  
Motion approved.