

DAFVM Senate Meeting
Agenda
1:30 pm. April 8, 2021

Meeting Link:

<https://msstate.webex.com/msstate/ldr.php?RCID=69dd00a2d73b429faa118796dac5cde7>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Camp, Jason; Correa, Sandra; Ezell, Taya Marquardt; Gholson, Drew; Grala, Robert; Grissett-Hardwick, Gretchen; Jack, Skip; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Knight, Tricia; Mathews, Rahel; Melanson, Rebecca; Morgan, Mariah; Parker, Julie; Popescu, George; Reddy, Raja; Siegert, Courtney; Stone, Amanda; Wamsley, Kelley; Yu, Fei

Excused: Lee, JuYoung; Lemley, Caleb; Maples, Josh; Meyer, Florencia; Nanduri, Bindu

Absent: Barickman, Thomas (Casey); Barnes, James; Fulford, Charles (Taze); Howell, George (Trey); King, Jonas; Lee, Alison; Lemus, Rocky; Lloyd, Debra; Seo, Keun; Street, Jason; Yan, Lifang

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

Roll Call – recorded by Drs. Julie Parker and Kelley Wamsley

Reading and approval of March 11, 21- Minutes

- No changes
- Motion to approve: Dr. Taya Marquardt Ezell; 2nd: Dr. Skip Jack

Standing Committee Reports:

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble

- Vaccination available on campus; we get an allotment; we can't reorder until we have obligated all of the vaccine.
- With students leaving, probably a different dynamic on campus; most of faculty that want to be vaccinated will be vaccinated soon
- Trying to get as many students as possible to get vaccine; not going to mandate due to IHL – IHL may not have latitude either → imperative for us to convince students and others to get vaccinated as vaccine becomes available
- Extension looking to get involved to educate people across the state to dispel some vaccination myths
- Legislature session now over: Separately funded units all got + ups – in aggregate 2%; having discussions for raises and raise pool – should be hearing something on that soon
 - Bond Bill that carries funding for University construction was passed– another round approved for Dorman Hall – in next few years looking to get additional funding to finish Dorman Hall project.
 - Some potential for infrastructure funding (Federal \$ coming through state) – not much information on at this time.
- Lost Pearl River Extension office last night due to fire – no one was hurt

- Announcement about ending telework came out today
 - 2nd part of announcement is that there will be a taskforce (should start this summer) to look at flex-work going forward
 - University fully aware of possibilities of working remotely – from HR standpoint University is looking to make sure it is done fairly
- From Holland FS soon → about to announce administrative searches within the division: 1) Dean and Director CFR/FWRC and 2) Dean and Director of CALS/MAFES
 - Dr. Hopper had all 4 titles, but we will be looking for two individuals to carry two titles
 - There will be slots from Holland FS to vote for committees to be formed
 - There is issue with how people are designated for those elections in terms of how people are allowed to vote
 - Met with leadership in Holland FS; current plan is to do this based on primary source of funding → this is not a perfect system
 - May change in future, but this is how it will be done this time
 - Goal: election of search committee out by mid-May; positions will stay open until 9 month faculty return; Interviews ideally in September
- Questions for Dr. Coble:
 - Dr. Parker – To clarify difference in voting for Holland FS, this is based on your primary appointment; for DAFVM FS it is a little different, whereas senators are elected through their departments
 - Dr. Wamsley – This election model has been an issue in our department (Poultry Science) due to faculty having various splits in appointments and at times not being able to support a faculty member within their own department due to the funding split.
 - Dr Coble: We have had discussions about finding a better way and there is some work being done on model, but we wanted to get positions announced.
 - Dr. Sandra Correa– How many students are getting vaccinated? What is the campaign to get more students to be vaccinated?
 - Dr. Coble – COVID Taskforce is looking into every type of incentive to get them (students) vaccinated before they come back in Fall.
 - Lots of brainstorming – how far can we go and what can we do - that is legal – to get them vaccinated: partly education, partly incentive
 - I will appeal to all of you – if you can correct misinformation/incentivize students – encourage them, please do.
 - Other Universities/states are mandating, but we don't have the legal authority to do so
 - If any of you have a brilliant carrot to incentivize – please pass it on

Interim Dean, CALS: Dr. Scott Willard

- Unable to join, conflicting appointment

Interim Dean, CFR & FWRC: Dr. Wes Burger

- To add to some of the incentives Dr. Coble mentioned, under state law we cannot require vaccination because not full FDA approval; some of other states that are mandating, don't have that in their law.
- Yesterday in Dean's meeting marketing campaign shared: T-Shirts, prizes,
 - Everything to incentivize, as well as educate
- To respond to Sandra's question regarding % of students vaccinated: We know how many we have vaccinated (on campus), but don't know if they got vaccinated outside.
 - We know statewide how many in age ranges are vaccinated – you can access that information instantly through Mississippi Department of Health website.
 - We are approaching 50% of population having received at least 1st vaccine; by fall, hope to be well above or in neighborhood of herd immunity
 - They (registrar's office or student services) will be releasing some promotional materials – you can post in classes, door to your office, or wherever you can distribute – to encourage students to be safe, be vaccinated and help everybody.
- CALS/MAFES and FWRC – earlier this week released UG Research Scholar RFP
 - Want faculty back by April 15th; short proposal; very high funding rate – encourage your faculty to submit
- Spring graduation – Friday April 29
- Attended the Graduate Student Association Awards Banquet with Dr. Scott Willard – CALS and CFR had huge presence – congrats to all those students
 - CFR – 9 award recipients and CALS - 12 award recipients
 - Impressed with # of students recognized from our units
- Questions for Dr. Burger:
 - Dr. Parker commented that UG research proposal is short; had student participated and did really well
 - Dr. Burger – this program is literally life changing to UG students; Surveyed 7 yrs from CALS/MAFES in ORED UG Research – asked questions about science readiness
 - Increased students almost doubled their science readiness
 - 70% of students confirmed their career path in science/research; for 20% they went on to pursue grad school
 - Big impact on faculty – especially pre-tenured faculty – participation took a lot of time and effort, but it made a diff in progress toward P&T; most satisfying was “seeing lightbulb” in students.
 - Dr. George Popescu: Do previous year participants qualify?
 - Dr. Burger – Absolutely; we have had students do it 3x
 - Previous students and faculty all are eligible
 - Dr. Grala – Do you have to have a student already lined up?
 - Dr. Burger – They can be preidentified, or don't need to be – it works best when faculty member and student have previous relationships, but it isn't required.
 - Dr. Burger – In application say that you are working with student and student should say they are working with professor – if that is

the case. Students that aren't assigned will be put in a pool for faculty to choose from.

- Dr. Correa – Can you support two students with the same funding?
 - Dr. Burger: Yes, absolutely. At times, if you come back to me with another student interested, a lot of times I can fund a second student too.

Extension Service: Mr. Richard Swann for Dr. Gary Jackson

- Dr. Jackson is in Jackson today
- We have ~ 2.5% budget increase; have a few key positions trying to get filled; there should be slight raise pool
- 5 Ext Agent positions that have posted in past few days – we have 6 applicants for 5 positions; need help with recruitment
 - Do require 2.75 GPA on last 60 hr (for those with BS) because require them to enroll in Graduate School
 - Have 3, 4H Agent positions open – Newton, Neshoba and Harrison Counties
- Work with continuing education – have made an offer to an instructional designer that should be starting soon.
 - This person will help you put on certificate course(s), workshop(s), virtually – not just a powerpoint with background voice – but a course with interactive components.
 - If any of you faculty are interested - Don't have to have Extension appointment to work with continuing education – whatever you think there is a demand for within the state.

Holland Faculty Senate: Dr. Amanda Stone

- Nothing to report other than what Dr. Coble mentioned.

Extension Advisory Council: Dr. Julie Parker

- No update due to timing of meeting is next week.

Chair Report

- Dr. Julie Parker: DAFVM Senators rolling off at the end of this academic year and nominations for DAFVM officers

Old Business

New Business

- Dr. Parker - As per our By-laws, we need to hold nominations for DAFVM officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary) this month. Elections will be held between now and end of month; have Qualtrics survey together as soon as nominations are up.
 - Have two nominations so far: Dr. Grala (chair) and Dr. Knight (Secretary)
 - Any other nominations email to: JCP162@msstate.edu

- Need all nominations, but especially for Vice-Chair
- Please consider these important positions as an opportunity to learn more about the Division and to serve your college and colleagues.
- There are several people we need to know what terms people on in for DAFVM FS
 - Dr. Rebecca Melanson via chat: I'm in my first term
 - Dr. Raja Reddy via chat: I am not sure about the two terms or no
 - Per Dr. Parker, there are about 7 people I need to know about; there are
 - Dr. Wamsley mentioned that Dr. Rahel Mathews commented via chat: "I am finishing up Dr. Oliver's term, Dr. Oliver had left."
 - Dr. Ganesh Kar: What is the term?
 - Dr. Parker: 3 years per term, so you can serve 6 years all together.
- Dr. Parker – I realize we are missing a large portion of senators today, so will end an email out to encourage people to sign up – and to get firm information on everyone's terms.
- Dr. Parker – We do need to make sure our administrators recognize that we appreciate the importance of this body and this is does have a voice for the whole division.
- Dr. Parker – Historically, we do not have a formal May meeting – we didn't last year due to COVID, but am happy to organize something this May if there is interest.
 - Dr. Raja Reddy via chat – You could have at the Enology lab or Bull Barn – or Dorman Lake.
 - Dr. Taya Marquardt – Are there any constraints due to COVID?
 - Dr. Parker – I think it depends on campus vs. off-campus and what those guidelines are; typically it has been off-campus. There isn't a requirement to meet at all – it is up to the senate.
- Dr. Sandra Correa – When will our next meeting be after May?
 - Dr. Julie Parker – Depending upon start date, typically 2nd Thursday in Sept is first meeting in Fall.
- Per Dr. Sandra Correa via chat: Are there opportunities for proposals like continued education?
 - Dr. Parker – I will ask that question.
- Dr. Ganesh Karunakaran: For graduate students located off campus (ex. Stoneville) – is there any way that if the can give more money? These students have to travel to campus to get courses, but also report (live) to Stoneville.
 - Dr. Julie Parker – That is a good question – definitely a good question for Dr. Burger; from my experience, there is some guidance depending upon funding source. I can ask that question about off-campus students.
 - Dr. Raja Reddy – You can pay them more, but you can't do that at the middle of the year – it has to start at the beginning of the year. You can negotiate at the beginning of the next year.
 - Dr. Julie Parker – I think Dr. Reddy is right, especially when you have the external funding.

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 2:42 PM

Motion: Dr. Ganesh Karunakaran; 2nd – Dr. Tricia Knight