

**DAFVM Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
September 14, 2023  
Recording:**

<https://msstate.webex.com/recording/service/sites/msstate/recording/4bc83199355b103cba6f00505681f78a/playback>

**DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:**

Knight, Tricia (Chair)  
Correa, Sandra (Vice-Chair)  
Rios, Leyla (Secretary)  
Camp, Jason  
Franca, Fred  
Ganapathi, Shankar  
Gholson, Drew  
Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen  
Howell, George (Trey)  
Lee, Alison  
Li, Tongyin  
Lloyd, Debra  
Mathews, Rahel  
Manginsay, Natalie  
Melanson, Rebecca  
Nanduri, Bindu  
Poudel, Krishna  
Vance, Carrie  
Yu, Fei  
Seong, Yun

**Excused:**

Acharya Adhikari, Pratima  
Basu, Priyadarshini (Priya)  
Jaffe, Michael  
Maples, Will  
Morrison, Carley  
Wilson, Jeff  
Woolums, Amelia  
Zurweller, Brendan

**Absent:**

Fulford, Charles (Taze)  
Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar  
Sparks, Bekah

**Call to Order**-Meeting called to order by Dr. Tricia Knight

**Roll Call**-Recorded by Dr. Tricia Knight

**Introductions** from all members

**Approval of Minutes**

- Dr. Jason Camp moved to approve the minutes from the May 2023 meeting. It was seconded by Dr. Alison Lee. Motion to approve, no discussion, no opposition, minutes approved.

**Office of the Vice President: Dr. Ashli Brown**

- Thanks for taking part in the survey regarding mid-career Faculty support.
- Nov 30<sup>th</sup> Reading Day, report results and reception (location to be designated)
- Travelling to DC on Monday (18<sup>th</sup>) for meetings with the Director of NIFA, for the Food Security Summit and NSF, looking to position the Division to be more competitive for funding opportunities.
- The short film of Dr. Buys and Dr. Mary Nelson Robertson "Focusing on Farm Stress" will be featured Tuesday night at the USDA Headquarters

**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES: Dr. Scott Willard**

- 2450 students for the College (2023 undergraduates and 427 graduate students). Freshmen went up by 32%, first-time graduates by 16%, first-time transfers down by 14%, and returning undergrad and grads down by 10%. We are down from what the College was in last fall by 4%. The lower return was due to the high graduation rate in 2022 and 2023 (657 students).
- 23 open Faculty positions.
- An offer was made for the Head of Central R&E, just waiting for the signed offer letter to make the announcement.
- Just completed the 5<sup>th</sup> interview of the 5 candidates for Head of Landscape and Architecture Department.
- The Director for the School of Human Sciences position will open. Dr. Michael Newman will be stepping back for retirement in January. The Search Committee has been selected and the position will soon be posted.
- Several construction projects going on, on Stone Boulevard, Ballew Hall will be the new home for the College of Ag and MAFES, as well as teaching and conference facilities. Will be ready next summer.
- 1.25 million from Federal sources for more renovations. People are being moved out of Dorman Hall with the help of Dr. Cory Gallo, we appreciate all the help from other Departments.
- All the approvals are completed for the livestock judging building on the South Farm, and soon getting ready to go out for bids for this facility. Also, the process is being completed for the new building Coastal Research and Extension Center.
- Some reorganization in some Departments is going on and we are looking for opportunities for repositioning them in the future.
- Work is going on for the strategic planning and transformational change initiatives for the central campus.
- Several events in the fall for CALS for 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**College of Forest Resources (CFR) & Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC): Dr. Wes Burger (Dean) & Steven Bullard (Assoc. Dean)**

- 621 students enrolled, which is up 2.5% compared to the last year in total, of these, 458 are undergrads, and 163 are graduate students. With an increase in undergrad enrollment and a decrease for graduate enrollment because of the same reason explained by Dr. Willard. The goal of our college is sustainable growth which means the correct use of resources, faculty, and space. The goal is a 3% growth per year and that is where we are at the moment.
- New Faculty in the College are Murry Burgess working on avian ecology, and Manuel Ruiz-Aravena working on One Health.
- There are five open positions in Forestry, four of which are extension positions.
- Events will be hosted on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Forest Equipment show, which is the largest in the country, with 40 vendors, and hoping to have 6,000 people attending. On October 6<sup>th</sup> we will host the Discovery Day of Natural Resources, we will have 20 to 30 vendors there, and employers, hoping to bring more than 15 buses from different schools and to have more than 300 kids to learn about Natural Resources and Career opportunities. Next week we will have the Magic Wood Science Fair with 4,000 to 6,000 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders to increase awareness of the importance of natural resources.
- CFR recently secured \$29 million for the acquisition of the Wolf River property. We will manage this property as a Coastal Forest Research and Education Center and for the protection of the watershed.
- About the discussion going on at the Holland Senate related to salary release, if you have any questions for us just let us know.
- Dr. Rebecca Melanson asks if there is any document that explains the release salary.
- Dr. Burger mentioned a couple of documents, one is a University SOP that refers to time and effort on Federal funds and a second SOP is also related to this topic.
- Dr. Tricia Knights invites DAFVM leadership to open the next Senate meeting with a 20-minute panel discussion on salary release.
- Dr. Bullard adds, finally, this is Hispanic Heritage Month, and next week we will have a panel discussion for students from across campus to attend and create awareness of Natural Resources and recruiting efforts.

**No representation from the Vet School**

**Extension. Dr. Peterson representing Dr. Steve Martin:**

- The School of Human Science Director search has started. Also, the Head of Landscape and Architecture
- This month we will start interviewing for the Regional Extension Coordinator for the Northeast Region
- Last week was the 4H football game day. 4H is getting ready for the State Fair. October 14<sup>th</sup> will be 4H day at the fair.
- Several positions for Extension Agents are open, please invite your students who are about to graduate to apply.
- The Extension Annual Conference will be on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The nomination process for the awards is still open and closes tomorrow.
- The Statewide Extension Programs letter will be delivered soon.

**Holland Faculty Senate Updates**

- Dr. Tricia Knight we need to choose who will be giving these updates that meet with both Senates.

### **Old and New Business**

- Dr. Tricia Knight asks for volunteers for any of the positions available in the Senate.
- Dr. Tricia Knight reminds the need for the new Senate group picture and suggests doing this before the start of the next meeting at 1:15, inviting the online people to attend in person.
- The DAFVM Faculty Senate wishes to host a panel discussion relating to salary release practices across the Division.
- Dr. Tricia Knight invites all to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ornamental Horticulture Field Day and 3rd Annual Poinsettia Open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December.
- Dr. Alison Lee there is no representation of CVM in the Senate, so asks for an official invitation to the new Dean so he can start attending the Senate meetings.

### **Adjourn**

Motion: Dr. Shankar Ganapathj; 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Krishna Poudel