

**DAFVM Senate Meeting
Minutes
January 11, 2024**

Recording: <https://msstate.webex.com/msstate/ldr.php?RCID=9916cb63bb0ee5c50bd425270a06b4ba>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:

Knight, Tricia (Chair); Burke, Benjamin; Camp, Jason; Gholson, Drew; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Howell, George (Trey); Jaffe, Michael; Lee, Alison; Li, Tongyin; Lloyd, Debra; Mathews, Rahel; Wilson, Jeff; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei; Zurweller, Brendan.

Excused:

Correa, Sandra (Vice-Chair); Rios, Leyla (Secretary); Basu, Priyadarshini (Priya); Maples, Will; Melanson, Rebecca; Morrison, Carley; Nanduri, Bindu; Poudel, Krishna; Vance, Carrie.

Absent:

Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Cavinder, Clay; Franca, Fred; Fulford, Charles (Taze); Ganapathi, Shankar; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Manginsay, Natalie; Sparks, Bekah. Seong, Yun.

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

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Tricia Knight

Approval of Minutes

- **Dr. Michael Jaffe** moved to approve the minutes from the October 2023 meeting. It was seconded by **Dr. Rahel Mathews**. Motion to approve, no discussion, no opposition, minutes approved.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble

- Starting the year we have many new people, as you all know Dr. Catchot is the Extension Director, and we also have several new Department Heads.
- This is the time of the year we start advocating for funds for our units. Next Monday we will have our breakfast in the morning for MLK Day, and in the afternoon we will be at an event hosted by Farm Bureau at the State Capitol.
- We will be asking the legislature for increased funds because there is a report of underfunding of PERS. The recommendation from the government is for employers to give 5% more to support the employer portion of PERS contributions. We are asking the legislature to cover this increase. The proposed PERS increase right now is 2%. Any increase coming from the legislature will be used to cover this increase.
- We also will be talking with the legislature about salaries, staffing, the cost of inflation, and how this affects our research, and the cost of buildings and facilities. The cost of renovations to Dorman Hall has significantly increased due to inflation.
- With all the buildings that are in some stage of the renovation process, we are tight on space. Having to move everyone from Dorman for it to be renovated has been a challenge. For Dorman, we are in the process of doing the bids.

- We have also planned to remodel this building (Bost Extension) and the Conference Center. We have requested \$13m, and we already have some preliminary analyses for this building.
- This is not only about buildings or a piece of equipment but also about our Scientists who have been doing great. We had an outstanding year, last year and we will also have an outstanding year this year.
- **Dr. Ashli Brown**
- **We receive very little feedback on the Department Head evaluation forms that we send out.** We are discussing if we continue to send it every year or instead every 2 years or every 3 years in conjunction with the survey that comes out from the Provost's office. Before making any changes, we wanted feedback from the DAFVM Faculty Senate on this, if we need to add questions or make any changes. This is typically about the time of year that we send that out. This was originally established so that we would be able to seek feedback from faculty and staff within our division, annually, and to be able to use it as an evaluation tool to monitor progress or problems.
- **Dr. Tricia Knight**
- I think a reminder before the deadline could generate more feedback.
- **Dr. Amelia Woolums**
- Email surveys have poor response rates. What if instead, you identify a person in each Department who could interview their people or get feedback at department meetings?

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES: No report.

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

- On the front page of the handout, it's about CFR and CALS, and the new faculty management program beginning in the fall semester.
- On January 12, Dr. Hopper will be in our building at the auditorium, talking about people management, hiring the right people, performance evaluation, and human resources.
- At the department level, the university is implementing a new computerized system to manage sections, called CLSS. This will be implemented in the Fall '24 and staff is being trained for this.
- **Dr. Ashli Brown**, we are trying to get trained in a new system, go through the new system, and then make sure that it's working before students start registering for the classes.
- Related to the Transformational Change strategic planning process, this has been accelerated in a very short timeline. Dr Burger is going to send the draft for our college

to all the faculty for input revision comments tomorrow, with a deadline for comments by the end of the month.

- Dr. Burger mentioned that we had a meeting on November 3rd to visit with the CEO of a private family-held forestland organization. So, next Wednesday we are meeting with them for breakfast to ask them for sponsorship to help us diversify the enrollment and make changes to the national model.
- We wrote an article for the Journal of Forestry, a premier journal in our field, and the article was accepted, it is coming out in March, and they agreed to have on the cover of the Journal, a picture of 3 of our students, so this will be a branding plus.

College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Alicia Olivier

- On behalf of Dr, Nick Frank for the CVM. January is a busy month because it is our interview month. We will have a week of interviews for our class of 2028 in the last week of January. We will have our alumni for the interview event, 30 to 50 alumni will be here. We'll interview almost 420 students. Our faculty during the last months have reviewed over 4,400 applications.
- We have some transitions. Dr Joey Burt is our CVM Animal Hospital Director, and he is retiring at the end of the month. He has been with us since 2011. We plan to start the process of appointing 2 new hospital directors, one for the large animal, and one for the small animal, and this process will take place starting next week.
- We are searching for a Department Head of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, and that job post should be out in a week or two. We look forward to interviewing candidates for this Department Head position. Additionally, we are searching for an Executive Director for the diagnostic laboratory system. We have a great candidate pool. We will be interviewing four candidates for that position, three external and one internal. These interviews will start in March, and those are usually very intensive almost a week of interview processes. We will also be placing a Director for the Culture Research and Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Last, our big event, which is our Open House, occurs in April. We have school groups coming and the dates are April 5th and 6th. The theme is the "Wild West"

Extension. No report.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates. Dr. Michael Jaffe

- No Updates, there was no December meeting, and we are meeting a week from tomorrow in January.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Tricia Knight

There have been several requests for extensions, and all have been granted.

Old and New Business Dr. Tricia Knight

- Old business, the ad hoc committee, looking at the Best Practices for Faculty Recruitment will begin meeting. Dr. Correa is chairing this committee. If you volunteer for that if you will be hearing something from her soon.
- Next Meetings will be February 8th, March 14th, April 11th, and May 9th.

Adjourn

No Motion to adjourn