

**DAFVM Senate Meeting
Minutes
March 14, 2024**

Recording: [March 2024 DAFVM Faculty Senate Meeting-20240314 1833-1](#)

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:

Knight, Tricia (Chair); Rios, Leyla (Secretary); Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Basu, Priyadarshini (Priya); Burke, Benjamin; Ganapathi, Shankar; Gholson, Drew; Jaffe, Michael; Lee, Alison; Li, Tongyin; Maples, Will; Melanson, Rebecca; Nanduri, Bindu; Poudel, Krishna; Wilson, Jeff; Seong, Yun; Zurweller, Brendan.

Excused:

Correa, Sandra; Morrison, Carley

Absent:

Camp, Jason; Cavinder, Clay; Franca, Fred; Fulford, Charles (Taze); Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Howell, George (Trey); Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Lloyd, Debra; Manginsay, Natalie; Mathews, Rahel; Morrison, Carley; Sparks, Bekah; Vance, Carrie; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei.

Meeting hosted at the new conference room in Thompson Hall, College of Forest Resources. 1:00, virtual tour with Dr. Burger. Meeting starts at 1:30 p.m.

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

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Tricia Knight

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Shankar Ganapathi moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by **Krishna Poudel** no discussion and no opposition. Minutes approved.

Tricia Knight: I would like to thank Dr. Wes Burger for taking the time to give us a really neat PowerPoint presentation before we started the meeting about some of the highlights and events going on in his college.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr. COBLE

Thank you for being part of this meeting during the spring break. Lots of things going on in the division and I will let the separate units speak on behalf of their units.

- The first thing I will mention is the state legislature is in session, and we have various requests in front of them. They are going to give a 2% increase in the cost of PERS.
- We sent a request for another DAFVM Faculty intern, the first was Dr. Leslie Burger, who did a great job.
- We are in the process of reviewing DAFVM awards. Some of these awards have donors and some of them have not. Lisa is working on rewriting these awards. We are also checking for new awards that are not on our list right now. If you have any thoughts, please share them with us.
- I met with the Safety committee. Every unit has representation on this committee, and Leslie Woolington is the chairperson. Our committee is very engaged in student safety.

There is going to be a tractor training program that happens sometime in April. We are increasingly dealing with students who come into our majors and have no previous experience with field or farm work, so our students make this more demanding.

- We are in the trial phase with Mary Kathryn Kight, the Senior Communications Manager for DAFMV on a Faculty training on talking to the media, and social media.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES:

- Notes from Dr. Willard, he had a conflict and was not able to attend. Dr. Sheri Worthy from the University of Georgia was named Director of the School of Human Sciences, and she starts July 1st. Dr. Teresa Gammill continues as interim Director.

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

- We are working with the Office of Technology Management to put together the MDEQ climate adaptation, and infrastructure proposal, which will be the only one for the state of Mississippi. About \$60 million is available and must be tied to measurable outcomes in reducing carbon footprint in our teaching and outreach programs.
- Every spring near Earth Day, we are excited to have the Carlton Owen conservation speaker series. We will have Dr. Kate Gatto, who is the Chief Strategy Officer for NAFO (National Alliance of Forest Owners)
- For April 9th we will have our Research Week, with undergrad poster presentations and oral presentations from under and graduate students from the three different departments. No registration is needed, and everyone is welcome.
- We also will have in the College a series of seminars called "*Why not me?*" and the goal is to recruit people in natural resources and wildlife careers. There is a lack of awareness about natural resources and wildlife careers.
- For Women's, Hispanic, and Black History Month, we will have a panel discussion with potential role models so students will relate to them. In our college are 40% female. Our Women's Month speaker will be Dr. Beth Baker on March 18th at 6 p.m. in the auditorium.
- We are offering round table discussions about several topics like people management, strategic use of release salary, and "*Being the mentor you wish you had*". A future topic will be how to build a more diverse workforce with Dr. Bullard.
- On April 25th, we have our CFR student award banquet coming up, and it will be over in Bost at 6 pm, this event also includes the George Hopper Award for research.

College of Veterinary Medicine. No report

Extension. No report.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates. Dr. Michael Jaffe

- Internal policies document discussion. Faculty members have appointments at the Honor's College in addition to their home faculty units and the Honor's College does not have any representation on the Faculty Senate. There has been an ongoing discussion

about representation in terms of rewriting some of the policies trying to determine how best to serve the Honor's College.

- Leslie Cory is the Chief Human Resources Officer, and she gave us a presentation on some new HR policies related to nursing mothers and pregnancy.
- Dr. Shaw gave a brief update on the accreditation visit and how well Mississippi State University did on this. He also discussed the fact that we are now in the top 50 list of the best large institutions to work for. The Climate survey is out and has had a very poor return, so more participation is needed so a more complete result is collected.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Tricia Knight

- We had one request this past month and a six-month extension was granted.

Old and New Business Dr. Tricia Knight

- I sent out an email with the terms for the senators for everybody. I think it's correct at this point. If you see any discrepancies there with when you think your term is, and when we have it listed, please let me know as soon as possible. I'm going to try to send out an email to the department heads. If you are interested in Chair, Vice-chair, or Secretary, please let us know.
- Next Meeting will be on April 11th, at 1:30 pm at Bost.

Adjourn

Motion: Dr. Benjamin Burke; 2nd Dr. Krishna Poudel