

DAFVM Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
**January 9, 2025**

Recording:

<https://msstate.webex.com/msstate/ldr.php?RCID=5c28244e3acaf290f3a0cde0dc0392dc>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:

Jaffe, Michael (Chair); Correa, Sandra (Co-Chair); Adhikari, Pratima (Secretary); Rios, Leyla; Franca, Fred; Lee, Alison; Han, Samin; Li, Tongyin; Wilson, Jeff; Burke, Benjamin; Mills, Devon; Vance, Carrie; Poudel, Krishna; Morrison Carley; Nanduri, Bindu; Yun, Seong; Mathews, Rahel; Marcus McGee; Howell, Trey; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Zurweller, Brendan

Excused: Woolums, Amelia; Ganapathi, Shankar; Manginsay, Natalie; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Gjolson, Drew

Absent: Liu, Chang; Coker, Christine; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Lloyd, Debra; VanderSchaaf, Curtis; Sparks, Bekah; Yu, Fei

Call to Order-Meeting called to order by Dr. Michael Jaffe.

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Michael Jaffe

Approval of Minutes

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble

Dr. Coble mentioned getting ready to testify to the state legislator and testifying to the House and Senate both next Tuesday. There's gonna be an event that Farm Bureau hosts Monday night, then will have two hearings on Tuesday and then there's another event Tuesday night and they will be down there making their case to the State Legislature. Dr. Wes Burger and Dr. Coble spent few mins talking about the best way to make the case on behalf of CFR and FWRC. Dr. Coble also talked to the President about the funding which does not look good or hopeful. The state income tax might gonna leave us probably not with cuts, but a pretty flat budget. Also, the State revenue in December was down relative to projections. There will be talks and discussions on what we need in terms of salaries, equipment and support in areas of Forestry, Wildlife, MAFES, Vet School. The office is going to do the best they can with the Legislature.

The NSF ranks us 11th in Ag and 11th in Natural Resources. Considering the size of this state, and the size of our university, these are amazing results. The faculty to evaluate administrators will go around early February and these will be secure and NO risk of being honest.

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

There has been a slow shift over to Ballew Hall with some minor construction and alterations still finishing up. They have started to move some of the personnel over like the recruiting office, and the development office has moved over. The MAFES sales store is under renovation, and now it has been temporarily moved over to the 1st floor of Ballew Hall. Probably the MAFES sales store will be on the bottom floor of Ballew Hall in Spring. The teaching lab hopefully will be on the schedule for next Fall. March 7 is looking like the date for a potential quote ribbon cutting.

Feb 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be Advisory Board meetings for MAFES. There will be fellows that will be honored from each of the departments on Thursday night. Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, Friday morning will be the World Food Prize Mississippi Youth Institute. Some of the advisory board members help to interact with those high school students and engage with our Mississippi Youth Institute affiliated with WFP.

Dr. Frank, Dr. Willard, and Dr. Burger from the Dean's office are going to do a dean's retreat in February and the topic is advising models. They will be talking about different advising models and professional development.

Regarding P and T process, at the dean director level, they had 27 applications on the CALS MAFES and extension side. Then they will be transmitted soon to the vice president's office with Dr. Coble and Dr. Shaw.

Department head for biochemistry nutrition health promotion is currently advertised. Dr. Darrel Sparks is the Chair for that.

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

In the CFR, there is a need to grow our enrollment especially as we face with demographic cliff and in more and more intense competition with other institutions for the same graduating seniors. But they are having a strong recruitment season right now with up 33 % on the admits over last year. Last year was a good recruitment year with 7.6% enrollment in last year. The admits so far are up above than last year so they are hopeful. While their faculty teaching FTEs have been flat over the last 15 years, their enrollment is more. So our faculty are doing exceptional work with fewer resources than they had ten years ago.

In CFR, they had 9 P and T applicants this time and they are at the Vice-President level for the review. Watermark seems to work most of the time.

Last year in the division there were some events conducted to help faculty to do a better job for extramural funding applications. The number of proposals received and applied through the College is impressive and has gone up this year.

On the teaching side, two years ago they released a faculty development task force report that recommended a more systematic approach to, training and equipping and teaching programs. And the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Provost's office responded to that and created a new Teaching Academy where every new faculty member is encouraged to go through this academy. We also have Maroon Academy.

For the spring, in some faculty development areas, they are planning for a two or three-day workshop on project management. Most of the new faculty members come to the University with not a lot of experience in project management and either team management or formal training. And that's what this workshop is designed to do. So, probably right after graduation and before the summer semester starts, they will offer a two-day workshop. It will be professional training in project management. They have 25 seats available for the workshop.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr. David Smith.

In CVM, the students that are in their 3rd and 4th year that are in the clinics, they work through the holidays. The CVM provided emergency services with animals to take care of.

They are about to do interviews for the class of 2029 that's scheduled for the 2nd week in February. There are about 420 plus or minus potential students who are gonna be interviewed for about 118 slots in the class.

The VetMed open house is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

The college received a very major gift to establish an equine research center. That gift will fund three faculty research positions, some support, and a building for a clinical research facility all to study and develop methods to treat or prevent equine laminitis. This was a generous gift, one of the largest in the university for this year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest ever.

The library is being renovated; working with an architect to design a facility for outpatient cattle handling facility and farm animal hospital. Also working with architects to plan Nancy Link laminitis Research Center. There will be a relocation of the animal resources in care which is the LARAC surgery suite.

Dr. Michail Panagiotidis is a new incoming professor and head of the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences. He served as a department head for the Department of

Cancer Genetics, therapeutics, and Ultrastructural Pathology at the Cypress Institute of Neurology and Genetics in Cypress, Greece.

Director Extension Service: Dr. Angus Catchot

There has been a lot of confusion at the department head level and departmental P&T level, on how to evaluate extension employees. The main confusion might be from the actual faculty annual evaluation document that spills over to P&T., but we still have a lot of people, some department heads, and some P&T committees that rank as the four levels to the criteria rather than research teaching service. His group will be revising some criteria related to activities that involve research and teaching; primarily falling under the teaching category. Might be more defined for next year.

On Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, there is 4H Legislative Day at Jackson, MS. This will be a big event for 4H kids to interact with the Legislature.

The annual extension conference will be November 5, 6, and 7 here on campus at Bost Extension Center for the coming year

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr. Alison Lee  
No Report

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Michael Jaffe  
No New Appeals

Report from Dr. Sandra Correa.

There has not been much activity since the last meeting. However, she was able to send the questionnaires for the Faculty hiring practices requesting feedback to about 6 different people within the division. Hoping for the feedback to come by Jan 27. They hope to revise the questionnaires and send them to Dr. Coble for final approval and then to all faculty hires within the last 5 years, Chairs of Search Committees, and Department Heads.

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Zurweller  
Seconded by: Dr. Howell