

DAFVM Faculty Senate Meeting minutes

February 14th 2019

1.30 pm in Bost Room 205

Roster sign-up

Call to order 1:31 Bindu Nanduri

Reading of the minutes (February 2019) – approved 1:34

Present: Greg Bohach, Reuben Moore, Gary Jackson, Lisa Noffsinger, Taya Marquardt Ezell, Simone Hinz, Skip Jack, Caleb Lemley, Jonas King, Anna Linhoss, Jay McCurdy, Florencia Meyer, Bindu Nanduri, Brittney Oliver, Donna Peterson, Andrew Stevens, Porter Swann, David Christiansen, Julie Parker, George Hopper, Mariah Morgan, Raja Reddy, Wes Neal, Tricia Knight, Jason Street, Keun Seo, Jason Barrett, Jason Camp.

Excused: Brent Frey, Josh Maples, Stephen Meyers, Amanda Stone, Kelley Wamsley, John Willis.

Absent: Tom Allen, Charles Fulford (Taze), Matt Griffin, John Long, Rebecca Melanson, George Popescu, Lifang Yan.

Dr. Moore.

- Ag booklet passed around. Collaboration between the Vice President's office and Farm Bureau. Useful to show the impact of the division on the economy.
- Building projects. Poultry Science is coming up. Late Spring 2019 to occupy Animal and Dairy Science building; a year later we will probably occupy Poultry Science.
- New road proposed to be built, which would connect Blackjack to the dormitory McKee. There have been some issues with purchase the land.
- We have bond money for 2 facilities in Black Jack. Forestry greenhouse and a multipurpose building for wildlife and fisheries.
- March 27th CALS luncheon. Please get spread the word about nominees for Staff awards.

Dr. Hopper.

- Happy Valentines Day!
- Budget: As we know, all Ag units are separately funded so we don't get tuition money. We are funded by the State. We are asking restoration of 2016. Tax collections have been good, and with it being an election year, legislature has a lot of projects and pay raises to entertain. We are asking 10% increase to fund restoration of filled vacancies, maintenance of buildings and infrastructure, among other things.
- Academic insight. Students and parents that have already been accepted. Important event for CFR, CALS, to make students want to really come to MSU. Students then decide in August whether they will join MSU or not.
- March 27th is the MAFES/CALS Luncheon!!! Please encourage your colleagues to attend.
- If you are asked to testify to the legislature, Dr. Hopper does not have a problem with that. You should only notify your Department Head and the Dean's office that you are going, but

you are welcome to go and declare. Lee Wisecoff should be notified that one of us is heading to the Capitol to testify.

Dr. Thadgill.

- Happy Valentines!
- There has been an increase in the budget. \$2.8 million will be used to hire faculty and extension agents and new technology (\$1.2M faculty, \$1.2M 20 vacancies in 28 counties).
- Dixie National Junior Round-Up Livestock Shows was held in Jackson, MS on February 1-7, 2019. About 1600 youth participated in the Show.
- Legislators and 4H met to explain what we are doing around the state.
- Dr. Threadgill provides leadership for the 4H programs. Working with Joy Graves at the office of compliance, Dr. Threadgill is developing policies to work with minors across the state. (Example: background checks for any one volunteering to work with children during youth summer camps, etc.). We should expect new policy coming out soon.

Holland Faculty Senate from Dr. Barrett.

- Debate on the structure of the faculty senate. Do you give 1 or 2 people to each unit? For now there is 1/unit, but some advocate that we should have 2/unit? They voted to keep it at 1, and this will be maintained for the 2 coming year.
- Lecturer vs. instructor. Revision of language moving forward.
- Please pay attention to Dr. Bohach's email and evaluate your administrators.
- +/- Grades were voted down. End of the story.
- We are not moving to online teaching evaluations. This change had been voted down already. However, the conversation has been revived with a pilot program which proposes that students would be able to comment on their teachers throughout the semester. This discussion went wild.

Dr. Wes Burger.

- Summary of trends in funding in DAFVM units (depicted in charts).
- Programs to make our faculty successful:
- **1. New Faculty Mentoring Program** (CVM not included for now, it started as a CFWR and MAFES program). For the first 24 months meets once a month, have lunch, talk about all important issues, regarding the academic life and tips on various aspects of grants & contracts, teaching, budgeting, time allocation, etc.
- **2. Financial support to attend annual meetings** of each faculty's respective Multi-state or Hatch project (this is for MAFES faculty who have to have a Multi-state or Hatch project). Dr. Burger will pay \$1,500 for the faculty to attend.
- **3. URSP (undergraduate research scholar's program)**, with the mission of putting more students into the STEM pipeline and Ag sciences. CALS-CFR faculty and students apply separately and they are later matched. Every year about 50 CALS/MAFES and 10 CFR awards. \$2,500 goes to hire a student; \$500 for supplies/travel. Funds 65-75 students per year.

- ORED is modeling their Undergraduate student support program like this. A current effort to evaluate the program is underway. Please respond to the survey if you have had any URSP students in the past.
- **4. SRI (strategic research initiative)**. \$50,000 funds for one year to collect preliminary data to attempt submission to bigger federal awards. In 2018, \$1.4 million awarded to a total of 26 projects.
- Average 30 projects per year. 28-29 graduate students (1/3 PhD) and funds for an additional 30 undergrads.
- There is tuition remission for graduate students, and no overhead payment.
- Because MAFES has \$1 million of hatch dollars that are not committed, they can be strategic in the funding. MAFES leaves that money untouched (instead of hiring 10 more faculty, for instance), and use it to fund SRI projects. Unique program in the region.
- **5. Help with Grant writing**. Dr. Burger wants to change our writing skills forever. He wants to educate us in the best possible way to tell our compelling story, equip our discipline-specific experts with writing skills.
- Phase 1 is an all-day seminar on grant-writing, with specific pointers to tailor your grant to the main agencies (NIH, NSF, USDA). 15-20 proposals are accepted into Phase 2 and have a 1-on-1 writing experience until submission of the grant.
- 9-15% success funding success.
- \$80,000 investment for MAFES. For each \$1 invested → \$50 return in awards.
- The director's office is deeply committed to help the scientists to be successful. Will entertain any suggestions on how they can improve.

Chair Report from Dr. Nanduri (EAC meeting Feb 13, 2019)

- Department head search PSS led by Dr. Newman has interviewed 4 candidates.
- Dr. Jonatan Pote, head of Ag & Bio Engineering will be retiring soon.
- There has been a budget increase for technology. Computers internet speed will be upgraded to 1MB.
- Issues with Canvas: MSU students pay a fee of \$4 dollars to use it. This is not very appropriate for extension activities which are free.
- Online program for 3D printing is a success.

New Business: no new business.

Motion to adjourn made and approved, adjourn 2:45 pm.