

DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025
1:30 PM BOST 205.

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/1080974603/0f498f6d41?share=copy>

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; Poudel, Krishna; Morrison Carley; Mathews, Rahel; Marcus McGee; Coker, Christine; Gjolson, Drew; ; Manginsay, Natalie; VanderSchaaf, Curtis; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei.

Excused: Ganapathi, ShankarGrissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Nanduri, Bindu; Vance, Carrie

Absent: Liu, Chang; Lloyd, Debra; Sparks, Bekah; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Howell, Trey; Zurweller, Brendan

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 that we do not have state plan yet. There is a lot of disagreement now; things can change, but at the moment, it is looking like the funding is up in the air. If there were a sense of operation, we would be in a better place.

There has been a lot of talk about the reduction of state sales tax. Having no state income tax is not gonna happen as we have a few years to go. Our revenue is almost equal to the projection. On the federal funds, we have lost some funding. But they have been random. The innovation labs cost 75 million dollars/year. He does not think that we are completely giving up hope of coming back, but things have been unpredictable.

USDA NIFA – one person is approving the applications, and that is slowing down the decision-making process. Also, every one of the cases on funding is different.

Dr. Bailey Archie graduate of Vet School, is working for Senator Cindy Hyde Smith. We also have Kelsy Barnes, who got her undergrad from MSU and is working in the Secretary of Agriculture's office.

There is a special call on the avian influenza proposal. However, overall, the funding opportunities are fewer. Dr. Brown has been working at the university level on the survey of hiring practices, and it is almost complete. He thinks that the separately funded projects are in a good position, but it will be hard to maintain those in the next 12 months. University-wide, we bring 12 million dollars in overhead, and in terms of us, we have not averaged as a division. We have not become accustomed to living on overhead compared to other divisions of campus.

Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES: Dr. Darrel Sparks

Dr. Sparks – March 28 – CALS on the road event. Faculty were taken from here to Raymond, Central MS, and had a recruiting event with 33 junior ROTC students from Jackson Public School. On April 1st, MS Farm Bureau held a crawfish and corn hole event at the BOST. The event had ~300 attendees. On April 2nd, there was a CALS-MAFES luncheon, and several awards for service, teaching, and research were provided to the MSU faculty. On April 11th, it was Ag Science Day at MS Gulf Coast Community College, and the event went very well. On April 22nd, there is a Food Science and Industry symposium led by the ORED and the new Food Science Innovation Hub (Dr. Schilling). Some webinars are coming up for the new tuition model for the upcoming fall on April 22nd and April 24th. There will be a bus trip on May 6 and 7 to the Coastal research area. So far, about 20 have been signed up. This has been a periodic event. Student numbers update - in May, 412 students graduated, and fall numbers are 650. Kudos to students – 82 students participated from CALS in URSP. Alyssa Williams won the NSF graduate research fellowship. We have a behaviour health navigator in CALS, Kristen Mayhan. This might be a resource for our students.

Dr. Darrin Dodds- Dr. Willard is staying in close contact with other experiment stations regarding the capacity fund.

Some repair and renovation. Dorman Hall is coming closer to phase 1 renovation. Some renovation in the big auditorium class is happening. The phase 2 renovation, which includes the interior renovations, will also start soon for Dorman. The MAFES sale store is over in Ballew at the moment and might return to the original place sometime in June. Avian influenza is on our radar. The goal is not only to keep poultry flock safe but also in dairy flock. We are getting tight with the biosecurity and plan for the south farm. They are working on new fencing for poultry and also additional fencing in the dairy facility. Some other fencing has been looked into in other places in the south farm with regard to biosecurity. The physiology building will be continued for the renovations. Aquaculture is also undergoing a lot of renovations. Some of the research stations in Brooksville got hit by a tornado back in January. They were talking about the plan and process of repairing.

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

Dr. Burger mentioned the importance of overhead for the university. We collect 12 million plus OH each year. On the CFR side, we have a 31% effective F and A rate. On the DAFVM side, 11-12% F and A. This is growing compared to previous years. The higher rate for CFR would be due to the work with stakeholders. They also use OH to support the start-up packages.

CFR has a new behavioral health navigator, and her office is in Thompson Hall. They had a lecture series where the CEO of Dovetail Partners, Katie Fernholz gave a presentation and will be back for another meeting. Enrollment is 7.6% up compared to previous years. This is 21% up for college. Dr. Burger also notified the CFR Doctoral hooding and graduation events coming up for the outgoing and graduating graduates. They have about 95 students.

Last year's American Fisheries Association Student Chapter was the number 1 chapter in the country. This year they won the national and Southeast contest. For the last 20 years, they have been in the top 20 each year.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: No report

Director Extension Service: No report

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr. Alison Lee

They had the last meeting for the year hosted by Dr. Keenum. Largely, the president went over what happened over the last year and the research funding situation. In CVM, they faced a lot of cuts from NIH funding. Not a lot of options to move forward at the moment. He reaffirmed that we are going to follow the federal and state policies. On the state side, DEI legislation was talked about. He also talked about the state income tax. There is a video that she recommended to watch from Dr. Keenum that mentions them and what was the issue. He has been an advocate for us at the federal and state levels regarding funding and other issues. There was a motion to add the general presidential election voting day as an excused absence. This still needs to be approved.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Michael Jaffe

No New Appeals and nothing to report

Report from Dr. Sandra Correa.

There has been a communication from Dr. Brown. The survey passed, but they added a few questions about HR for training for the search committee. Still trying to get more information on that. She will communicate further.

New Business: Dr. Jaffe sent out an email requesting interest in nominating someone or self-nomination for the DAFVM positions in the year 2025/2026.

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Jaffe