

DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2025

Recording:

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

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:

Jaffe, Michael (Chair); Correa, Sandra (Co-Chair); Rios, Leyla; Wilson, Jeff; Burke, Benjamin; Morrison Carley; Nanduri, Bindu; Manginsay, Natalie; Yu, Fei; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Lee, Alison; Poudel, Krishna; Mills, Devon

Excused: Adhikari, Pratima (Secretary); Liu, Chang; Coker, Christine; Howell, George (Trey); Mathews, Rahel; Marcus McGee; Vance, Carrie

Absent: Franca, Fred; Sparks, Bekah; Ganapathi, Shankar; Gholson, Drew; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Han, Samin; Lloyd, Debra; VanderSchaaf, Curtis

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 this being an interesting time and hopefully will be coming down with Legislative session. The normal expectation is to be by the end of March. They have been going to various events trying to tell the stories, convey to them our needs. One thing they have talked about is faculty salary increases and we need support for our units, operation, deadline with inflation etc. For example – fish innovation lab funding has been ended. They are continuing to battle and it is very upsetting situation including president Keenum. At federal level, funding cuts, delays in evaluation of funding all relates to availability of money. There is going to be a press conference on the economic impact of MSU in the state of MS.

Now, MSU impact is \$3.9 billion dollars and ~\$1.7 billion dollars of that impact is this division (DAFVM). So, that's the 40% of the entire impact of university; includes research of ORED that affects graduates, employment effect of university and others. The division comes out looking very good with that report.

Dr. Ashli Brown: Dr. Brown mentioned about putting together survey for best practices for recruiting faculty university-wide. She is serving on the college and university level faculty success. It was asked if it would be okay to share our survey university wide and then evaluate across the board sharing questions with her subcommittee and sharing that information back.

Dr. Brown is the member of American Chemical Society. Each year they have new investigation award and she mentioned about that upcoming deadline for the award. Post docs, assistant professors were encouraged to apply. There are a lot of things that have been heard and happening with the budget cuts. Especially with the soft funding will be a little scary. The cuts have been at different levels. The level of uncertainty is high.

Dean, CALS and MAFES: Dr. Scott Willard

Dr. Willard mentioned and emphasized that several institutions are freezing positions. The ribbon cutting for Balew has been completed. MAFES administration has moved in, and also have teaching classrooms in there, which will be open this fall. There was also ribbon cutting for the Gulf aquatic center. There are 7 projects going on campus- renovations are continuing for South Farm, South Farm aquaculture facility, and the Dairy unit. Some of these are related to biosecurity upgrades in poultry and dairy units. This is a positive side of continuous work that is on-going.

A new tuition model is starting this Fall. So, faculty are advised to be aware of that. There will be some adjustments that we might see. Study abroad was another one that was discussed at the Dean's meetings. Those faculty who are involved in study abroad, No big changes there, but increasing the number of leaders per program. There might be a requirement for multiple supervisors making sure enough number of supervisors are present to handle the mass of students.

Regarding the department of Biochemistry, nutrition and health promotion, the search progress is ongoing. The ambassador of Morocco will be here in April. They have some cooperative programming through the agronomy and animal science with Morocco. There will be an opportunity about learning the Ag program in Morocco. On 22nd April, there will be a food and industry symposium being organized. Dr. Wes Shilling, who's the director of the new Food Science Innovation hub, is leading that. There will be industry panels as well as those from academia and students, and a call for abstracts. There will be a poster competition for any students who want to present anything related to food and industry. On 31st March through April 2nd the artificial intelligence and ag autonomy symposium will be on campus. Dr. Alex Thomason is leading the ag autonomy effort.

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

Dr. Burger mentioned the current uncertainty with the federal and national funding. For example, recently, Columbia University ~ \$400 million worth of funding, and Maine just had \$38 million in USDA funding pulled from. The faculty are advised to sit calmly and work with as directed. For academic insight, there will probably be 60 or 70 more members than

there were last year. Our applications are 30 % more than last year. Regarding the interested faculty for the workshop, for May 19 and 20th, Dr. Coble's office has agreed to sponsor the event. The seat limitation is only 24 faculty. The goal is to support a portion of the seats to each unit.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr. Frank

Dr. Frank emphasized DOE layoffs and financial aid concerns. But need to run things like teaching hospital efficiently, regardless. HPAI was positive in Nuxabee County recently. Dr. Manginsay added more information about the testing being positive. It was the first commercial case. The BLD has given them full accreditation again after our site visit, now till 2029. At the dinners with the legislators, from the CVM standpoint, we've had Natalie Garcia and Gabby Walters come as the two recipients of Dr. Mac Huddleston's rural veterinarian scholarship program. They are trying to get two more scholarships this year.

The next announcement was on new master's in one health that CVM is proposing and hoping that faculty throughout DAFVM will help to teach this master's program and might open an opportunity for collaborations. This will take place at noon on March 25. On 5th April, there will be an open house at the CVM for children and friends as a free visit.

Director Extension Service: Dr. Angus Catchot

The relationships that Dr. Catchot's office has built with Jackson are noteworthy. They are hosting all the southern extension directors here at MSU, which will be taking place in late March. Dr. Catchot's group is bringing a few county agents up to talk to the directors across the region, which will be the things that are unique to Mississippi. The 4H event is actively happening and this has been a good thing for MSU. They have a number of venues that they'll be visiting. The other thing that we just recently rolled out, but have been extremely positive with the response, is the extension internship. They will be doing eight of these a year, with four extension regions in the state. Those students will be working with extension agents in counties, which might give them the full experience of what it's like being an extension agent. The assessment survey for extension has been completed. The office is waiting to compare the results from Oklahoma State, which recently completed its survey to look into their preliminary results.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr. Alison Lee

The Holland faculty senate met last week, and it was a pretty brief meeting. Provost Shaw provided a budget update. Students requesting the voting day have gone through the committee.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Michael Jaffe

No New Appeals, no discussions or petitions

Report from Dr. Sandra Correa.

The questionnaires have been sent to the VP's office for approval. They were approved. Her group added two questions that were suggested by Dr. Coble, and then the task force

uploaded the questionnaire on Qualtrics. The link for questionnaires has been sent and is pretty much ready to go. The results will be coming back to the respective division and task force will be notified.

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Jaffe