

**DAFVM Senate Meeting  
Minutes  
October 10, 2024**

**Recording:** [DAFVM October 2024 meeting-20241010 1824-1](#)

**DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:**

Jaffe, Michael (Chair); Correa, Sandra (Co-Chair); Rios, Leyla; Poudel, Krishna; Wilson, Jeff; Olivier, Alicia; Liu Chang; Burke, Benjamin; Coker, Christine; Han, Samin; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Li, Tongyin; Manginsay, Natalie; Mathews; Magee, Marcus; Mills Devon; Morrison Carley

**Excused:**

Adhikari, Pratima (Secretary); Vance, Carrie; Ganapathi, Shankar; Gholson Drew; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Howell, George (Trey); Lee, Alison

**Absent:**

VanderSchaaf, Curtis; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Lloyd, Debra; Nanduri, Bindu; Sparks, Bekah; Seong, Yun; Yu, Fei; Zurweller, Brendan; Franca, Fred;

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

**Roll Call**-Recorded by Dr. Michael Jaffe

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard approved the minutes. Dr. Benjamin Burke seconded it. No discussion and no opposition. The minutes were approved.

**STANDING REPORTS**

**Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES: Dr. Cory Gallo**

The P&T process is fully underway. We have 27 applications in the cycle, which is a good number.

We're moving ahead with the election for biochemistry, nutrition health promotion, and head search. The election for the committees has been completed, and that should go up it should get underway soon. PSS financial sciences, head elections, and search committee are set and should open soon. And the plant science and plant protection is still waiting to get going. But those two department head searches will be moving ahead with the 3<sup>rd</sup> one coming shortly behind it.

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Alumni social for CALS, at the animal industries Annex. Faculty are encouraged to come to that to help support especially if they know ALUMS that will be there. We also have our alumni fellow from the college, which happens to be at the same time this year. October 24 - 26 is Leanne McConnell. She's from landscape architecture, and currently serves as the president of the Council of, the Landscape Architecture Registration Board National Registration Board.

**Building updates –**

Ballew - is going through the final punch list items and that should be completed. Contractor work should be completed within a month. Then the administrative offices will probably move over within the next two months after that. So between the beginning and the end of the year or the beginning of the year, we'll be moving our administrative offices over there with some minor work to follow.

Dorman - phase one has started, and there are a lot of moving parts for those in Ag and Bio. Phase one has primarily mechanical system upgrades. Exterior, interior and classroom renovations are going on. Much credit to Dr. Keenum and his push for additional funds from legislatures and other things. We are in much better shape than we were in the past. Also working towards phase two.

Livestock Judging – The new pavilion on the South Farm and a classroom, a meeting room, restrooms and things like that, which would be primarily beneficial for our scientists' program have been underway. About 6 more months left to complete the construction.

Dorman Hall- We're working through renovating Dorman hall. Beaten Ball was a work WPA project from the thirties that was the first meat and muscle lab. We are in the process of creating a new kitchen teaching space for nutrition and moving into more hall. That process is ongoing, but it'll take a little while, probably another year before that's done. We also are working on contract negotiations with the Northern Gulf aquatic food, and seafood food research lab, that is about 6 million dollars that'll be on the coast in Ocean Springs. That'll support our coastal R and E Center and seafood research food safety research.

**Office of the Vice President: Dr. Ashli Brown**

ERDC days – The University will be hosting ERDC on the 29th and 30th. This will be an opportunity for faculty to connect. The 29th is focused internally and shows scientists what we have to offer here on campus. And so in the division, we're touring The Vet School and looking for research connectivity. They are also making a stop at the lumber testing and sustainable products and then the agronomy institute. On the 29th, it's focused more on students, that are landscape architects, foresters, biochemists, economists, communication personnel, and others that they are willing to hire. We're also having, a keynote presentation from Dr. Pittman, who is the director of ERDC and that will be from 2- 3:30. So that information will be coming out through the university, knowledge, and email, and we'll put some additional stuff on social media.

The office co-hosted with the Office of Research and Economic Development for the research awards. We had great representation throughout the entire division. Jenny Riles won the Research Professional Award, and Jagman Dhillon won the Emerging Research Scholars award. Daryl Jones won the Innovation and Entrepreneurship award, and then Peter Allen won the most prestigious research award for the university, which is the Realm the Empower award.

**Dean, College of Forest Resources (CFR) & Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC):  
Dr. WES BURGER**

In the college force resources, enrollment has stayed up and strong all fall. They are up 5.3 % over year over year. They are at 653. Also, tracking and admits for next year looking good at 25 % on applications. The enrollment in the college looks strong. Looking at grants and contracts in the research enterprise, last year for the whole fiscal year they were about \$324,000,000, as of the end of July or August, that puts about 16 % of the way through the year where they were almost 12 %. The division, the units of the division extension and FWRC account for about anywhere from 46 to 52 % of the total research enterprises and the university. So, we're only about, depending on the year somewhere between 22 and 30 % of the faculty on campus, are literally half the research enterprise, and so that speaks to the quality and the productivity of the scientists that we've got.

Three classrooms will be renovated and then redesigned as collaborative marketing. They will be completely reconfigurable. The tables and chairs will be rollers type. This will be for small-group learning. For a larger classroom, there are about three or four different configurations that can easily be done. They are putting up new whiteboards all the way around the room and upgrading some of the audiovisuals. The conventional computer lab will be turned it into an active learning lab.

They will be participating in a national study across 119 different institutions nationwide that the company Steelcase is working with another research entity to evaluate student behavior and faculty behavior in student perception about how the classroom structure affects learning outcomes.

ORED, in partnership with DAFVM hosted a resilience summit. This was the 1st time we've done this and will probably be doing these annually moving forward. It simply brought together a lot of stakeholders from around the state and the region and nation to talk about environmental, economic community, and national security resilience and sustainability and the interrelationships between all of this. This had a great turnout, there were about 120 people that attended over the union. One of the outcomes that was discussed at the end is a program called Seminal Landscape. It's a DOD program actually and it's designed for the Department of Defense. Jaffe, Michael

We don't have a seminal landscape in the state of Mississippi. When a piece of the landscape gets designated as a seminal landscape, all the normal economic incentives like through USDA NRCS, and FSA. However, there are additional economic incentives that come from the DOD budget to further incentivize conservation practices when it's forced management land acquisition or conservation engagements.

### **Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr. Nicholas Frank**

A lot of work is or will be going on for how we set up our governance structure within the college. They have put together a task force to look at bylaws and policies, how to develop policies, review policies, and how to ultimately vote policies through. At a recent faculty meeting motions were put forth to adopt policy committee. There will be voting for the policy.

Working with house officers officials, interns, and residents. These are individuals who are already graduate veterinarians. They go through a rigorous training program. So, it might be important to have a committee that oversees these programs, listens to concerns, and tries to ultimately help us continue to get better. And they also had a motion to form a house officer

committee. They have been looking at the salaries for these individuals and we've tried to increase their salaries. This will help to build the programs as they are future faculty in medicine and they are important to the college and university.

The CVM has a presence on the Gulf Coast at the Institute of Marine Mammal Studies. They are also developing further our Gulf Coast aquatic health program. They have space rented at the Gulf Coast community college, and placing one of our new researchers in a lab there at the Gulf Coast community college. They will join Dr. Deb Moore and a new clinical veterinarian who's working with the marine Mammals and sea turtle program.

Concerning applications, 1,475 applicants with complete applications and 118 students we taken. 110 were from Mississippi, which continues to be a challenge. They take about 50 students a year into the program from Mississippi, so 110 for 50 is a much better ratio than an out-of-state student.

They selected and awarded their 1st two recipients of their Dr. Mac Huddleston World Veterinarian scholarship program. Two members of our class of 2028. This scholarship program was funded by the state of Mississippi and it's full in-state tuition and fees for four years in return for them going to a rural area of Mississippi practicing for four years.

Some work on expansion and renovation plans; with a new farm animal hospital. Some funding is set aside for library renovation.

Dr. Frank works with the center for new practices proceeding. They are trying to identify faculty with 0.25 FTE appointments to work in the center. They are looking for four in total. So far, they have two in those four slots, so still looking for two additional. It will be built towards having a certificate program that will start in the fall of 2025.

#### **Director Extension Service: Dr. Beniot.**

State fair in Jackson, MS. Program going on with the Water Institute. They've got a big program going on, down there as well this week, so we've got a lot going on at faculty members. The extension annual conference will be coming up 21<sup>st</sup> of October through the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month.

#### **Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr. Michael Jaffe**

Dr. Keenum mentioned that he serves on a committee in Washington DC, the foundation for food and agricultural research. This is a committee that was originally funded in the 2014 farm bill under the Obama administration that allocates money towards agricultural research. It is a, it is a \$1 to \$1 funding form with partnerships from non-agricultural groups. So, originally there was \$200 million allocated towards this. There are 15 board members on this of which Dr. Keenum serves as its chair. There is a plan for \$800 million to be allocated toward agricultural research.

Dr. Keenum talked about the DEI bill that is likely to be pending in the, maybe the next legislative session that will likely come to the house and it's strongly expected that this will be passed through. There was a lot of discussion last month where Dr. Salter came and talked about some of the concerns that had been brought forward by the State about some of the programs and things such as tenure concerns by the IHL. Dr. Keenum strongly emphasized that

Miss State is in the top ten in the nation considered in free speech in terms of the ability to support our faculty in terms of their research, their writings, their publications and things along those lines.

**Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Michael Jaffe**

- Some previous appeals in previous months. This past month had one appeal by a faculty member who requested an 18-month extension of the faculty housing. The committee agreed to 6 months only.

**Old Business: Dr. Sandra Correa**

- Update on the task force- some members are no longer on the committee. We received messages from two, people that want to be part of part of the committee, so those are Dr. Shankar Ganapathi from IGBB, and then Dr. Drew Gholson from the Delta Research and Extension Center. We also have Dr. Krishna Poudel and Rahel Matthews. So far we have two questionnaires that have been developed to a draft point. We are reviewing the questions; one is intended to go to the faculty that has been hired in the last five years and then the other is going to the chairs of departments. Hopefully by the end of this semester or early in the spring they will have a completed the task and make a best practices document.

**Motion to adjourn: Dr. Jaffe**