

DAFVM Senate Meeting
Minutes
November 14, 2024

Recording: [November DAFVM Senate meeting-20241114 1926-1 - Webex](#)

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:

Jaffe, Michael (Chair); Correa, Sandra (Co-Chair); Adhikari, Pratima (Secretary); Rios, Leyla; Wilson, Jeff; Han, Samin; Magee, Marcus; Morrison Carley; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Lee, Alison; Mills, Devon, Poudel, Krishna; Zurweller, Brendan, Anne Hilbun-Benoit, Christine Coker

Excused:

Vance, Carrie; Ganapathi, Howell, George (Trey); Nanduri, Bindu, Rahel Matthews

Absent:

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

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

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Michael Jaffe

Approval of Minutes

Anne Hilbun-Benoit approved the minutes. Dr. Sandra Correa seconded them. There was no discussion and no opposition.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble

Several of them returned from the APL meeting in Orlando this week with lots of discussion about current events in the units. Dr. Scott Willard just finished up his term as the national chair. Dr. Angus Catchot graduated from FSLI and also Dr. Christy Bratcher.

Dr. Coble mentioned that on the 1st of the year, they will be going to make our case to the legislature and on behalf of the unit and are working on how best to make that case to the state of the legislature. There is going to be a big push to reduce or eliminate the stadium compacts which is going to run counter to our funding needs.

Dr. Coble also mentioned that the best practices of hiring as a department and college and university could be beneficial. We have also done a good job of hiring in the division.

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Ashli Brown

The university has formed a faculty success working group for the task force. Dr. Brown is serving as the representative on that and Leslie Burger is serving as faculty member on that committee. But one of the things that APLU was really looking at is the faculty's success from the cradle to retirement and beyond. The practices for faculty success and also retention at various career stages are important and this ad hoc committee report will help.

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

In a change administration and so forth, so a lot of discussion about Farmbill, the Research Facilities Act is very important to those with capacity funds related to future infrastructure opportunities. So things might be different from a federal perspective.

A couple of weeks ago we also had the university-industry consortium, called the UIC that was out at the Delta branch station. We hosted that event this year. It was a sort of eclectic group of university industry government, in academia that got together. Mississippi State is the founding member of that organization. It rotates around the country, and it is a unique partnership among the different groups to talk about food and ag in the direction of things in research and outreach.

Dr. Sparks took a group of students and teachers to the World Food Prize in Des Moines, IA. We had several students from our Mississippi Youth Institute who were selected based on their essays and their presentations to represent the state of Mississippi. They had a great time up there at the conference and represented Mississippi very well. The Secretary of agriculture and presidents of different countries and Africa and Asia and astronauts and a lot of notable people attended.

The biochemistry nutrition Health promotion search is underway. Dr. Darrel Sparks is the chair of that committee, and so they will be meeting soon to move that department head of search forward.

Kudos to our faculty in MAFES/CALS in the past three months. It's USDA submission season. We had 57 USDA grants that were submitted in about a two-and-a-half month period to those deadlines totaling over \$36 million in funding requests.

CALS is up to 4.4% compared to last year with 2,544 being our official enrollment number so we're already working hard for next year.

Shout out to Karen Brasher and her group who works in communications both for CFR as well as CALS MAFES. They won two awards with the Southern Public Relations Association one was for the MAFES website and the other was for our World Food prize that we conducted.

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

In the College of Forest Resources, enrollment is at 653 students this year which is 7.6% high than last year. Graduate students are up, at 170 and undergraduates are up as well and at 483.

CFR is also working on faculty success. And one of the things CFR is doing is within college they have a new faculty mentoring program. There are about 13 new faculty in the college right now, and so they meet monthly to talk about some topics. Deans are also joining these roundtables. Some of the strategic topics like salary release, and physical management have been discussed in these discussions.

In association with the alumni association and the foundation two weeks ago, they had alumni on campus. This year's alumni fellow was Dr. Jimmy Taylor. Jimmy is a graduate of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture; he actually did three degrees in the CFR program. Dr. Jimmy Taylor is the Assistant Director of the National Wildlife Research Center for USDA Wildlife.

The annual CFR golf tournament was completed, raising about 30,000 dollars for student advancement. The funds are used for sending students to professional meetings, supporting internships, and to buy equipment for the club.

Miss Lana Miller received the Lee Memorial Staff Award in the professional category. Lana is our student services coordinator. For our faculty awards, Dr. Krishna Poudel got our Research Award. Dr. Adam Polinko received the Service Award, Dr. Ray Iglay received the Teaching Award, and Dr. West Neal received the Extension/Outreach Award. Dana Morin received an Early Career Achievement Award. Kevin Hunt received the Regina and Glenn Doran Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Collaborative Practice, and then Kristine Evans received the CFR Faculty Excellence in Advising Award for the whole college, and this year for the 1st time they offered an Inclusive Excellence Award, which went to Dr. Murray Burges. Dr. Hopper about 15 years ago created three new internally endowed professorships that we put on full professors. There's a \$6500 stipend that goes along with it for three years, but you retain the title forever. This year the honored professor was Dr. Peter Allen, the Thompson professor in sustainable bioproducts was Dr. El Barbary Hassan and then the Switzer professor in Forestry was Dr. Brady Self. The college also created a new endowed fellowship for mid-career faculty to enhance success and retention. Dr. Beth Stokes is the 1st recipient of the Lucas endowment.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr. Nicholas Frank

CVM had their award ceremony and several faculty were awarded. The Zoetis Research Award was given to Dr. Lora Petrie-Hanson for her work with the fish immune system. The Pegasus research award was given to Dr. Hasan Tekedar. Teaching award was given to new early career faculty - Dr. Alex Shealy who's been in a faculty position for less than four years. Long serving member of the faculty who also continued on in administration. Dr. Lee Tyner was recognized, who's a retired faculty member, Professor Emeritus.

Regarding the architects on building, the new farm animal hospital capital handling facility and center for rural practice is moving along. They have designed a \$26 million building and the budget is \$18 million. So, they subsequently had to do a big reduction and the main feature of that reduction was going from two to one story building.

The other project is on faculty mentoring. This has been launched and they just had their first set of meetings to match up the mentees with the mentors. At the Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier, Dr. Arun Venugopala is busy getting the lab up and going, getting the community college to get the space organized and painted and refurbished.

One of the big priorities is to get the next two scholarships funded. They only have two scholarships and the goal is to get two per year, so eight scholarships. In Colorado state, they voted to approve mid-level practitioners like physicians assistants or nurse practitioners. The MSU CVM is waiting to see what impact this will have on us and how this transition will go, as AVMA is opposing this strongly.

Director Extension Service: Dr. Angus Catchot

The first annual extension conference has been completed. An extension showcase at the horse park was held. All of the faculty members really across the entire state, whether you're in R and E centers or here on campus that have an extension appointment set up a booth almost like a trade show, to talk about and be able to share what they do in extension. We had over 400 people in person. All the feedback that we got, it was an absolutely extremely successful event. They plan to do this event once in 3 to 5 years. One of the things that was really highlighted at the Extension conference was the tremendous growth that we've made in our 4-H youth development program. To date, we are up almost 20,000 students in 4-H.

There are a lot of open positions right now, all of them, for the most part, are due to retirement that are interviewing for at the moment. Over the next month, and a half, there will be interviewing for Dr. Strickland's job, two extensions; and one working turfgrass and ornamentals here on campus.

They had about 30 counties out of our 82 that were single-agent counties. There was one extension agent in the county trying to pull multiple duties on 4-H natural resources, family-considered consumer sizes, and community resource development. Those numbers are down to 19. This has been extremely beneficial, so it might be applied to other areas like go into the counties, talking to the boards of supervisors, get them to agree to share an agent across two counties.

Starting this coming summer will be extension internships. There will be four regions, and four extension regions in the state, which region will have two. So they will be looking for students like juniors or seniors who think or might think that they would have an interest in the county-level extension or extension in general. So we're going to place them in these counties with tours. This is something new.

There has been an increased enrollment, there's going to be a lot more focus on gaining more students at the university. The Extension is going to help play a part in that.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr. Lee

There was an athletic representative who provided some updates in the Holland Faculty Senate meeting. The women's Soccer team did quite well. This season ended up going undefeated. The athletics department is working on a guest coaching program and, in that program, student-athletes can nominate faculty who have been particularly impactful in their college career, and faculty that are nominated can be selected to be guest coaches on various teams so that they're rolling that out with the Football team that's going to start in Spring.

Students from the Stennis Montgomery Association brought a request to the Robert faculty Senate to address AOP 1209, which is the AOP on Excuse Absences and Attendance, and they would like the Senate to consider adding, as it stands now, federal and state election based on the list of excused absences. So that went through a pretty big debate amongst senators, there was a strong desire to support students in exercising their right to vote but there were some concerns from senators on how students will verify so we are excusing the entire class.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Michael Jaffe

There was one request for a housing extension which was granted.

Old Business: Dr. Sandra Correa.

Dr. Correa gave an update on the ad hoc committee of procedures for faculty hiring that Dr. Coble has been requesting. They met in October with the ad hoc committee members and revised the questionnaires. Based on the suggestions, they have separated questionnaires for the department heads and chairs of search committees. They are going

back to the last five years and have a separate questionnaire for faculty that were hired in the last five years. They went back and forth reviewing the questions. A spreadsheet has been set up for the members to suggest people who can provide feedback. Senators were advised to add their names to a signup sheet or email her. They will be compiled and hopefully will be sent out soon for Dr. Coble's office's final approval and sent out to the faculty.

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Jaffe

Second: