

**DAFVM Senate Meeting
Minutes
April 11, 2024**

Recording: [April 2024 DAFVM Faculty Senate Meeting-20240411 1832-1](#)

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:

Knight, Tricia (Chair); Correa, Sandra; Rios, Leyla (Secretary); Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Camp, Jason; Franca, Fred; Gholson, Drew; Howell, George (Trey); Li, Tongyin; Manginsay, Natalie; Mathews, Rahel; Nanduri, Bindu; Poudel, Krishna; Seong, Yun; Vance, Carrie; Wilson, Jeff; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei; Yun, Seong.

Excused: Basu, Priyadarshini (Priya); Ganapathi, Shankar; Jaffe, Michael; Melanson, Rebecca; Morrison, Carley; Zurweller, Brendan.

Absent:

Burke, Benjamin; Cavinder, Clay; Fulford, Charles (Taze); Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Lee, Alison; Lloyd, Debra; Maples, Will; Sparks, Bekah.

Call to Order-Meeting called to order by Dr. Tricia Knight

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Tricia Knight

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Krishna Poudel moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by **Pratima Acharya Adhikari**. No discussion and no opposition. Minutes approved.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr. COBLE

INTERNSHIP: Applications are open for an intern for the Division, the first one in 2022, was Dr. Leslie Burger, from CFR, she focused on mid-career faculty. Her recommendations went to most of the Colleges.

The new intern will focus on a project we want to start in the summer and continue into the fall, called *Vision 2030*. We want to engage with the colleges, on how to add value from an economic development standpoint to all products generated in our division and be able to do more to enhance the economy of the state.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: We are having meetings in Jackson, talking to members of the legislature, trying to tell our story, and explaining the value that you all bring to this state. The PERS debate is not over. Specific details about the budget have not been determined. The session continues until the 1st week of May. I do want to compliment the new leadership of our division; your heads have done a really good job telling the story on behalf of you.

ACCREDITATION: The SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) was here, and they were positively impressed with our application for accreditation.

Ashli Brown: On April 22nd we will be taking a group of Faculty to **ERDC** (*U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center*, <https://www.erdcl.usace.army.mil/Locations/CHL/>), which is essentially the Laboratory for the Army Corp of Engineers. The goal is to help establish a relationship with their scientists to see ways in which we can further partnerships. Last month, we hosted a group of ERDC scientists here, and we heard presentations. We are starting the process of planning for their return. They usually like to engage in classroom activities, so we are planning to have them here to give lectures in a variety of classes. They usually do a career fair for undergraduate students, and they like to hire Mississippi State graduates. So, this is an important relationship that we have taken from a college level and moved up into the vice President's office to have a more global campus view for **ERDC Day**, which will happen in the fall. They are also interested in looking for internship opportunities over the summer and are looking for ways to connect them with our students.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES: Dr. S. WILLARD

BUDGETS: On the Experiment Station side as well as the College, a lot is happening in Jackson, but we still do not have the outcome. We are going weekly and meeting with the legislators. We expect to have budget numbers in the next two weeks.

BUILDINGS: Bellew will be finished sometime between July and August. We will be able to move in sometime this fall since the building is on schedule. Bids are out on the Livestock Evaluation Building, and possibly the construction will start this summer. Dorman Hall is still in process. Almost everyone has been moved out, but there are some funding issues still to be solved. We are moving forward on the renovation of the building that will happen during the next two or three years. The land sale was completed in Ocean Springs for the construction in the Industrial Park for the Northern Gulf Aquatic Food Safety Research Center. Bids will be going out soon.

MOROCCO: We have a group that will be traveling to Morocco, University of Rabat to start College of Ag Programs there. The one with Engineering has been very successful, bringing from 40 to 60 students per year through their program. We will be going there looking for agreements and pathway agreements with some of the Moroccan delegations. We have a group of people from the different colleges.

CALS ALUMNI BREAKFAST: Saturday, April 20th, at 7:30 am at Bost Auditorium will be the CALS Alumni breakfast. Everyone is invited. We will make some recognitions but also is excellent for networking. This is during the Super Bulldog weekend.

NEW POSITIONS: 22 Faculty searches are going on currently across the College and Experiment Stations in almost all the units.

DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS: Are developing overall, The President went to Houston, TX, looking for opportunities and pathways, and what resources we need to expand our programs.

AG DAY: Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College was a week ago with 170 participants from different schools from the Gulf Coast Region. Our departments went down there to share our programs. We have an agreement from 2020 with this College and CALS, so now we have

more students coming from this Community College. They want to collaborate also with us to expand in the Gulf area.

College of Forest Resources (CFR) & Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC): Dr. Bullard

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS: Yesterday at CFR we hosted an event called Research Highlights, with awards for 3 faculty members and 3 graduate students, each of whom was nominated by their department head. Also, we highlighted some of their undergraduate research scholars' projects URSP through poster presentations as a preview. On Friday morning, we will have the Undergraduate Research Symposium at the union, where we will have 29 students from our college presenting posters. Today at 4 o'clock we are having what was called our Pairing event, we invite all of our faculty in the college to come and meet potential graduate students, and mentees. Faculty members will be given a chance to summarize the kind of work that they do.

CARLTON OWEN LECTURE: On April 16th we will have our Carlton Owen Lecture with Ms. Kate Gatto, who is the Chief Strategy Officer for the National Alliance of Forest Owners. Gatto's presentation is titled "It's Not Easy Being Green: Forestry as a Bipartisan Solution."

WOLF RIVER PROPERTY: The acquisition of this property was approved by IHL in their meeting in March.

COMMENCEMENT AND GRADUATION: Commencement will take place on May 10th. There will be a Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on May 8th.

STUDENT AWARD BANQUET: April 25th- the student awards banquet will be coming up in the evening at the Bost Auditorium.

OPEN POSITIONS: Interviews for an entry-level recruiter are about to take place. We will be interviewing either 4 or 5 candidates later this month.

EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS OF THE GRADUATES: The Mississippi State Career Center website has information on the employment success of the graduates from the university. You can see reports for each college. It is good information to have. A very high percentage of these graduates stay in Mississippi.

LINKEDIN LEARNING: The university has invested in LinkedIn learning. Learning modules with about 50,000 skills are available free to all Students, Faculty, and Staff. This will be a 1 year test.

College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. David Smith, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR RURAL VETS: The MS Legislature has approved a new scholarship, the Dr. Mac Huddleston Rural Veterinary Medicine Scholarship. Dr. Huddleston was a veterinarian who worked in MS. He passed in 2023, and this scholarship honors him. It will provide tuition scholarships for 2 students, with the commitment that they will engage in rural veterinary practice in Mississippi.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP: We recently completed this workshop in the college. We asked the faculty to help us identify barriers to conducting research as well as to identify opportunities that we might have in the college for research in the next 10 years. We will be making some decisions about some of our plans based on that.

Extension. No report.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates. Dr. Michael Jaffe. No report.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Tricia Knight

No requests this month

Old and New Business Dr. Tricia Knight

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR BEST PRACTICES FOR FACULTY RECRUITMENT: Will be meeting immediately after this meeting in this room.

Dr. Sandra Correa: Provided an update on the activities that the ad hoc committee has been doing. They completed a planning meeting. Also, they have developed a questionnaire for faculty search committee chairs over last, A second survey will target new faculty hires over the past 5 years. These questionnaires will be distributed through Qualtrics.

Suggestion from Dr. Coble: Include questions for Department heads, since some have been recently through the hiring experience.

New Business: Election of new officers. I open the floor for nominations. We need to elect a new chair, vice chair, and secretary. You can self-nominate or nominate someone. I have contacted all of the department heads about the senators whose terms are expiring, and we have gotten responses for maybe a 3rd of them with new members.

PROMOTION AND TENURE: Congratulations to the senators who have been granted promotion and/or tenure.

SENATORS UPDATES: Dr. Pratima Acharya new searches are being completed, the first one is related to Health Management. We chose the person, and the person accepted the position. The second position is in Poultry Processing. Those interviews just finished earlier this week, The search committee is still making a decision, as well for the Physiology position. We are also inviting two candidates to interview for a joint position with the Department of Animal Sciences on Livestock/Poultry Health position.

Adjourn

Motion: 1st Dr. Krishna Poudel; 2nd Dr. Rahel Mathews