

**DAFVM Senate Meeting
Minutes
February 8, 2024**

Recording: [February DAFVM Faculty Senate Meeting-20240208 1933-1 - Webex](#)

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:

Knight, Tricia (Chair); Correa, Sandra (Vice-Chair); Rios, Leyla (Secretary); Basu, Priyadarshini (Priya); Burke, Benjamin; Camp, Jason; Franca, Fred; Ganapathi, Shankar; Gholson, Drew; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Jaffe, Michael; Lee, Alison; Manginsay, Natalie; Mathews, Rahel; Melanson, Rebecca; Poudel, Krishna; Wilson, Jeff; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei; Seong, Yun; Zurweller, Brendan.

Excused:

Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Cavinder, Clay; Howell, George (Trey); Li, Tongyin; Morrison, Carley; Nanduri, Bindu.

Absent:

Fulford, Charles (Taze); Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Lloyd, Debra; Maples, Will; Sparks, Bekah; Vance, Carrie.

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

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Tricia Knight

Approval of Minutes

- **Dr. Michael Jaffe** moved to approve the minutes with corrections. It was seconded by **Dr. Brendan Zurweller**, motion to approve, no discussion, and no opposition. Minutes approved with corrections.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Ashli Brown

- Thanks to those who provided feedback on the survey that we passed out to the faculty to evaluate the Dean and Directors, due to the limited feedback that we typically get, we are suspending the survey this year and looking for a better instrument. We will probably be seeking your feedback this semester and during the fall.
- We have been meeting with various groups at the legislative sessions in Jackson. We have our hearings to testify set for the 14th and 15th. There are concerns surrounding state-appropriated dollars. We are asking for increases with PERS. I'm not sure we will get any other increases other than that, but we will go down and make our best argument.
- Dixie National is wrapping up and Sale of Champions is today. It was a great event. On Tuesday we had 4H Day at the Capitol. The 4H Ambassadors were interviewing the legislators that came through on camera, and they got to speak on the Senate and the House floor

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

- Interviews for the Director of the School of Human Sciences were finished this week. We had 2 internal and 1 external candidate for that position, and the committee is collecting

feedback from the evaluations of all candidates. We anticipate the decision will be made by early March.

- Dr. Cory Baily has been serving as the senior admissions coordinator for both CALS and CFR for several years. He has now come to CALS full-time and has been promoted to Director of Enrollment, Retention, and Outreach. In this position he will be looking at how we get the students here, how we better keep them here, not only just within our college but MSSTATE in general, and also looking at how to better develop relations with our alumni and industry partners. He has reached out to the department heads of CALS.
- Facilities update- Dorman Hall move-out is scheduled to be completed in May and the renovation will start. Ballew Hall is on track and will be completed on time, by the end of summer. The Livestock Judging Building is out for bid, that will be at the South farm. Renovations are about to begin to improve facilities for culinary studies in Food Science, and the environmental assessments have been completed. Also, moving forward with the bid at Ocean Springs for the MAFES Northern Gulf, Aquatic Food Research Center.
- The MAFES Faces, Images, and Infrastructure proposals are all under review currently.
- The CALS Teaching Academy had its 1st session last Friday, we have 11 faculty from 7 of our departments participating in this.
- We had Academic Insights for our college this past Saturday with 159 students plus parents. We had around four hundred people taking part in this event. It is always on the 1st Saturday of February. We hope this results in these students enrolling. Our applications are up 20%.
- We had a Career Expo Social last night with over 50 students.
- Nominations for CALS/MAFES Awards are due February 16th. We have not received any nominations for awards. We have a new Advising Award, not only for undergraduate advising but also for somebody who excels in advising graduate students on campus or at any of our R&E Centers. We also added the Safety Award.
- Dr. Corey Bailey and John Dickerson (Associate Vice President for Enrollment) will host an Enrollment Overview with the Department heads and the Graduate Coordinators, on February 21st.
- Later this month, we will have our Departmental Advisory boards. We will recognize our distinguished Fellows on February 22nd, and the following day, the 23rd, is the Mississippi State World Food Prize Program. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Charles E. Lindley Lecture with Marty Matlock, who is the Executive Director of the University of Arkansas Resiliency Center and Professor of Ecological Engineering in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department will be on the same day.

Questions for Dr. Sparks

Dr. Sandra Correa asked about the focus of the new building in Gulfport, Dr. Sparks commented that this will focus on seafood safety and processing. Dr. Tricia Knight added this facility has been in Pascagoula for years and the program has expanded greatly, so they are looking at a new facility in the industrial park with more space and upgraded.

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

- Transfer Board today meeting at the College at 2 pm
- Academic Insight was this past Saturday with 40 students and more than 100 visitors.
- Will replace Cory Baily, and the position will report to TJ Walker

- Multiple positions are open and interviews are being conducted. We are getting great candidates from all over the country.
- Tomorrow, we have an event at 10:00 a.m. for Arbor Day with 150 native trees that will be planted behind the College View apartments.
- Finally, we will have a Research Week that will start on April 8, we would like to ask if any of the faculty representatives have ideas on how we could best do that. Please email Dr. Bullard or meet with him. They want to recognize all the excellent research activities in our 3 Departments.

College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Nick Frank (online)

- Introduction and Background
- Personnel: Appointed Natalie Manginsay as Director of the Poultry Research and Diagnostic Lab in Pearl, Mississippi
- We made an internal promotion. Dr. Brittany Moore-Henderson who has been working in our Student Affairs Office as Director of Admissions and Recruitment, has been moved into the position of Assistant Dean for Student Success and Inclusive Excellence. We also changed the name of the Office to the Office of Admissions and Student Success
- An addition to our faculty in the Small Animal Hospital, we have been fortunate to bring back Dr. Justin Mathis, who taught at Colorado State University and is a board-certified criticalist. This is an important position for us as a referral center, and he can oversee our intensive care unit.
- Doctor Joey Burt has retired, and we have put together a team of interim appointments on the small animal side. Dr Christine Bryan on the large animal side, and Dr. Heath King, as our hospital director. We also have an additional position; the Director of Hospital Business Operations is Dr. Michaela Beasley. Our fourth position is a staff member who has shown leadership in helping us with our clinical matters, Certified Veterinary Technician Nancy Wilson.
- With the support of the College, we have raised the wages for our veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants effective this past January 1.
- Dr. Darryl Phillips is the Director of the Small Animal Hospital in Flowood, Mississippi, and he's working hard to build it up. The salary increases that we did for the staff here, have also been applied to the staff at the animal emergency and referral clinics center.
- We have also been talking to Legislators and working on our appropriation. We are also excited about a bill that has been introduced to the state house of Representatives, to create a scholarship program, this is the DR. ELTON MAC HUDDLESTON RURAL VETERINARIANS' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM for veterinary students who commit to going to a rural area of Mississippi after graduation. They're funded fully for 4 years, and then they would return to a rural area for 4 years to practice in that area. This will be a game changer, not just because of those 2 students every year, but it also really allows us to increase our recruiting and talk to people about access to education.
- In addition to the scholarship, we are also hoping to launch a Center for Rural Veterinary Practice at the College
- Lastly, we have put together a vision for the expansion and renovation of our clinical facilities with an emphasis on how to do more in our training of veterinarians for rural practice. It is a big vision, and we have worked with an architect to provide drawings to illustrate what we're trying to achieve.

Extension. No report.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates. Dr. Michael Jaffe

- Dr. Ra'Sheda Boddie Forbes gave us a presentation about the November transformational change meeting. In terms of our work for diversity and inclusion excellence, she stated that it is not just enough just to recruit students toward a university but to retain them through degree completion. Activities and initiatives should help the students acquire the knowledge needed and the opportunity to practice what they are learning. The Holmes Cultural and Diversity Center within the Division is where they look for ways to provide leadership opportunities for a diverse student population.
- Miss Julia Pratt, who is the Coordinator for Programs - Center for Student Activities, spoke to us about the MSU Lyceum series. It operates on the academic calendar, and she gave a nice PowerPoint presentation showing all the musical, dance, and theater events coming up soon.
- The 3rd speaker was Dr. David Shaw, the Executive Vice President. He spoke on behalf of Dr. Keenum. Both were at Meridian last month, and they met with the Nursing Accreditation Board about stage 2 approval for the program there. He spoke about the creation of the Marine Academy for Teaching Excellence which was offered through the Center of Teaching and Learning. He stated that the 3 faculty members were in the 1st cohort. They are beginning to recruit a new cohort of 30 students for the summer of 2024, and those applications are due April 15. He gave an interesting update on artificial intelligence and its impact on higher education. He talked about how various institutions are partnering with different companies to think about how they can embrace and incorporate AI into the classroom and curriculum. There was a discussion about campus building security because of a lockdown right before the Christmas holiday. The Senate president of the Faculty Senate also discussed the possibility of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate joining the University Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Tricia Knight

- We had three extension requests, and all were granted.

Recruitment Team Dr. Sandra Correa

- This is an initiative that was proposed by Dr. Coble to develop best practices for recruiting new faculty and come up with a standardized protocol for the Division. Seven senators volunteered to participate in the team, we are now thinking about what the best approach would be, if sending a questionnaire, to people that has participated in hiring committees in the past. We are open to suggestions. We will be reporting our progress every month.

Old and New Business Dr. Tricia Knight

- New business, **Dr. Correa**, commented on housing for foreign faculty and how difficult it is to buy a house when you arrive in the US with no credit history. Are there any resources for foreign faculty, or can this be put together? When we do best practices for hiring, we are recruiting people, and it will be good to mention all the resources available for the new hires. Having housing available for new Faculty is excellent because gives the flexibility of having a short-term lease Based on this information, most of the foreign

senators contributed information on the difficulties that foreign faculty face coming to the US, related to renting, buying a house or even having a credit card.

- Next Meetings will be March 14th, April 11th, and May 9th.

Adjourn

Motion: Dr. Krishna Poudel; 2nd Dr. Basu, Priyadarshini (Priya)