

**DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**November 13, 2025**  
**1:30 p.m. Bost 205**

**Recording:**

[DAFVM Faculty Senate on Vimeo](#)

**DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees:** Harvey, Kelsey; Franca, Fred; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Harvey, Kelsey; Jaffe, Michael; Mathews, Rahel; Li, Tongyin; Liu, Chang; McGee, Marcus; Mills, Devon; Morrison, Carley; Pechan, Tibor; Poudel, Krishna; Rios, Leyla; Vance, Carrie.

**Excused:** Christine, Coker; Correa, Sandra; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Jaffe, Micheal; Nanduri, Bindu; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Petrie-Hanson, Lora; Temple, Al; Woolums, Amelia

**Absent:** Gholson, Drew; Han, SaMin; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Sparks, Bekah; VanderSchaaf, Curtis; Yu, Fei; Zurweller, Brendan

**Call to Order-**Meeting called to order by **Dr. Layla Rios.**

**Roll Call-**Recorded by **Dr. Layla Rios**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Marcus Magee and seconded by Rahel Matthews.

### **STANDING REPORTS**

#### **Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble**

The survey that was put together by the DAFVM Faculty Senate. We should be getting results back soon. Hopefully it will guide us in the future.

Vision 2030 November 21 with steering committee. The focus is on value added efforts. We want to have a package of recommendations for the next Governor.

Dr Scott Willard is currently serving in a role that benefits the unit due to his knowledge of the DAFVM and will represent DAFVM well.

#### **Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES: Dr Sparks**

Dr Sparks Interim Dean due to Dr Willard's appointment.

Two open searches for departments of Agriculture Science, Plant Protection led by Jeff Gore and Plant and Soil Sciences led by Anne Staford.

Ag science and plant protection committee met for the first time for new department head. Dr Gore leading the committee.

The search for Plant and Soil Sciences department head is near completion.

Down in new graduate students enrolled.

Bailey Poindexter leading the charge for the guidelines for pass off criteria to the new central advising model.

Facilities:

Dorman is out for bid for Phase 2 of the remodel and hoping to complete it by 2027.

Beaden-Baugh is undergoing renovation for a teaching kitchen. Viking is partnering to complete the renovation.

Dr Matthews was highlighted by the SEC for her work.

Claire Green is a finalist for a Rhodes Scholar.

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

Final enrollment numbers are in and include 637 students which is record enrollment and the second highest.

Next fall we are 2 percent up in applications.

Advisory Boards met with nearly 100 participating. Highly productive meeting.

January 1 transitioning to the new advising model. Lana Miller will serve as the advising lead. Model will be a hybrid last spring semester of sophomore year for students with department faculty.

Facilities on Black Jack Road. 50 percent of the funding secured for deer pins, Mississippi Outdoors Stewardship Trust is helping to support by building an educational center. Two more buildings nutrition lab feed mixing, and handling. Need additional 2 million dollars to support efforts.

Wood Magic event had 3400 participants at the event.

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

Nancy Link Laminitis Research Center groundbreaking takes place on November 10th by the diagnostic lab. It will be the only laminitis research facility in the United States. Three faculty members hired and there will be a research center and research barn for 24 horses.

Construction on the Farm Animal Hospital and haul-in facility should begin in the next week or two. Funded by the State. A little bit of parking disruption. Signage will be utilized to direct traffic to the animal hospital along Wise Center Drive.

Two faculty members have moved onto other opportunities.

Two O1 visas for faculty members are being pursued in place of H1B visas.

Renovating a building to create the Shelter Medicine Primary Care Clinic.

Restarting equine continuing education.

### **Director Extension Service: Dr Josh Maples**

Annual Conference had great attendance.

9 new Extension Agents at new agent orientation in November.

90,000 4H members versus 70,000 4H members last year.

Encouragement for faculty to submit impact statements.

### **Holland Faculty Senate Updates:** Dr. Jaffe no report

### **Faculty Housing Appeals Committee.**

No report

**Library Committee: Dr Rahel Matthews** Contract negotiated for less fees for open access manuscripts. Holiday open house on December 5, 2025

### **Vice Chair Report:**

**Legendairy Farm Friday** for schools at the MAFES Bearden Dairy Research Center. Organized by Dr. Jessica Halfen and ADS, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 1 pm

### **Old Business: None**

**New Business: None**

Senate member mentioned holiday open house at the library.

**Motion to adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marcus Magee and seconded by Rahel Matthews.