

DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2025
1:30 p.m. Bost 205

Recording:

<https://vimeo.com/1117913057/2002e138f5?share=copy>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Pratima, Brookshire; Correa, Sandra; Franca, Fred; Gholson, Drew; Han, SaMin; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Jaffe, Michael; Li, Tongyin; Liu, Chang; McGee, Marcus; Mills, Devon; Morrison, Carley; Petrie-Hanson, Lora; Poudel, Krishna; Rios, Leyla; Temple, Al; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei

Excused: Acharya Adhikari; Vance, Carrie; Zurweller, Brendan

Absent: Cooper; Burke, Benjamin; Christine, Coker; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Harvey, Kelsey; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Manginsay, Natalie; Mathews, Rahel; Nanduri, Bindu; Pechan, Tibor; Sparks, Bekah; VanderSchaaf, Curtis

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

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Michael Jaffe

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Krishna Poudel and seconded by Drew Gholson.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble

The parking situation continues to be an evolving issue and Dr Coble stated that we are working through it and he requests feedback on the topic.

Continuing to move forward with Vision 2030. Mary Kathryn is not moving too quickly because the target document will be presented to the next Governor.

What is important is that Dr Henderson identified 75 percent of processing of at gate value of Agriculture/Forestry occurs outside of our state. This presents an opportunity to retain Mississippi Based jobs. Currently developing the roadmap for this in the future.

Currently the goal is to stay out of state politics until the elections have occurred.

An additional concern is the AI Data Centers that are being planned and the consumption of both water and power resources.

Lost the Gain of Function grant this past week from NIFA. Working with various funders. Thankful to faculty who continue to seek grants for funding in this evolving environment.

Enrollment looks good across many units in DAFVM.
Areas of concern include enrollment of Foreign Graduate students.

Deans & Directors are going to meet with Key legislators concerning the budget cuts of 1.5 percent. In this meeting it will be explained that 1.5% cut means downsizing and seeking alternate sources of funding. Asking Division leaders to put together the best arguments of what happens if we are not funded and the impacts.

Dr Gary Jackson has retired, and Dr. Joe Fratesi will be filling his role with 50 percent of time dedicated to Dr. Shaw and 50 percent of time dedicated to Dr. Coble's operations.

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins, we only had her for a few hours, but she spent time with our Veterinary students. Expressed for support for rural veterinarians and Vet Schools.

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

Dr Dan Peterson permanent head of biochemistry nutrition health promotion, effective August 1st.

Director of Development Will Staggers took a position in Athletics and Lacy Gordon has been promoted to Director of Development.

Search Committees underway for head of Plant and Soil Sciences as well Agricultural Sciences and Plant Protection. Professor Anne Stanford will chair the search committee for Plant and Soil Sciences. Votes underway for search committee chair for Agricultural Sciences and Plant Protection.

The MAFES Sales store moved back to its original location on August 1. They did a good job updating the place and there are new ice cream flavors. BASF will sponsor conversion temporary space for MAFES sales store in Ballew Hall to classroom space.

Dorman Hall renovations have completed phase 1 which includes HVAC. Phase 2 will focus on upgrading classrooms and the completion date is expected in 2027.

Avey Makay has been redone and will be a conference space for CALS MAFES.

Renovation in Bedenbaugh and Herzer Hall.

Livestock judging space is much complete currently. Ribbon cutting will be held later this fall.

Enrollment is up overall for the unit.

Dean, College of Forest Resources (CFR) & Forest and Wildlife Research Center (FWRC): No report

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: No report

Director Extension Service: Dr. Theresa Gammil

Extension is working to get Faculty promotion and tenure aligned with Faculty Handbook.

Extension is continuing to work on economic impact statements and getting those completed so that we can show MSU Extension's impact on the state's economy.

Extension Annual conference will take place on November 5-7, 2025. Awards will take place on November 7th.

Introduction to Walk Mississippi and Live Healthy Program... One Step at a Time

Walk Mississippi and Live Healthy ... One Step at a Time is a six-week, statewide wellness program developed by the MSU Extension Service that encourages youth and adults to be more physically active and adopt healthier nutrition habits.

The objective is for everyone who signs up to virtually walk 180 miles (the equivalent of the width of Mississippi), learn strategies and tips from MSU Extension's Walk-a-Weigh wellness program, and improve dietary and lifestyle behaviors. This no-cost program officially begins Oct. 11 and wraps up on Nov. 21.

During each week of the program, subscribers will be sent weekly emails from MSU Extension nutrition specialist Qula Madkin with educational materials and video demonstrations on a range of health and wellness topics, including building physical activity into each day, preparing healthy meals and reducing sugar and fat intake.

Walk Mississippi is more than just a wellness challenge. It's a chance to build lifelong healthy habits, connect with others and take control of your well-being. Whether you're looking to lose weight, reduce your risk of chronic disease or simply feel better each day, this program offers motivation, camaraderie and support to help you succeed.

The Walk Mississippi webpage, <http://msuext.ms/walkms>, includes an activity calculator that will automatically convert different types of exercise into miles for those who prefer fitness activities aside from walking. An email survey link will be sent to participants where they can record their activity for each day.

To register and learn more about Walk Mississippi, visit <http://msuext.ms/walkms>. Registration begins Monday, Sept. 15 at 8:00 a.m.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr. Jaffe reported the following:

It was a short meeting. Pickle Ball courts are coming along nicely and they will only be open during the normal operating hours of the Sanderson Center.

Renovations of Wise Center will start soon either in October or November.

The University approved 4 new duplexes to be built on Maroon Drive. A total of 8 Units with covered parking available fall 2026.

Hardy Road Project is expected to start in October to November. Single lane but only for public transit.

Tailgating changes were implemented for public safety concerns. Students will now be tailgating at the amphitheater.

Class attendance policy went through but it did not include excused absence for presidential elections.

Technical changes in course in title and description. 14 in the college of Education and 3 in College of Agriculture. This was initiated by department heads.

Parking was also discussed Phase 3 has gone into effect. They are counting the number of cars in parking lots and now they are additional students on the waitlist to gain access to parking on campus instead of being bussed in from the horse park.

Band members who must park near the band building. They are now able to move their cars closer to the band building after 3 pm for rehearsals.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee.

Faculty housing appeals committee had a few extension requests. Extensions to housing are made very carefully. There is a number on the waiting list up to 40 on the list.

Vice Chair Report:

5k Fun Run flyer listed below.

PLEASE JOIN US



5K FUN RUN

MAFES JOE BEARDEN DAIRY

REGISTER USING QR CODE



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY.

T-SHIRT INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION

\$20 Registration Fee (includes event T-shirt)
Chocolate milk at the finish line!
Run, walk, or stroll – all ages welcome!

Check-in begins at 6:00 AM & Fun Run starts at 6:30 AM
Joe Bearden Dairy Research Center, 2128 Turkey Creek Rd, Starkville, MS 39759.
Contact Jessica Halfen (jh4803@msstate.edu) for more information

No Old Business

New Business:

SaMin Han brought up the following information.

Thursday, September 18th

6:00-8:00pm - (\$43/pp)

Kick off the celebration with a relaxed evening at the Left Field Loft Rooftop, overlooking Dudy

Noble Field. Reconnect with old friends and enjoy good company, great views, and plenty of fun as we begin our celebratory weekend.
appetizers, cash bar, live music

Friday, September 19th

8:00am -12:00pm CEU Sessions (free with registration of other 60th celebration event)

Application of Drone Use in Landscape Architecture

Application of AI in Design Offices

Revitalization of Downtown Starkville

(see attached document for descriptions of each session)

12:00-1:00 Box Lunch Picnic - (\$18/pp)

Welcome to our LAED Courtyard—an inviting design/build project that a favorite of MSU students (even those not in our majors). Enjoy a boxed lunch and MSU’s own ice cream.

1:00pm - 4:00pm LAED Open House. Facility and landscape tours.

Explore the department facilities, see student work, perhaps participate in a studio as a reviewer; check out the learning gardens around the buildings, see plans for facility and landscape expansions.

2:00pm -4:00pm Campus Walking Tours

Relive your time at MS State University by exploring old haunts and get a feel for being a student today by seeing how campus has developed. Tours led by student ambassadors will depart every 30 minutes on the hour and ½ hour.

6:00pm -10:00pm Dinner Gala @ The Hill & Moor - (\$88/pp)

6:00 cocktail reception with live music

7:00 dinner

program – state of the Department, recognize past leadership and other characters that built the department and our reputation

8:30 dancing with live music

Saturday, September 20th

1:00 Tailgate Party in the LAED Courtyard - (\$33/pp)

Bring your cowbells and Bulldog spirit and join us Saturday and the LAED Courtyard for a fun-filled tailgate before the big game against Northern Illinois! Reconnect with friends, soak in the gameday atmosphere, and rally together as we cheer on State. It’s the perfect way to wrap up our 60th Anniversary weekend – with tradition, celebration, and team pride.

3:15 Football MSU vs. Northern Illinois University

(on the registration form, if you are interested in attending the game, you can check which level of seat you’d like; athletics will bill you separately). *FYI, you can see the jumbotron from our facilities...!*

60th Anniversary Celebration Continuing Education Events

Friday, September 19th 8:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.

These three CEU opportunities are free to registered participants. You must be registered for at least one 60th Anniversary Celebration event to sign up for the CEU activities. Once you are registered for one or more activities, email our Marketing and Events Coordinator, Sydni Patrick (spatrick@lalc.msstate.edu), to reserve your spot in one or all of the sessions below. Space is limited!

8:00-9:00 AI for Landscape Architects: From Curiosity to Practical Tools in 50 Minutes Taze Fulford and Simon Powney

Location A209 LAED

This session introduces landscape architects to practical applications of AI tools in design. Aimed at professionals with limited AI experience, it covers foundational concepts and demonstrates how generative and task-based AI can assist with plant palettes, site analysis, and concept generation. A live, audience-led prompt activity showcases AI's creative potential. Emphasizing AI as a design assistant—not a replacement—the session offers tools, resources, and ethical guidance to help integrate AI into daily workflows. Participants will leave with practical strategies to enhance efficiency and creativity in their practice using AI.

Building Proposal by Simon Powney, created with Firefly

9:00 - 10:00 Drone Applications in Landscape Architecture Peter Summerlin and Bryant Baugus

Location A209 LAED

This session explores how drones can be used in landscape architecture to improve early site analysis and documentation. Aimed at landscape architects with limited UAV experience, the session introduces the capabilities of UAVs and their value in producing faster, higher-quality data for design decision-making. The presentation is organized into three parts. The first covers UAV terminology, basic technology, and FAA regulations relevant to practice. The second provides a comparative analysis of common tools for gathering site information, including Google Earth, Nearmap, and GIS, alongside drone-based methods. The third features a live demonstration using the department's drone and Pix4D photogrammetry software to scan a site and generate data. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of how drones can expand their design capabilities and improve efficiency in the field.

allow 15 minutes of travel time to get from campus to downtown

10:15 - 12:00 Downtown Starkville Revitalization Daniel Havelin, City Planner, Starkville, MS Jeremy Murdock, Community Development Specialist

Location: This session will start in City Hall with a presentation and then transition to a walking tour of Downtown Starkville.

Over the past 15 years, Downtown Starkville has experienced a remarkable transformation driven by a vision to strengthen the connection between downtown and the Mississippi State University campus. At the heart of this evolution were intentional design and planning decisions that enhanced the environment for people, sparked private sector investment, and set a firm foundation for the district's future. This session will explore the pivotal role of design in Starkville's resurgence through an interactive presentation and guided walking tour of Main Street, highlighting recent and ongoing improvements including two major corridor enhancements currently underway. Starkville's Main Street Conceptual Plan. Image source: <https://starkville.org/building-for-starkvilles-future/>

Motion to adjourn:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Krishna Poudel and seconded by Drew Gholson.