

DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2026

1:30 p.m. Bost 205

Recording:

<https://vimeo.com/1182047782/665343ca58?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Acharya Adhikari; Burke, Benjamin; Correa, Sandra; Franca, Fred; Harvey, Kelsey; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Jaffe, Michael; Li, Tongyin; Mathews, Rahel; Morrison, Carley; Pechan, Tibor; Petrie-Hanson, Lora; Rios De Alvarez, Leyla; Temple, Al; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei

Excused: Brookshire, Cooper; Han, SaMin; Liu, Chang; Pratima; Manginsay, Natalie; McGee, Marcus; Mills, Devon; Vance, Carrie;

Absent: Christine, Coker; Gholson, Drew; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Nanduri, Bindu; Poudel, Krishna; Sparks, Bekah; VanderSchaaf, Curtis; Zurweller, Brendan

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

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Michael Jaffe and Anne Hilbun-Benoit

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March approved with edits. Motion to approve by Dr. Temple and seconded by Dr Correa.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr Keith Coble

Legislative session has concluded. The legislature included \$2000 allowances in raises for faculty members at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer. Merit raises appear to be the best course of action because it includes a number of positions that would otherwise be excluded.

Building projects that were approved include an additional 32 million dollars for the Vet School. MSU Building Funds include the Cyber Security Building and Chiller Loop Building.

DAFVM survey response rate is much higher than the faculty Senate's survey response rate.

DAFVM Surveys include themes that action is being taken and an example of this includes Crucial Conversations by Latara Atterbury.

Dr Brown

Reviews with respect to communication in the surveys include Leaders who scored higher tended to have better communication skills verses those who scored lower who scored lower on communications skills. Without better communication there was a lack of trust, no vision, no unifier, engagement with their faculty/ unit.

Dr Keith Coble

Celebration of the International Institute's 15th anniversary.

New Director of Human Resources interviews will be conducted over the next three Mondays.

Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES: Dr Darrin Dodds

Dr Dobbs Interim Head of Agriculture Science and Plant Protection. Alex Thommasson is the head of Agriculture Economy Institute. Dr Joe Street is serving as interim head of Ag and Bio Engineering. Dr Donna Peterson is serving as Interim Head of Human Sciences.

Facilities:

Dorman scheduled to be completed by May of 2027. Dorman has moved into phase 2 of the project for interior spaces. The auditorium will hold at least 300 people and be ADA compliant.

Beden Baugh bids were high, and some of the work was done internally and it was put out for bid again and the bids came in just as high. Reduced scope of work to lower costs and put out bids for the 3rd time.

Wind Tunnel on the North Farm that can measure agriculture spray droplets. This facility will put the University in a unique position for research purposes.

Poultry Science Feed Mill is being built by a company in Europe that is modular style. Groundbreaking on May 7th

CALS, enrollment is tracking like last year. 585 undergrads registered for the fall 2026.

Non-Dairy Blue Berry Dessert samples shared.

Dairy day at the capital. 1 flavor of ice cream and 1 flavor of cheese are being negotiated as to which flavors to bring.

Mississippi on the Mall, at the National Mall.

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

The Budget is better than the University at large. It is a mathematical artifact not a reference to preferential treatment.

DAFVM survey response rate is 30 to 40%.

Enrollment for the last two years has been at the highest levels that have been seen. 637 last year and 653 the year before. One of the challenges is space and Thompson Hall is at capacity. Looking towards a 2nd annex that would be three stories and hold teaching classrooms, faculty offices, auditorium, and laboratories.

Building a Mass Timber Building that uses cross laminated timber. It could have a 75-to-100-year life span. The University has one building that is 54 years old and was made with older technology that is still functioning.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr Alicia Olivier

Acknowledge those who have been promoted to tenure Micheal Jaffe and Laura Petri Hanson promotion to full professor.

A lot of new construction around the Vet School. Small Animal Hospital and new Equine facility with expanded services.

Shelter animal facility ribbon cutting May 28th.

H1B process halted in September. Faculty member came on O1 Visa from Brazil. It is great to be on the other side of that.

Vet school had 2,000 people for Vet Open House.

Planning for graduation and a new class will start in June.

Director Extension Service: Dr Theresa Gammil

May 27-29 is 4H Club Congress.

April 20th Magnolia Moves activity challenge. There is an app for Magnolia Moves.

ON APRIL 20TH

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MOVING!**



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MOVES**
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April 20–May 31, 2026
JOIN THE CHALLENGE!

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr Jaffe

Concerns of students; intimidating process and what is the best way for people to see their thesis. Proquest can help promote their dissertations and thesis.

Dr Breazeale general education curriculum will have further work to improve it.

Next Robert Holland Faculty Senate meeting is tomorrow.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Jaffe

No new housing appeals.

Vice Chair Report: Dr Rios De Alvarez

Fresh Meat Friday at Animal Science. ADS undergraduate research symposium was huge. Pleased to see the research presented.

Library:

No report

Old Business:

If terms are expiring, 1st term is up for reelection to a 2nd term. 2nd term is the last term that is expires.

The DAFVM faculty senate approved the following for leadership positions.

Layla Rios De Alvarez will be the Chair

Anne Hilbun-Benoit will be Vice Chair

Kelsey Harvey will be Secretary

New Business:

Motion to adjourn:

Dr Jaffe adjourned the meeting