

DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2026
1:30 p.m. Bost 205

Recording:

<https://vimeo.com/1173081142/e076d3ce52?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Burke, Benjamin; Correa, Sandra; Gholson, Drew; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Jaffe, Michael; Liu, Chang; Manginsay, Natalie; Morrison, Carley; Pechan, Tibor; Petrie-Hanson, Lora; Temple, Al; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei

Excused: Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Li, Tongyin; Mathews, Rahel; McGee, Marcus; Poudel, Krishna; Rios, Leyla

Absent: Brookshire, Cooper; Christine, Coker; Franca, Fred; Grissett-Hartwick, Han, SaMin; Harvey, Kelsey; Gretchen; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Mills, Devon; Nanduri, Bindu; Sparks, Bekah; Vance, Carrie; 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 November and January approved with edits. Motion to approve by Dr. Golson and seconded by Dr Correa.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr Joe Fratesi

Update on Vision 2030 initiative
Working on how to capture the value-added components.

6 task force formed which include Agronomic Crops, Animal Systems, Specialty Crops, AI, Conservation Resiliency, and Community Vitality.

They are looking at what are the challenges, opportunities, and what are the goals that could strengthen agriculture in Mississippi. Major finding is how to capture more value.

4 lanes have been identified to capture the value added components which include: Value added processing or innovation, infrastructure market access and capital, workforce talent and technology, and policy and regulation.

The goal is to create a policy playbook and identify emerging opportunities for future leaders. The process is evolving as we move forward.

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

Dr Lynn Lasester coordinated with Extra Table meal packing where students packed 10,000 meals in 47 minutes.

The Department Head position for Plant and Soil Sciences has been narrowed down to 3 candidates and will be brought in March 30th.

Facilities:

Dorman scheduled to be completed May of 2027.

Beden Baugh bids were high and some the work was done internally and it was put out for bid again and the bids came in just as high.

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

Livestock Judging facility on North Farm is having paneling put in which the last component needed for the facility.

CALS, enrollment is tracking the same.

Respondis lock down browser which is built into canvas is being reevaluated as well as Honor lock. The question is whether two lock down browsers are needed.

CALS will have no program fees for the Fall of 2026.

April 1 is Spring Meeting which gives updates and awards.

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

No report.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr Frank

Selected the class of 2030 for Veterinary Medicine School.

Shelter Medicine team received a community engagement award honorable mention. They work with shelters on their spay and neuter programs.

Agriculture Commissioner Andy Gipson visited.

8 Professional Track Faculty promotions.

Hired a new Director of Communications to enhance ability to communicate.

Working on the RFP for Fish and innovation labs.

Working on a standardized C. V. for DVM.

3 new Associate Department will focus on new faculty, professional development, onboarding, and teaching.

Open House on Saturday March 28th .

Director Extension Service: Dr Catchot

We are patiently awaiting the budget from the legislature.

Gin show, which is the for-production Agriculture Stakeholders, was very well attended.

We were involved in the Winter Storm Response and are written into the Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. We compiled our activities and put them on social media. A lot of positive feedback was received about our activities both in the comments and face to face.

Dr Catchot spoke on the importance of working with clientele at the Soth Carolina advisory meeting with other Extension Directors

4H club congress will be coming at the end of May.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr Jaffe

Dr Shaw discussed timeline for the new advising model. Memorandum of Understandings have been signed by all the colleges. New advising model staffing of around 50 people. They hope to have new tools available by the end of the spring semester.

Les Potts reported that we are expecting 1.46 billion dollars.

EMG 491 million

Extension 48 million

Research 282 million

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Jaffe

No new housing appeals.

Vice Chair Report: No report

Library:

No report

Old Business: None

New Business:

New people to serve on DAFVM Faculty Senate Leadership Positions

Libby Durst, State program assistance for Southern SARE. 5 grant categories: Research and Education grants, Producer grants, On Farm grants, Community grants.

Motion to adjourn:

Dr Burke made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr Gholson.