

DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2026
1:30 p.m. Bost 205

Recording:

<https://vimeo.com/1152690510/c35cd01fed?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Acharya Adhikari, Pratima; Brookshire, Cooper; Franca, Fred; Gholson, Drew; Han, SaMin; Harvey, Kelsey; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Jaffe, Michael; Li, Tongyin; Liu, Chang; Manginsay, Natalie; Mathews, Rahel; McGee, Marcus; Mills, Devon; Pechan, Tibor; Petrie-Hanson, Lora; Poudel, Krishna; Rios De Alvarez, Leyla; Temple, Al; Woolums, Amelia; Yu, Fei

Excused: Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Tongyin; Morrison, Carley; Nanduri, Bindu; Pechan, Tibor; Vance, Carrie

Absent: Burke, Benjamin; Christine, Coker; Correa, Sandra; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Sparks, Bekah; VanderSchaaf, Curtis; Yu, Fei; 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 to be approved at the next DAFVM Faculty Senate meeting to allow more time for inspection.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr Ashley Brown

F and A costs for grants are back on the table after the 1st circuit court of appeals allowed for the previous limitation of 15 percent F and A costs on grants.

National Science Foundation herd ranking based on research expenditures based on fiscal year 24. Division went up 20.3 percent which accounts for 44 percent for the university. Rankings in Agriculture (14) & Natural Resources is (10). As an institution we are ranked (102). Looking at how we can better capture research expenditures.

Legislature is in session and DAFVM will be making a case for each of the individual expenditures in DAFVM. Will focus on the return on investment for the dollars that are appropriated. In February will travel to DC to advocate for DAFVM.

Regarding the Faculty Survey there was 45 percent response rate, and were filled out by faculty who were hired in the past five years. Themes highlighted were best interview practices after initially looking at response. More findings will follow to Dr Jaffe.

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

Both search committees will be reviewing applications later this month. Assistant Director of Development has hired Noah Berry and he has started.

Facilities phase 2 of Dorman opened and we have 1 bid that can be accepted.

Advising season from R & E centers producer advisory meetings are happening over the next few weeks.

February 4th hosting the ambassador for Morocco about a pathway program. 3 plus 2 programs. This would be where 3 years would be done in Morocco and the last 2 years would be done here for a combination of an undergraduate degree and a master's degree. Hoping the agreement will be signed.

February 20th Department Advising meetings

February 21st Academic Insight Day is a huge day for recruiting.

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

Faculty FTEs have declined over the past few years. We are doing more research with less funding. Budget outlook is looking discouraging so far. We are still early in the legislative cycle. We will continue to advocate on your behalf, and we are thankful for all the work that is done by faculty.

On Internal approval sheet, there are categories that should be filled out agriculture or natural resources conservation when research is selected, and this can be very helpful with tracking the awards. Dr Burger asks that faculty are thoughtful in how these are filled out. Encourage faculty, to make selection that cluster expenditures into the appropriate category. This is important to ensure that our numbers are counted correctly with in the university as a whole.

Dr Ruben Shulmusky stepped back into the faculty role and Dr Jason Street accepted the role of interim Department Head for Sustainable Bioproducts. Dr Steve Bullard will lead the search committee for Department Head of Sustainable Bioproducts. Hoping for a Fall or January start date.

5 vacancies in CFR including Dr Dan Seale with his current position open, silviculture position is open, and Dr Steve Grado's position for forest resource economist will be opened for hiring. Wildlife Fisheries Aquaculture created a new position assistant teaching professional track position. Kevin Hunt retired and we will refill this position as another social scientist.

Intentional about cultivating future leaders including skills, knowledge, and behaviors.

Mid-career faculty are looking for what is next in their career based on data collected in the mid-career survey. Dr Steve Bullard and Dr Grainger are creating a program to help cultivate future leaders.

Faculty & Staff Training on electronic accessibility and all instructional staff by the end of April.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr David Smith

CVM is currently in the strategic planning process; the next phase of the process is releasing the draft of the plan for review. Also, CVM will have updated the website which they have been working on for some time now. Construction projects going on, a new entrance for the equine hospital, construction for farm animal hospital, and the barn that is associated with the Nancy Link Laminitis research center.

One health master's program is awaiting approval from IHL.

Completed faculty and staff equity analysis in coordination with HR.

Director Extension Service: no report

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: Dr Jaffe

Dr. Jaffe reported that more information will follow their next meeting.

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. Dr. Jaffe

Number of requests for extensions.

Vice Chair Report:

Coastal R & E PAC meetings went well on the coast.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion to adjourn:

Dr Jaffe adjourned the meeting.