DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2026
1:30 p.m. Bost 205

Recording:
https://vimeo.com/1194742759/a1afc35266?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Correa, Sandra; Harvey, Kelsey; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Mathews, Rahel; McGee, Marcus; Mills, Devon; Rios de Alvarez, Leyla; Petrie-Hanson, Lora; Poudel, Krishna; Temple, Al; Vance, Carrie; Zurweller, Brendan

Excused: Han, SaMin; Jaffe, Michael; Morrison, Carley; Pechan, Tibor; Woolums, Amelia;

Absent: Acharya Adhikari, Pratima;; Brookshire, Cooper; Burke, Benjamin; Christine, Coker; Franca, Fred; Gholson, Drew; Grissett-Hartwick, Gretchen; Karunakaran, Kumar; Ganesh Li, Tongyin; Liu, Chang; Manginsay, Natalie; Nanduri, Bindu; Sparks, Bekah; VanderSchaaf, Curtis; Yu, Fei;

Call to Order-Meeting called to order by Dr. Leyla Rios de Alvarez.

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Leyla Rios de Alvarez and Anne Hilbun-Benoit

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from April approved with edits. Motion to approve by Dr. Petrie Hanson and second by Dr Brandan Zurweller.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr Joe Fratesi

Dr Latara Atterbury delivered Crucial Conversations to around 22 Department and Center Heads. The training helps leaders have high-stakes conversations.

Dr Bullard Division Leadership Program wrapped up last week.

Livestock ribbon cutting ceremony last week. Senator Hyde Smith was on site for the ribbon cutting.

Under Secretary Dr Hoskins visited Pontotoc.

Creamery Day on June 2nd at the capital. June 3rd will be the summer social in Washington D.C.

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

The MSU equestrienne team was invited to compete in the intercollegiate Horse Show.

Groundbreaking for the new feed mill for the poultry department.

DREC hosted Delta Council annual meeting on May 8th. It was their first time hosting the event.

Interviews for Ag Science and Plant Protection are going on this week.

Dr Mike Cox has accepted the position for head for the Plant and Soil Sciences Department.

Dr Joe Street is serving as interim Head for the Agriculture and Bioengineering Department.

Awards:
Dr Rahel Matthews

Dr Summerland

Dr Will Davis

Dr Rye

7 Students received the spirit of state award.

CALS has recognized numerous

Dr Archie Tucker was recognized with an Honorary PhD from CALS.

Facilities:

Dorman scheduled to be completed May of 2027.

Beden Baugh is also scheduled for completion in about a year.

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

4 Teams for faculty, 12 total faculty, Cultivating Dynamic Leadership in DAFVM. 2 representatives from Provost office and higher education leadership. Dr. Bullard and Dr Josh Granger.

Funded 21 USRP projects.

Over 100 graduates last Friday morning.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr Jack Smith

115 graduates this year for DVM go through commencement. Over 40 vet tech graduates.

We will have a lot on ongoing construction over the next several years. Ribbon Cutting next week for Primary Care/Shelter Medicine facility.

A lot of camps for kids will be happening soon.

We will have a Coating ceremony for the incoming students June 26.

Director Extension Service: Dr Catchot

Dr Whitney Crow represented

Next week, is 4 H club congress will be on campus, and Dr Al Temple can share more information on club congress.

We were involved in the Tornado Response in south Mississippi and are written into the Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

We have shut down the soil testing lab. We are out of the soil testing analysis business, and it will be sent to a private lab. The turnaround is about 48 hours.

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

1725 people participated in Magnolia Moves this year.

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: No Report

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee. No report

Vice Chair Report: No report

Library: Dr Rahael Matthews
No longer requiring Graduate Students to submit to ProQuest. New Bylaws, now they will be electing a chair and Secretary. Dr Matthews has been elected Chair.

Old Business: Expiring Terms

New Business: No Report

Motion to adjourn:

Dr Lora Petire-Hanson made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Dr Al Temple.