DAFVM Senate Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2026
1:30 p.m. Bost 205

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

DAFVM Faculty Senate Member Attendees: Badial, Peres; Boltz, Tim; Brookshire, Cooper; Chesser, Daniel; Franca, Fred; Han, SaMin; Harvey, Kelsey; Hilbun-Benoit, Anne-Howard; Howell, Trey; Knight, Tricia; Labrin, Sophia Egana; Li, Tongyin; Mathews, Rahel; Mills, Devon; Morrison, Carley; Pechan, Tibor; Petrie-Hanson, Lora; Poudel, Krishna; Rios, Leyla; Ruiz, Manuel; Temple, Al; Towles, Tyler; Williams, Matthew

Excused: Burke, Benjamin; Jaffe, Michael; Liu, Chang; McGee, Marcus

Absent: Etheredge, Cole; Karunakaran, Ganesh Kumar; Sparks, Bekah; Vance, Carrie; VanderSchaaf, Curtis

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

Roll Call-Recorded by Dr. Leyla Rios de Alvarez and Kelsey Harvey

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from May approved. Motion to approve by Dr. Knight, seconded by Dr. Temple.

STANDING REPORTS

Office of the Vice President: Dr. Keith Coble

Video in creation to help people understand what makes a land-grant University a land-grant university.

Grants and contracts in the Division, numbers look good and still have time left.

New HR Director, Jason Hernandez.

Working on preparations to lobby in the state capital may be a challenging year for us.

Enrollment numbers are looking good thus far.

Getting ready for visits from Congressional Staffers.

Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences & MAFES: in representation Dr. Cory Gallo

6 new faculty this academic year in CALS/MAFES.

Dr. Jay McCurdy accepted position Agricultural Science and Plant Protection Department Head.

Search open for Agricultural and Biological Engineering Head, Dr. Joe Street serving as interim.

David Howell retired as MAFES engineer; Holly Hawkins hired as MAFES architect.

Sonia Baird moving to grants and contracts administrator, will have 3 in MAFES office.

Administrative assistants and support staffing restructure for targeted support. Two positions open. Tiffney Williams is primary administrative support.

Dr. Peter Summerlin was recognized as a Grishman Master Teacher.

Dorman on track to be completed late spring 2027, move in summer 2027.

Beden Baugh renovations in progress.

Poultry Feed Mill making progress, new contract ordered, mill purchased, building award awarded.

Sweetpotato storage facility under construction in Pontotoc.

Aquatic Food Research Center at Coastal R&E wrapping up.

In Herzer, new nutrition dietetics assessment lab, set up as a clinic to optimize student learning.

Cheese sale opened up this week.

Cory Bailey organized an agriculture and discovery day, 600 high school students coming.

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

Enrollment up about 1%, 637 students today. Freshman and transfer students up 16-18%, graduate students are down a bit (University wide).

Strong recruitment efforts, continuous growth record.
In phase 2 of captive deer facility (Blackjack Wildlife Management Area), includes education building with observation platform. Third phase is for animal handling facilities.

Career fair had 24 employers attend; 120-130 students came through. Great feedback about program from employers. Employers did interviews and hired some students. Currently at 100% employee in degree programs.

Proposals and protocols must match in Cayuse. IACUC and IRB scopes of work need to be tied to proposals funding the work.

Use Student360 to document all advising notes. No longer put in Banner/DW/email, centralized location for record keeping.

Alumni tailgate in November for Auburn game.

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr Nicholas Frank

College engaged in strategic plan refresh, bringing to conclusion. Task force working on it, being led by Dr. Alicia Olivier.

Several faculty positions open, hired 3 new faculty this academic year.

One Health Master's program has launched, cohort of 10 students, 3 in certificate programs.

Navigating the $200K cap on student loans for professional programs, staff added to aid students in financial aid advice.

Additional pay via overtime for staff working in clinics, instead of relying on comp time. Addressing recruiting/retaining needs.

New clinic opening, shelter medicine care. Open house Monday. It is an offshoot of providing students with medical/surgical/dental care experience. Started with donor support, modular building.

Construction projects ongoing. Entrance to the new equine hospital opens on 9/24/26.

New accreditation process, CVM will undergo in 2027-2028 cycle.

Director Extension Service: No Report

Holland Faculty Senate Updates: No Report

Faculty Housing Appeals Committee: No Report

Vice Chair Report: No Report

Library: Dr Rahel Matthews

New bylaws for the library committee, bring any concerns/questions to your library representative to bring to the library committee.

Many events coming up, please share with departments.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Thank you to the former Chair, welcome to new members.

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Tricia Knight made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Chesser.