

Minutes

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education
Committee on Academic Staff Issues
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday, July 13th, 2020
Minutes: Peter Johnson

1:30 Call To Order

Present: Steve Ackerman (Chair), Shane Hubbard (Vice Chair), Rebecca Adams, Nagesh Adluru, Denny Hackel, Jenny Hackel, Moira Harrington, Chris Huffman, Peter Johnson, Julie Karpelenia, Lauren Meyers

1:31 Steve Ackerman – Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education

- Update on the OVCRGE's activities
 - Working on phase 2 of Research Reboot
 - Has had 500+ requests to come back
 - More than 250 approved, including undergrads.
 - Max of 5K to come back
 - High school apprentice researchers denied access to campus
 - Testing on campus plan coming out soon, see Inside UW newsletter
 - A one sheet on what to do if you have a Positive test is coming out soon
- Q&A
 - Are fac/staff required to report positive result to UW?
 - Yes, to their direct report manager/director, or HR/ADA contact
 - UHS is going to lead contact tracing efforts on campus (SMPH/AFCH?)
 - Has any analysis been done to see if any UW-Madison graduate student on F1 would have to leave the country because of the new regulations?
 - We've looked at it and have not identified any students that would have to leave. There are about 3k students on F1s.
 - Future Furloughs?
 - Hasn't been discussed in any meeting VC has attended
 - What are the major sources of financial losses while we're off campus? Has there been a large impact to the budget from dwindling grant dollars?
 - Biggest impact is the loss of undergraduate tuition, room & board. Research contributes a lot to the budget but the impacts there are significantly smaller impacts than the loss of students on campus.
 - Who teaches the large undergraduate lecture hall classes (mostly grad students?) Are they getting the opportunity to weigh in on the return to campus plans? Who will be cleaning the halls/class rooms in between? Will it be TAs?
 - Comp Sci, Statistics, and Math are most impacted. They have a lot of international TAs. Bill and others are involved in discussions with TAs. Steve does not know. Perhaps each student will have to help clean their spaces. Julie K – it is expected students will have to wipe down their spaces. They will also have to wear face coverings as well.
 - What about non teaching staff/admins coming back to campus?
 - VC met with Petra to discuss pathway to full return. For now, staff have to apply through the reboot process.
 - Julie is part of a working group creating a plan for workplace return for staff, but there's no rush to bring them back. Taking info from State/Feds and applying it to us (i.e. Face covering will be required). Online COVID training will be a pre-req before return, it will cover hygiene and consequences for failure.

- Data on COVID impact on campus research, current and future funding?
 - You can see drop in expenditure spending in the last fiscal quarter compared to previous year. Current \$\$ and # of grant applications looks ok, COVID research is coming in (\$20m, 50-55 protocols) and will make up some of the difference.
- **Action Item:** If anyone has questions or feedback from Steve's talk, please send them to Shane. Shane will try to get Steve to attend every 2-3 meetings if possible.

2:00 Subcommittee Reports

- Communications (Bendfelt (*chair), Heinritz, J. Hackel)
 - No updates
- Nominating and Districting (Johnson(*chair), Hubbard)
 - No Updates
- Personnel Policies and Procedures/HR Design (D. Hackel(*chair), Meyers)
 - Subcommittee is interested in cleaning bylaws, particularly with respect to elections
 - Does CASI need to record and approve meeting minutes, for instance do minutes need to be kept from a meeting without a quorum?
 - **Action Item:** Denny is going to ask Jake Smith about rules of order for CASI meetings
- Professional Development and Recognition (Harrington(*chair), Adluru, Adams, Huffman)
 - One of 8 professional grants approved (applicant total is low this cycle probably due to COVID restrictions on activities such as travel, usually closer to 15)

2:30 Business

- Districts
- Wisclists
 - **Action Item:** Peter will pull a new VCRGE list for the Communications subcommittee
- Do we need a new Census?
 - Campus is sending out a pulse survey about returning to campus, per Julie
- Compiling an Annual Report (<https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group156/30405/2018-19CASIAnnualReport.pdf>)
 - **Action Item:** Moira will produce this year's report (thanks, Moira!)
- Approve June minutes (March?)
 - Approved with minor revisions
- District 2 update?
 - **Action Item:** Shane will email the district to find a new representative. Julie has also volunteered to ID a new rep
- ASA/ASEC Update and Recap (S Hubbard)
 - Announced interim UW president, Tommy Thompson. A search committee is being assembled to find a permanent replacement (est. to take 12-15mo)
 - Research Professor title is officially up
 - Professor of practice is not up, yet
 - Provost spoke at ASEC, discussed testing 100-200 students/fac/staff randomly on a rolling basis to track virus (what to do about false positives? Not discussed)
 - Remote classes are determined at the dept level, though the school will have some say

- Future ASEC/ASA updates and recaps
 - Set up a rotating schedule of CASI members to attend? Very easy to 'attend' while everything is streamed online
- HR Update (Karpelena)
 - Return to work group, COVID pulse survey already touched on
 - Telecommuting policy is old (~15years), doesn't cover a lot of situations we're facing (eg, int'l telecommuting) and needs to be revised for both students and fac/staff. Risks and liabilities of telecommuting need to be understood by leadership. Telecommute committee is fast tracking policy updates, to include everyone on campus, address specifics when facing situations like int'l commutes, etc.
 - Equity and Diversity committee: Director Patrick Simms is leaving UW, Cheryl Gittens is named interim VP for Diversity & Climate
- Annual "Retreat" for discussion?
- Next OVCRGE-CASI meeting August 10th, 2020; video conference, for decision

3:05 Adjourn

Future Minutes

J. Hackel (Aug), Meyers(Sept), Bendfelt (Oct), Nagesh (Nov)