

# Governance in Action . . . . .

IMPACT OF THE OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR  
FOR RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STAFF ISSUES



The University of Wisconsin-Madison Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education Committee on Academic Staff Issues (OVCERGE-CASI) has been in existence for 17 years. The committee represents more than 910 academic staff members, advises the vice chancellor regarding academic staff issues and reviews academic staff policies and procedures.

Academic staff are the largest employee group on campus and are integral to the university's three institutional missions: teaching, research and outreach. Academic staff are annually responsible for securing millions in research dollars, and then managing the explorations of groundbreaking findings with those dollars. Academic staff work directly with students through mentoring programs and classroom instruction. In a demonstration of commitment to the Wisconsin Idea,

academic staff conduct outreach programming and events, such as Science Expeditions that has its roots in the Biotechnology Center, one of 22 OVCERGE entities. Like so many others, academic staff had their professional and personal lives upended by the global pandemic in 2020 and found new ways to continue serving students, maintaining the research and contributing to a functioning campus.



**Committee on Academic Staff Issues**  
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

AUGUST 2020

## 2019-20 OVCRGE-CASI members

**STEVE ACKERMAN**, vice chancellor for research and graduate education, non-voting

**REBECCA ADAMS**, associate student services coordinator, OVCRGE

**NAGESH ALDURU**, associate scientist, Waisman Center

**TIM BENDELT**, systems programmer, Wisconsin IceCube Particle Astrophysics Center

**NORMAN DRINKWATER**, interim vice chancellor for research and graduate education, non-voting (retired in August 2019)

**DENNY HACKEL**, instrumentation technician, Space Science and Engineering Center

**JENNY HACKEL**, post award manager, Research and Sponsored Programs

**MOIRA HARRINGTON**, assistant director for communications, Aquatic Sciences Center

**JENNIFER HEINRITZ**, senior research specialist, Wisconsin Institute for Discovery

**SHANE HUBBARD**, research scientist, Space Science and Engineering Center

**CHRIS HUFFMAN**, research specialist, Primate Research Center

**PETER JOHNSON**, administrative program specialist, Office of Research Compliance

**JULIE KARPELENIA**, assistant vice chancellor, human resources, OVCRGE, non-voting

**LAUREN MEYERS**, director of administrative services, Wisconsin Energy Institute

## OVCRGE-CASI impacts and activities

1. Serve on committees of campus-wide importance. In 2019-20, this included one member who was co-chair for the Ad Hoc Committee on Research Scientist Titles and an ex officio member who is on the Titling and Total Compensation Committee, as well as committee charged with addressing the effects of COVID-19 on campus operations. Another member served on the committee that hired a new secretary for academic staff.
2. Review applications and recommend OVCRGE staff for professional development grants. A large number of OVCRGE academic staff participate in this opportunity. Since 2010, more than 50 OVCRGE academic staff members have been successful in securing a grant.
3. In the past, the CASI created an academic staff [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document. The UW-Madison Compensation and Economic Benefits Committee assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the useful document that serves academic staff across the campus.
4. Integral in the adoption of a new research professor title for the entire campus. The change, it is thought, will strengthen the university's ability to attract federal grant funding, and prove useful in hiring recruitment and researcher retention.
5. Maintain a [web-based vehicle](#) to post committee business, reports and presentations as a direct portal for academic staff constituents and as a resource for others in the OVCRGE and campus-wide structure.
6. Provided academic staff perspective as part of the screening process for a new vice chancellor of research and graduate education.
7. Deepened relationships with a network of colleagues in other centers and administration outside of the OVCRGE. There is value in these relationships and interaction when governance issues arise and decision-making would benefit from the insights of colleagues in varied settings.

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