

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, January 10th, 2022

Bascom Hall, Room 52

or by video conference

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/97312169669?pwd=Sm9Wa3gwQVk4M2xzVFcydzllbW1oQT09>

Meeting ID: 973 1216 9669
Passcode: 507801

Minutes: Shane Hubbard

1:30 Call To Order

Committee Member Attendance: Olyvia Kuchta, Peter Johnson, David Richards, Mallory Musolf, Moira Harrington, Nagesh Adluru, Tina Chorlton, Julie Karpelenia, Chelsea, Dahman, Chris Huffman

1:35 Steve Ackerman, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education

- Campus has extended its mask mandate when indoors (with exceptions) until March 1st, 2022
- OVCRGE has ordered high efficiency masks and making them available for students and instructors. These are available at the shop@uw site. Those eligible can order one per week.
- There is only 1 COVID testing site open on campus and that is scheduled to continue. Members of the UW community must be tested if they are not vaccinated for COVID-19. The University Club is the location of the testing center.
- Campus is purchasing more of the rapid tests. PCR tests are too sensitive, and the rapid tests are less sensitive. Campus ordered 50,000 rapid tests. Campus has not determined the best way to distribute the masks and tests that have been ordered, but are discussing it now. They hope to have the plan in place before the start of the semester.
- No delays to the beginning of the semester are scheduled at this time. Students **may** have to provide a negative test prior to returning to campus like other institutions are requiring, but that has **NOT** been determined yet.
- About 130-140 tests are administered to the academic staff per day.
- The Executive order on vaccination requirements is still on hold in the courts and also on hold on our campus.
- The UW campus has a large vaccination rate, but discussion on what it means to be 'vaccinated' are being discussed. Does it require a booster(s) also? So far the CDC says the definition of vaccinated is just the first round.
- On some areas on campus (maybe those face-to-face clinical situations) may elevate the mask requirement to N95 or stronger.

- FP&M did reroute some of the air intakes on campus to draw in more outdoor air rather than recirculating more indoor air as added protection to the spread of COVID early in the pandemic. Steve is not aware if additional HVAC measures have been completed. Some buildings/units have purchased UV filters and other air 'purifying' equipment independently.
- UW has remained ranked 8th in research expenditures (July 2019 – June 2020). UW has continued to increase its research expenditure numbers, even though the pandemic.
- There are academic staff listening sessions hosted by the new chancellor search committee. Steve reminded everyone to seek out additional information if you are interested in participating.
- Steve also mentioned the call for nominations for the academic staff excellence awards. The nomination process has started.

1:55 Jake Smith, Secretary of the Academic Staff

- Jake also commented on the academic staff listening sessions hosted by the new chancellor search committee as well as the academic staff excellence awards.
- Jake mentioned the TTC formal appeals process has been extended to February 4th and the indirect appeals process until January 28th.
- Jake is trying to centralize the CASIs and cataloging the by-Laws, membership roles, reports, etc. and have a central hub.
- During the listening sessions the committee is asking the academic staff for input on their perspectives on what they believe the campus should be looking for when hiring a new Chancellor.
- Jake is interested in coming back to a future meeting and providing an overview on shared governance.

2:20 Business

- HR update (Julie)
 - The informal appeals process doesn't require paperwork. Academic staff not satisfied with the outcome of TTC should contact their HR representative or Julie's office to work out an informal appeal. This is the process for trying to work out issues without the need of a full appeal.
 - OVCRGE only has 4 formal appeals. There are a few informal appeals, and they are working directly with the Centers. Julie estimates there are approximately 300 formal appeals total on campus.
 - IT titles are an issue all over campus. Some will be easy to address, but other more difficult.
 - Julie estimates it will take several months for all of the IT issues to be addressed as they look at gaps and the structure.
 - Many different things lead to the IT / TTC issues, but we are moving in a positive direction.
 - Patrick Sheehan is taking over for Mark Walters as the interim HR director until the search process has completed.
 - Patrick has indicated they will be seeking to continue current initiatives, but not make any sweeping changes while in this role.
 - There were 4 academic staff grant applications and all were awarded that we referred!

- Remote work agreements for round 2 are being reviewed. All agreements after this round will be yearly and begin on July 1st through June 30th, to follow the fiscal year calendar.
 - Discretionary funding and performance incentives were finished in December.
 - The 2% pay plan was loaded into the system. Salary notification letters are coming. The Academic Staff pay adjustments haven't fully loaded into the system. Julie will check into that if it doesn't occur in the coming days.
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- Next OVCRGE-CASI meeting February 14th, 2022; video conference, for decision

2:25 Adjourn

Future Minutes

TBD