

MINUTES

Graduate School
Committee on Academic Staff Issues
Monday, November 14th 2011 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm

187 Bascom Hall

Present: Wayne Feltz, Kristin Harmon, Moira Harrington, Bruce Neumann, Julie Schears, Nicci Schmidt, Miriam Simmons, Alice Gustafson, Alex Converse, Julie Karpelenia, Tom Zinnen

Absent: Jenny Hackel

Convene

1:33 Wayne Feltz opened the meeting and welcomed Alice Gustafson

Administrative Excellence (AE) report by Alice Gustafson (AG)

Alice thoroughly described the project and its current status. Several CASI members noted points of frustration regarding strategic purchasing. For a detailed report, please read Appendix A.

Review and approve minutes from 09/30/11 and 10/10/11 meetings

Notes for 9/30 moved, seconded and approved as revised.

October 10: three minor copy corrections and delete the Q&A; moved, seconded and approved as revised.

Action items

- Communications - web page updates (Nagle)

General Reports

- ASA/ASEC report (Neumann/Feltz) There is discussion now of storage of weapons for employees who walk or bike to work and don't have a car to store their weapons in.
- CASI/ASEC Brown Bag (Schmidt):
 - One state goal of the meeting was to explore how ASEC and CASI share information.
 - There was no new information on the personnel system.
 - All other CASIs offer a brown bag for constituents, but due to the distributed nature of the Grad School research sites, those have not worked as well for us.
 - Deans play a large role in projecting the value of the CASI.

- Themes and issues: morale, work load increases, decreases in compensation, low empathy from supervisors .
 - Wayne mentioned looking for ways to gather more input and ideas from academic staff. Athletics CASI organize monthly lunches that are super popular—morale is high even though pay increases are low. Athletics also support AS who want to pursue continuing education coursework and certificate programs. Other places may have monthly “Hail & Farewells” that give a chance for people to gather and share ideas and concerns with administrators.
- Nicci notes the Showcase event sparked high interest—we need to move those plans ahead, for a likely April event.
- Academic Staff institute on March 22, 2012 will feature Jon Erpenbach.
- Note: Donna Silver sent a written summary of the meeting.

Committee Reports

Communications (Nagle): The CASI website is fully updated through this last set of minutes.

Nominating and Districting (Feltz): We are still struggling to find and fill the two positions appointed by the dean.

Professional Development (Simmons): The committee met and reviewed the Professional Development proposals and forwarded recommendations to Julie.

Other Business

*Academic Staff Budget discussion

*Tom Z described the Wisconsin Idea Symposium on November 11 and described his concerns regarding the conflict between “local wisdom” and a researcher’s obligation to defer to data to test ideas, especially when conducting research in small rural communities. The topic deserves more consideration as we continue to explore the Wisconsin Idea.

Action Items: none defined

Adjourn

Next Meeting: December 12th, 2011 – Rhonda Nordstetter, and discussion on Academic Staff Showcase, among other items.

Location: 350 Bascom Hall 1:30-3:00pm

Notes submitted by Tom Zinnen for November 14, 2011