

Minutes
Graduate School
Committee on Academic Staff Issues
Monday, December 13th 2010 from 1:30 – 3:00 pm
1360 Genetics/Biotechnology Center

Present: Miriam Simmons, Kristin Nagle, Cheryl Redman, Nicci Schmidt, Bruce Neumann

Absent: Wayne Feltz, Moira F. Harrington, Julie Karpelenia, Reina Maruyama, Julie Schears, Jenny Hackel and Martin Cadwallader

Convene

Meeting convened at 1:45 pm by Miriam Simmons

Welcome and Chair Comments

Miriam welcomed all and commended attendee for braving the cold. She also thanked Cheryl for hosting the meeting at the Genetics/Biotechnology Center and for providing coffee and very delicious cookies.

Review and approve minutes from 11/08/10 meeting

- Review minutes from November 8, 2010. A couple of corrections will be made and the November minutes will be sent out via email for approval.

Dean of Graduate School report (Dean Cadwallader)

- Dean Cadwallader was not present due to conflicting meetings.

ASA/ASEC report (Neumann, Feltz)

Academic Staff Assembly (ASA) – Bruce reported on the November 8 ASA meeting:

- The Academic Staff Institute will be held February 25, 2011 at the Concourse Hotel. Chuck Pruitt, President of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, will be the main speaker.
- Statistics were provided on Academic Staff (AS) Principal Investigators (PIs). In 2009-10, academic staff PIs brought in over \$130 million in extramural support to UW-Madison. For that same year, the total amount of extramural support to UW-Madison with awards that included academic staff PIs and Co-PIs was over \$249 million.
- The Faculty Senate is proposing a new Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) Research Request and Allocations Committee. A letter was sent from ASEC to the United Council Chair, requesting that an academic staff member be added to the composition of the committee.

- An Academic Staff Branding proposal was sent to the School of Journalism. The goal is to develop a cohesive identity for academic staff at UW-Madison, with the hope that some journalism students will take this on as a project.
 - The Professional Development Committee is looking for an additional member.
 - It was noted that the academic staff at UW-Superior are likely to vote on unionization sometime this semester.
 - Academic staff are invited to join the Academic Staff Professional Organization (ASPRO).
 - ASA priorities were discussed for the upcoming year. These include:
 - Enhance communication and build bridges with internal and external audiences.
 - Propose, anticipate, review and respond to possible changes in academic staff working conditions.
 - Support academic staff through professional development, advocacy, and community engagement.
 1. Forming a Mentoring Committee as one of the standing committees was recommended.
 2. Transportation and bus passes were discussed. A recommendation will be made to the Transportation Committee asking that a sliding scale, based upon income, be used if charges are put in place for bus passes.
 3. Contact has been made between University Administrators and the Governor Elect and incoming legislators.
 4. Several Dean searches are currently underway.
 5. A website has been set with information on the Badger Partnership: <http://newbadgerpartnership.wisc.edu/>.
 6. Bill Tracy has been appointed as the Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs).
 7. A vote will be held at today's meeting to determine whether or not to have an Assembly meeting in January, 2011. Note – the vote was conducted at the ASA and no meeting will be held in January.
- Academic Staff Executive Committee (ASEC) – Wayne was not present so there was no report.

Committee Reports

Communications (Nagle)

The GS CASI website has been completely updated, except for the minutes and agendas. The Communications Committee is looking for someone to help out with the website.

Nominating and Districting (Feltz)

No report

Professional Development (Simmons)

No report.

Other Business

Cheryl took us on a tour of the Genetics/Biotechnology Center after the completion of the business meeting.

Committee members learned that the Biotechnology Center serves the biology research community on, and off, campus by providing the following services for fees in seven different facilities:

1. Advanced Genome Analysis
2. DNA Sequencing and Synthesis
3. Gene Expression
4. Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics
5. Peptide Synthesis
6. Transgenic Animals

The Center has invested in equipment and personnel to assist researchers in labs that cannot afford to do the same. It allows the University to help the research community keep the costs of these processes affordable.

Members toured Transgenic Animals where they learned how the DNA of mice is changed by either adding foreign DNA or by removing a gene (knock-out), and then surgically transferred into a pseudo-pregnant mouse. Genetically transformed mice, and rats, and their progeny are then used to help tease apart the unknown aspects of animal cellular functions, which in turn advance our knowledge of mammal health and illness.

Another stop on the tour was the DNA Sequencing/Synthesis facilities where they saw the robotics equipment that dispenses samples in volumes that appear no larger than a head of a pin. They also found out that we make short, synthetic stretches of DNA for use in dozens of types of experiments. The machines that sequence, or map, DNA generate over three billion bases (unit of measurement of DNA/RNA) of data per day for various clients.

The final interesting program was BioTrek, the outreach program, where members learned how staff translates the highly specialized knowledge needed to operate the facilities into concepts familiar to the general public. The mission of BioTrek is to Share Science with Wisconsin. The program serves all 72 counties of the state through its association with both the UW-Madison and UW-Extension.

Action Items

It was recommended that if the ASA votes not to meet in January, 2011, the GS CASI should follow suit. Miriam will ask for input from GS CASI members when she sends out the minutes from today's meeting.

Adjourn at 2:25 pm**Next Meeting:**

January 10, 2011 or February 14? Wait to see the results of the GS CASI survey.

Location: 370 Bascom Hall**Time 1:30-3:00pm****Minutes:** Wayne Feltz

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Neumann