

Graduate School
Committee on Academic Staff Issues
Monday, January 12th, 2009
1:00-2:30pm
334 Bascom Hall

Convene: The meeting was convened at 1:10pm

Minute Taker: Tanya Cobb

Present: Martin Cadwallader, Dan Bull, Tanya Cobb, Donna Cole, Julie Karpelenia, Bruce Neumann, Mary Lou Reeb, Miriam Simmons, Linda Tuchman, & Julie Schears, Waisman Center

Absent: Matt Hoffman, Wayne Feltz, Vice-Chair, Cheryl Redman

Review and approve minutes from November meeting:
No quorum present to approve the minutes.

Welcome and Chair Comments:

Julie Schears was welcomed from the Waisman Center. She is considering taking Linda Tuchman's place when her term expires.

Announcements:

Bruce Neumann & Miriam Simmons reported on the last academic staff assembly (ASA) meeting. Miriam is on the compensation and economic benefits subcommittee. A proposal was discussed to provide Academic staff with instructional leave. This would provide opportunities for instructional academic staff to take leave when developing new courses. One semester would be the amount of release time. Information is being collected from other institutions and will be followed by a report at the next ASA committee meeting. A subcommittee was appointed to study parallel faculty release time. Faculty get one semester of paid leave at full time, they get one full year at 60% time. The sources of funding for the comparable leave plan for instructional academic staff would need to be determined. Martin and the additional CASI members strongly supported this initiative.

Also, ASA is looking for volunteers to serve on various committees. Mary Lou Reeb was elected to replace Bill Steffenhagen on the Academic Staff Executive Committee (ASEC).

Committee Reports

Communications

Communications committee is considering using a video developed on campus that interviewed various academic staff describing who they are, their roles on campus, and their contributions.

Nominating and Districting

No report

Personnel Policies and Procedures

No report

Professional Development

Reviewed last round of seven applications by GS employees for the academic staff professional development grant. Six of the seven applications were funded. All applications clearly demonstrated how they could contribute to their work, their unit, UW. Donna Cole reported that the budget for the Professional Development and Recognition Committee (PDRC) budget was not cut, and that the committee had received 50+ applications. Martin will send congratulatory notes to GS awardees.

Other Business

Updates from Martin, Chair

Campus Administration Staffing Changes

Julie Underwood will be appointed the new interim provost. Chancellor Bidy Martin will also hire for the new post of Vice Chancellor for University Relations.

Focus on RSP

APR (Administrative Process Redesign) will next focus its attention on Research & Sponsored Programs (RSP). Petra Schroeder will be part of the team. Hope to evaluate current RSP processes, and resolve issues, such as the current backlog in funds setup.

Budget Updates

The State budget will require a 10% minimum cut to Graduate School Centers. It is believed that the current budget (2008-09) will be left as-is, But 2009-20011 will see cuts. Discussion continues as to whether these will be across the board cuts, or selective areas on campus.

The endowments for the WARF, UW foundation and Vilas are down. Funds are still there for the construction of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery/ Morgridge Institute for Research. On the state/WID side, funds are available only for the building. Doyle had promised to include funds in state budget; waiting to see if this still occurs.

Survey Ad Hoc Committee (Miriam & Mary Lou)

The survey initiative has been deferred. Other plans include developing a factsheet for career development.

State of the Graduate School draft document (see text in italics below).

This draft, which proposes an annual State of the Graduate School (GS) address by Martin, and an opportunity to celebrate and showcase GS employees' accomplishments, was discussed by the Committee and it was agreed that the draft proposal would be introduced at the next Graduate School Center Administrators meeting to gain additional feedback from the centers. Other ideas discussed included: posting a WI Week article to announce the event, a small publication highlighting employees' work, poster session and getting a subgroup together to brainstorm additional ideas.

Draft resolution from Graduate School Committee on Academic Staff Issues Summer 2008 Retreat:

"In order to better communicate the value and accomplishments of the Graduate School and encourage a shared sense of purpose and responsibility and a culture of engagement, the Graduate School Committee on Academic Staff Issues recommends that the Dean of the Graduate School annually address Graduate School faculty, staff and students on the state of the Graduate School, report on its progress toward priorities, and lead a discussion on proposed efforts and future directions. It is envisioned that this venue would also provide an opportunity to showcase individual and group contributions Graduate School members have made to the campus, the state, the nation and the world. This type of exercise will also result in documentation of accomplishments of the Graduate School community — information which could then be shared with a larger audience."

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Mary Lou Reeb (mlreeb@aqu.wisc.edu), Phone 263-3296

Five Year Report Outline

Discussion deferred.

Discussion of presentations for the coming year /Future topics/Guest Speakers

Alice Gustafson from APR regarding recent initiatives and outcomes

Julie Karpelenia regarding GS Human Resources restructuring

Continued regular updates from Martin regarding budget, GS, WID, campus

Next Meeting:

March 9th, 2009

Location: 334 Bascom Hall

Time 1:00-2:30pm

Minutes: Matt Hoffman