

ASEC Activities, Oct 13, 2020 to Nov 6, 2020

Announcements

- The committee interest survey was distributed to all academic staff. There is a system issue impacting some individuals ability to fill out the survey, and those individuals will be contacted when the issue is resolved. Please contact the Secretary's office with any questions.
- As a reminder, here are some resources available to all academic staff:
 - Employee Assistance: <https://hr.wisc.edu/employee-assistance-office/>
 - Life Matters: <https://hr.wisc.edu/employee-assistance-office/lifematters/>
 - OMBUDS: <https://ombuds.wisc.edu/>
 - SilverCloud: <https://www.uhs.wisc.edu/mental-health/silvercloud/>
 - Professional development website: <https://acstaff.wisc.edu/professional-development> or OHR: <https://hr.wisc.edu/professional-development/>

Report

Please see meeting minutes and agendas for more detailed information.

ASEC Activities:

- Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Laurent Heller, along with Professor Kris Olds and Paul Seitz, reported to ASEC on the work of the Revenue Innovation Study Group. The group was charged with finding more nontraditional ways to support academic, research, and service missions of the university given declining governmental support, growing infrastructure costs, and other impacts, including COVID-19.
- Provost Karl Scholz discussed Spring 2021 semester instructional planning and reviewed feedback to date on fall semester activities. A student undergraduate survey is in progress to gather feedback on instructional modalities, workload, and other academic issues. Campus will be expanding testing capacity to include students living off campus and faculty/staff who have contact time on campus for spring 2021. Testing will be mandatory for on campus students, faculty, and staff in spring semester.
- Vice Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs Beth Meyerand asked ASEC for nominations for the Campus Committee on Diversity Education and Training Committee. Vice Provost Meyerand and ASEC discussed providing more resources for employees in the face of budget cuts as well as resources for childcare. There were also updates regarding the current school/college approval process for teaching and research professor titles.
- Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning John Zumbrunnen shared his vision and priorities for his new role—firstly to work on diversity, equity, and inclusion with respect to teaching and learning spaces, secondly to review lessons learned thus far in the pandemic with regard to pedagogy and how best to support instructors. He and the Instructional Continuity Team are aware of concerns about how to ensure instructional staff are treated fairly and not given disproportionately more contact hours than faculty. His office is also planning to work with student affairs to survey undergraduate students asking about workload compared to last spring. The Instructional Continuity Team is currently processing feedback from students working on supporting instructors in the spring. Canvas functionality was discussed in the hopes of enabling preferred pronoun usage as soon as possible. Plans for Spring 2021 are in the works to use NameCoach to enable both preferred pronouns and pronunciation capability.
- Mark Walters, Chief Human Resources Officer; Diane Blaskowski, Director of Talent Rewards shared that UW System administration will proceed with plans to convert all system employees to a single payroll cycle effective January 1, 2021 (first impacted payroll would be February 1). UW System wishes to eliminate redundancy and improve efficiency of payroll processing by putting all employees on one payroll processing cycle paid on a biweekly basis (26 pay periods across the year). This was first announced in late October by Interim UW System President Tommy Thompson, but there are many issues to resolve before implementation—in particular for employees funded on grants/contracts. They also discussed consequences for employees who have unused furloughs from the period ending in October. Employees will be forced to schedule furloughs with supervisors to ensure they are allocated

before December 31, 2020. OHR also reiterated the importance of employee mental health and well-being. Various resources are available at no cost to employees and should be promoted.

- Nick Tincher and Patrick Sheehan from the Administrative Transformation Project shared updates regarding the overall status of the project, including project approval by the Board of Regents, impacts of the pandemic on the project, and possible plans to provide payment of nine month employees across a twelve month period of time.
- Lois Brooks (CIO & Vice Provost for IT) and Tamara Walker (Director of User Services, IT) updated ASEC on the status of several campus systems, including Zoom, Box, and Qualtrics. UW System is starting a rapid request for proposals for a new survey tool that could possibly replace Qualtrics. The System contract for BlackBoard Collaborate is also up for review in 2021 at the end of the academic year, so a request for proposals has been submitted. Dial-in capacity will soon be added to Microsoft Teams. Also discussed was the need to balance faculty/staff selected instructional software with cybersecurity and accessibility. While these tools provide unique opportunities for excellence in teaching, they could introduce security, accessibility, and privacy and/or contractual issues. UW System administration is also working on updating cybersecurity and accessibility policies which will directly impact Madison.
- Cathy Lloyd from Office of Data Management and Analytics Services provided updates on the Institutional Data Policy. The definition of the policy, scope of the project, and next steps were described. The policy was issued September 1, 2020. It will go into effect on January 1, 2021 for new systems and procedures, and then by January 1, 2022 for existing systems and procedures.

Appointments and Nominations:

- Appointments
 - Immigration and International Issues Committee: Felix Savino
 - Professional Development and Recognition Committee: Iliia Guzei
- Nominations
 - Academic Staff Appeals Committee: Heather Reese