

Report on 2020-21 Academic Staff Assembly Business September 2020 – May 2021

The following resolutions were passed by the Academic Staff Assembly in the last year. If you would like to read any of the documents below in their entirety, look for the document numbers listed below in the section titled “Academic Staff Assembly Documents,” on the Academic Staff Knowledge Base, located at <https://kb.wisc.edu/acstaff/>.

#739: Resolution to Support Fair Trade Certification Efforts for UW-Madison

- The Assembly approved a resolution supporting “the implementation of fair trade products, education, and awareness at UW-Madison.”
- Additionally, the Assembly supported “UW-Madison efforts to become a Fair Trade Certified University as outlined in the following commitments by Fair Trade Campaigns:
 - Fair Trade Committee: Establish an institutional body to oversee Fair Trade University certification.
 - Campus Venues: Ensure all campus owned and operated venues have at least two Fair Trade products available for purchase. This can include but is not limited to, food and apparel.
 - Offices & Catering: Engage with food service providers and/or office suppliers to make fair trade products available for administrative and faculty offices. The campus must also work with these groups to make fair trade products available for university-hosted meetings and events. For certification, the university must document a minimum of three instances per year of offices or events incorporating fair trade products in their operations.
 - Education & Engagement: Increase awareness of fair trade among faculty, staff, and students through events, marketing, communications, and curricula. This can include virtual programming. For certification, the university must document four instances per year of education or outreach efforts.
 - Shared Governance: Pass resolutions in support of Fair Trade certification through shared governance bodies.”
- The resolution was distributed to Rebecca Blank, Chancellor; Karl Scholz, Provost; Laurent Heller, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Alan Fish, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Planning and Management; Missy Nergard, Director of Sustainability; Heather Daniels, Secretary of the Faculty; John Lease, Secretary of the University Staff; and Matthew Mitnick, Chair, Associate Students of Madison (ASM).

#742: ASPP Chapter 13 Changes

- The Assembly voted to make changes to Chapter 13 to clarify language regarding election processes for Assembly Representatives and Alternates.
- The changes were sent to Rebecca Blank, Chancellor.

#743: Resolution in Support of Instruction and Training on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice

- The Assembly approved a resolution supporting “the inclusion of--and engagement with-- accurate accounts of historical injustices and their continuing impact in university discourse and culture.”
- The Assembly “maintains that it is imperative that UW-Madison continue and expand its ongoing efforts in instruction and training of the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice.”
- Additionally, the Assembly called “on the administration of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to continue actively supporting and fostering training and programs that will help build a climate and culture of anti-racism and anti-sexism.”
- The resolution was distributed to Rebecca Blank, Chancellor; Karl Scholz, Provost; Laurent Heller, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Cheryl Gittens, Interim Chief Diversity Officer; Beth Meyerand, Vice Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs; Heather Daniels, Secretary of the Faculty; John Lease, Secretary of the University Staff; and Matthew Mitnick, Chair, Associate Students of Madison (ASM).

#748: ASPP Chapter 13 Change

- The Assembly voted to make a change in Chapter 13 to remove the month of January from the regular meeting schedule of the Assembly.
- The change was sent to Rebecca Blank, Chancellor.

#749: Resolution on Climate Divestment and Procurement

- The Assembly approved a resolution urging “the University of Wisconsin Foundation to disclose its fossil fuel assets and investments for the purpose of full transparency for faculty, academic staff, students, donors, alumni and the citizens of the state.”
- The Assembly stated that “the University of Wisconsin-Madison should work with UW-Madison purchasing units and the UW-Madison Office of Sustainability to assess available opportunities for carbon reduction in its procurement processes, develop a plan to reduce embodied carbon as much as possible using the discretionary procurement processes available to University of Wisconsin-Madison, and publish this assessment and plan within two years.”
- Additionally, the assembly urged “the University of Wisconsin Foundation to join the Financial Stability Board’s Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (or comparable professional organization) to develop disclosure mechanisms for the Foundation’s governance and strategy around climate-related risks and opportunities, procedures for identification, assessment, and management of climate-related risks, and metrics and targets used to assess and manage relevant climate-related risks and opportunities where such information is material.”
- The resolution was distributed to Rebecca Blank, Chancellor; Karl Scholz, Provost; Laurent Heller, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Dan Langer, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Services and Controller; Missy Nergard, Director of Sustainability; Andrea Hicks, Interim Director of Sustainability Education and Research; Michael Knetter, President and CEO, Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association; Heather Daniels, Secretary of the Faculty; John Lease, Secretary of the University Staff; and Matthew Mitnick, Chair, Associate Students of Madison (ASM).

#757: ASPP Chapter 14 Changes

- The Assembly voted to make changes to Chapter 14 to remove membership and function information for committees that are either outdated or already codified in Faculty Policies and Procedures Chapter 6. Additional changes include changing “joint” governance committees to “shared” governance committees; inclusion of references to university staff where they were previously lacking; changing references from “salaried” appointments to “paid” appointments for consistency; and aligning specifications for term lengths, election of co-chairs, and leaves of absences for members of Assembly standing committees.
- The changes were sent to Rebecca Blank, Chancellor.

#762: Resolution on Remote Work

- The Assembly approved a resolution in support of “maintaining existing flexibilities as denoted in Unclassified Personnel Policies and Procedures 14.01: Standard Hours and Alternative Work Schedules for Academic Staff, Faculty and Limited Appointees.”
- The Assembly requested that “the Chancellor, Provost, and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration enable those Academic Staff who, since March 2020, have demonstrated that they can perform their job responsibilities satisfactorily through remote work to be given a reasonable amount of time, extending beyond August 23, 2021 as needed by schools/colleges/divisions to transition back to their onsite workspace.”
- Additionally, the Assembly requested that “the Office of Human Resources provide the Academic Staff Executive Committee with an annual review of the policy and a report on its effectiveness, including the number of requests approved and denied, for three fiscal years after the policy is implemented.”
- The Assembly asked “the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and the Office of Human Resources to charge a committee, with shared governance involvement, to examine potential hybrid working models for UW-Madison employees going forward.”
- The resolution was distributed to Rebecca Blank, Chancellor; Karl Scholz, Provost; Laurent Heller, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Mark Walters, Chief Human Resources Officer; Beth Meyerand, Vice Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs; John Zumbrunnen, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning; Heather Daniels, Secretary of the Faculty; John Lease, Secretary of the University Staff; and Adrian Lampron, Chair, Associate Students of Madison (ASM).