

Annual Report 2010-11

CASI Members

Allen Clauss, Ritt Deitz (co-chair), Catherine Farry, Melanie Jones, Jim Lacy, Melissa Luck, Scott Mellor, Peggy Rosin, Gary Sandefur (co-chair), Maggie Sullivan (ex-officio), Karen Tusack, Consuelo Lopez Springfield, Rachel Weiss

L&S CASI Meetings

The L&S CASI met at various times during the 2010-11 Academic Year, scheduling its monthly meetings on a semester-by-semester basis so that most members could attend. Most meetings took place on Wednesdays (once a month), from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., in 101 South Hall.

Subcommittees

The 2010-11 CASI appointed subcommittees for particular tasks it took on during the year. Subcommittees were formed during monthly meetings, as tasks were decided and / or planned. See "Tasks Accomplished During the Year" for the composition of subcommittees formed for those tasks.

Tasks Accomplished During the Year

The main purposes of the CASI being (a) to facilitate understanding, among College administrators, of the Academic Staff experience in the College and (b) to support the Academic Staff of the College by apprising them of regular opportunities for learning about professional issues and College-specific questions that concern them, the 2010-11 CASI channeled its collective energy to tasks that served this mission. Because of the unusual political events surrounding the governor's proposed budget-related bill in the spring of 2011, including a major proposal by then-chancellor Biddy Martin to change significantly the relationship between the UW-Madison, the state, and the UW System (an initiative first called "The New Badger Partnership" and then, as it became a concrete legislative possibility, "Public Authority Status"), the CASI found itself thinking more than usual about ways that its activities might both inform Academic Staff and lower their collective anxiety about job security and their future of the university.

CASI elections

Each year, CASI members in their last year of service on the committee constitute the subcommittee that plans and executes the College-wide elections that will render new CASI members. This year that committee was made up of Ritt Deitz (co-chair), Melissa Luck, and Karen Tusack. At the February meeting, the subcommittee presented and confirmed its plan to run a web-based poll-style election, after which the subcommittee

members did so with the help of Learning Support Services (colleagues of Tusack, who works in that unit). Once results were in, following a published deadline, the top three vote winners were selected to replace Deitz, Luck and Tusack in 2011-12.

L&S Academic Planning Council elections

In August and September 2010, Ritt Deitz (co-chair) was asked by L&S administration to coordinate a process that would lead to an Academic Staff replacement for an Academic Staff member finishing her term on the Academic Planning Council (APC). The previous CASI (2009-10) had not completed that task, which had not been clearly delineated in CASI bylaws. Deitz coordinated the search, which led to an appointment to the APC position by Dean Gary Sandefur (co-chair). This led the 2010-11 CASI to discuss institutionalizing a way for CASI to coordinate all annual searches for electing or appointing Academic Staff members to the APC. The CASI decided to take this on and has added this annual springtime task to its bylaws. Because no vacancy appeared on the APC for Fall 2011, this process was not necessary in Spring 2011. However, it will be in Spring 2012.

CASI Bylaws

Peggy Rosin, Melissa Luck and Maggie Sullivan formed a bylaws review subcommittee during the year and worked diligently and effectively in creating an improved set of official bylaws, available on the CASI website. They regularly involved the full CASI on specific revisions, over the course of several meetings.

PDRC

This year, CASI decided to designate one of its members each year as a member of PDRC, the subcommittee of ASEC that reviews and awards professional development grants to Academic Staff members in the College. Rachel Weiss volunteered to do this and became the CASI's designated PPPC member this year. (CASI member Peggy Rosin was also finishing a term as a member on that committee.)

Academic Staff Institute Panel

CASI member Allen Clauss participated in a Best Practices in Performance Review panel in February, then reported to the CASI on its discussions. The CASI agreed that representation by one of its members at other, broader Academic Staff campus events helps to increase the CASI's ability to get information effectively between College administrators and the Academic Staff at large.

Webmaster

Karen Tusack became the CASI webmaster and offered to continue to do so, as a

member of Learning Support Services (the unit in which she holds her position), for the indefinite future. Having just finished her term on the CASI, she continues to help the College in this way.

Climate committee

Following a fruitful meeting on climate, set up by the 2009-10 L&S Academic Staff (CASI) and Classified Staff (CSIC) committees, a committee was formed to advise College Administration on climate issues. This committee was made of representatives of L&S Academic Staff, Classified Staff, then included Faculty members, making the committee totally representative of all College personnel. CASI member Consuelo Lopez-Springfield joined that Climate Committee as a CASI member, giving CASI regular reports about that other committee's work and ultimate report submitted to Dean Sandefur.

Brownbag series

The CASI continued its commitment to regular brownbags for College Academic Staff, offering brownbags on job security (led by Maggie Sullivan) and on mindfulness and meditation (led by Psychology professor Richard Davidson). Both were well-attended.

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At our final meeting, in May 2011, Ritt Deitz announced that Rachel Weiss would be the 2011-12 co-chair, along with Dean Sandefur—the 2010-11 CASI having decided that members would no longer have to be in the final year of their term to co-chair the committee.

Specific details and other points of discussion are available in 2010-11 CASI meeting minutes, available on the CASI website.

Respectfully submitted,

Ritt Deitz, CASI co-chair (2010-11)
September 9, 2011