



Committee on Academic Staff Issues (CASI) Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Via Microsoft Teams
Minutes

Present:

Mark Markel
Ryan Brunker
Jenny Dahlberg
Christian Eisele

Kaye Garrison
Elizabeth Jacka
Laurie Larson
Brett Nemke

Guests:

Bret Solberg
Kristi Thorson
Ashley Voss

1. Approval of the minutes – M. Markel

The meeting minutes of January 27, 2021 were approved. (M/S/U)

2. Business Arising – M. Markel

- a. Budget Cuts – The SVM has submitted its base budget cut plan to campus and fortunately, no positions were cut in the process.
- b. The Title & Total Compensation project will take place in the fall. October 1 is the likely date for implementation.
- c. There are no updates on the Administrative Transformation Project or the ERP Selection.

3. CASI Webpage Update – R. Brunker, Kristi Thorson, A. Voss, B. Solberg

Dean Markel shared the objective is to create a public facing CASI webpage to demonstrate the SVM supports the academic staff. The CASI page will be housed from the SVM intranet site, but will be publicly available to all and linked to the Secretary of the Academic Staff page. Resources included will be the membership roster, CASI meeting agendas and minutes and forums (password protected with a limited time of one year). Ashley and Bret will work on the structure of the site and bring back to the committee in late April for review. The timeframe is to launch the new site by July 1.

The structure/layout will include:

- ✓ About Us
- ✓ Schedule of upcoming CASI meetings and forums
- ✓ Agendas & minutes
- ✓ CASI Forum recordings
- ✓ Committee members
- ✓ Suggestion Box

A vote will be held for the CASI co-chair the first week of June when the new roster has been established for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

4. Updates – Jenny Dahlberg

- a. Academic Staff Assembly - The Assembly met on Monday (3/8) and the Chancellor spoke on a number of issues, including the current state budget process. The Governor proposed a very favorable budget for UW-System considerations as well as a capital budget that is very favorable to UW-System. It is likely the proposed budget will undergo substantial edits, if not a substantial overhaul by the primarily Republican legislature and will look very different as the coming months of negotiations occur.
- b. Academic Staff Executive Committee - The Academic Staff Executive Committee (ASEC) has been meeting to with campus officials in HR to discuss concerns over the re-vitalization of the Title and Total Compensation Project roll-out. Many are concerned that a July 1 implementation is too hasty given many other projects (single pay conversion) and the need for employees to take furloughs and also try to have conversations about their jobs/positions changing. As a result, campus and system have agreed to delay implementation until Fall 2021 (possibly October or November).

The new purchasing system is launching training soon. The new system is called Shop@UW+ and will replace all MDS, Purchase Order, Payment to individuals and other non-p-card purchase transactions. Training will begin in April. Please contact your department administrator if you are regularly going to be purchasing items to ensure you get signed up to receive training.

ASEC is concerned not enough is being done for campus wide mental health support. While distributing resources and emails with links for ways to get staff support, there have not been many messages from leadership on campus about the need to unplug, take vacation and maintain work-life balance. Especially with spring break cancelled, ASEC is worried many employees will not take time to recharge.

In regards to mental health awareness, Mark commented the SVM is holding at least twice weekly listening sessions for those wanting to participate and working with other groups to be speakers and hold sessions as well.

A Mental Health First Aid Training workshop will be held again on March 31.

We are working as best we can to support, not only those in the hospital, but anyone in the building, on an individual basis as well as a national level.

The AAVMC/AVMA released a statement three days ago regarding a session on March 18. Dean Markel will announce details soon. The AAVMC hired a dedicated director of well-being and mental health, MacKenzie Peterson, who has initiated many efforts centrally for the veterinary schools around the world.

The SVM also has provided details for mental health support for all employees, including those who are not DVM's and may not feel comfortable accessing the AAVMC/AVMA support site.

- c. Academic Staff Professionals Representation Organization (ASPRO) - Jenny reminded CASI members they can join ASPRO, a not-for-profit professional organization that pays for a lobbyist who represents all UW-System academic to the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Governor, The Board of Regents and the public. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Jenny or visit <https://www.aspro.net/>. Membership costs are currently being held low to promote membership—especially during a biennial state budget process, paying for a lobbyist to support and advocate for academic staff is crucial.

5. Dean's Comments – M. Markel

- a. COVID Testing/Vaccinations – You must have a green badge with the Safer Badger app to enter any building on campus. If you have a UHS vaccine, your badge will be a permanent green. If vaccinated elsewhere, a process yet to be determined, will need to be submitted to UHS to obtain the permanent green badge.

Vaccinations have been dramatically ramped up for those who have 1B status which is in-person instructors. Over 75 SVM verification letters for vaccination have been sent out to in-person instructors. The hope is that in the next two to three weeks we will see significant increases in vaccinations on campus with most staff and faculty vaccinated by the end of April.

All were encouraged to check the UHS site to see if notification might have already been sent.

For eligible employees who have not received an invitation email, you can schedule a vaccine appointment through UHS. It is important to note that you MUST be in an eligible group (performing in person instruction) or it will not allow you to schedule the appointment.

1. Log onto MyUW and click on the MyUHS app or go directly to myuhs.uhs.wisc.edu
2. After logging in and confirming your identity, you will see information regarding COVID19 vaccination at the top of the page.
3. If it's your first appointment with UHS, you will need to fill out the information and consent forms prior to scheduling the appointment.

4. Follow the prompts to schedule the appointment.
- b. Building Update – Dean Markel and Kristi met virtually with potential contractors to describe the project. The deadline for submission of bids is the third week of March. The bid documents will be open on April 13. The contractor will be announced soon after. Construction will begin in June.
- c. In-Person Events – The campus guidelines for in-person events has been sent out. The SVM Awards Ceremony will be virtual. Graduation will be at Camp Randall on March 8 for all professional and graduate students. Family members and friends will not be allowed to attend.

The WVMA has been given permission to hold the Blue Coat Ceremony for the class of 2022 off campus at the Monona Terrace with social distancing in place. Green badges will be required.

Alumni events will not occur in June, but nine classes will tentatively celebrate towards the end of August.

- d. Vacation Carry Forward – Campus has released information that vacation will be carried forward through October 9, 2021.
 - e. Telecommuting Policy – The policy is in draft form. The deans should see the draft soon.
 - f. Teaching and Research Professor Track Guidelines – The guidelines for both teaching and research were discussed. Kaye will send the Teaching Professor Track Guidelines out to the CASI members for review and feedback today. As soon as the research guidelines are available, they will be distributed to the CASI members as well. All feedback will be sent to Peggy Schmidt for teaching and Dale Bjorling for research no later than Friday, March 19th.
6. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.
 7. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 2:00 p.m.