



Committee on Academic Staff Issues (CASI) Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Room 2166

Minutes

Present:

Mark Markel	Kaye Garrison
Ryan Bruner	Katie Harmelink
Jenny Dahlberg	Ann Mitzey
Chris Eisele	

1. Approval of the November 28, 2023 Minutes – M. Markel

2. Business Arising – M. Markel

None

3. CASI 5 Year Review Progress – K. Harmelink, J Dahlberg

Jenny reported that she, Katie and Brett have met and prepared a rough draft of the CASI 5-Year Review Progress for CASI feedback. CASI will plan to meet and finalize this document later in the spring semester.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D-IIBAXbFzGeLB7HBOsT6-AwShhxhgyttej9UdxuINQ/edit>

4. Governance Focused Dean Finalist Interview Sessions – J. Dahlberg

Jenny reminded all that a CASI representative will participate in the specific governance sessions during each of the four Dean Finalists visits. Katie will be the SVM representative and Chris will be back up if for some reason Katie cannot attend. These sessions are a mix of representation from Faculty, Academic Staff, University Staff and student governance groups and used to evaluate the candidate's experience and/or perspectives in working with shared governance groups.

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5. Updates from Academic Staff Assembly – J. Dahlberg

Jenny reported that LaVar Charleston, Vice Provost and Chief Diversity Officer, presented at the February 11 assembly updates related to DEI named positions being restructured into student facing positions. Additional comments were shared about activities his office is doing to support students impacted by the recent legislative deal to cap specific hiring positions in order to obtain the delayed pay plan funding. No positions were cut from UW Madison and no jobs will be lost as a result of the deal made with legislators and the Board of Regents. Questions were raised about how his office would support faculty and staff with these issues as well as students. Staff feel less connected as no affinity groups or gatherings to ensure staff exist.

Provost Isbell commented regarding the Chancellor's new RISE initiative (Wisconsin Research, Innovation and Scholarly Excellence) to recruit new faculty to address significant, complex challenges of particular importance to Wisconsin and the world. More topic areas will be released, but the first is AI and Machine Learning. Hopefully, more initiatives will be announced in which the SVM will have a more direct research expertise and involvement in additional focus areas. <https://rise.wisc.edu/> Assembly members commented about the need to also hire support staff for HR, purchasing, grants administration and other areas when large scale hiring is done. The Provost commented that would be part of the planning and funding process to support new areas of excellence in this initiative.

6. Dean's Comments – M. Markel

- a. SVM Dean Search – Public presentations and staff/faculty conversations with the finalists on February 19, 21, 27 and 29. Please reference Kaye Garrison's emails regarding additional meetings SVM Faculty and Staff can participate in.
- b. Call for Professional Grants: call is active!
<https://acstaff.wisc.edu/grants-awards/professional-development-grants/>
- c. Academic Staff Institute is March 14th <https://acstaff.wisc.edu/programs/academic-staff-institute/> and would encourage folks to attend.

7. Meeting adjourned: 1:27 p.m.

8. Next Meeting: April 24, 2024, 1:00 p.m.