

# Committee on Academic Staff Issues (CASI) meeting minutes

*2:30 p.m. Feb. 23, 2024  
Lubar Commons (Room 7200)*

## **Attendees:**

Jennie Broecker  
Adam Bushcott  
Rachel Burg  
Eric Giefer  
Jenner McLeod  
Grace Kube  
Andrew Norman  
Bonnie Shucha  
Scout Slava-Ross

Bethany Pluymers (ex officio)  
Dean Dan Tokaji (ex officio)

## **Absent:**

Sumudu Atapattu  
Greg Wiercioch

## **Order of business:**

Meeting began at 2:36 p.m.  
Eric Giefer agreed to take minutes.

The minutes from the last meeting on Dec. 15, 2023, were approved.

## **Calendar update:**

The April CASI meeting scheduled for Room 5215 has to be moved. Will consider a Library conference room or another room.

This need, as well as questions about a virtual option for today's meeting, led the group to revisit the previous discussion on in-person and virtual meetings. We originally established the February and April meetings as in-person and the June meeting as virtual.

The decision about in-person only or hybrid affects where we choose to meet.

- Why would we need a virtual option? Allows people traveling to join. Clinicians and others may travel for work, like court attendance, can make it hard to be back in time for meetings. Sick kids.
- For some people, doing meetings remotely is tough because their office isn't set up for it (shared space), and they prefer meeting in person.

Overall, moving toward hybrid meetings as the default was CASI consensus.

## **Academic Staff Assembly update:**

Eric Giefer, an ASA representative, shared from the February ASA meeting, that the Chief Diversity Officer for UW-Madison says students like to see him out and interactive and he is pursuing a number of student support programs. The chancellor's new initiatives also were reviewed. And the deans council by collective request is talking about whether there is a need for all schools to be consistent with hybrid staff policies or whether each school's needs (or even departments within) should be the driving force.

## **Dean's Corner:**

Part of the pay-plan compromise approved by the Board of Regents in December means the top 5% of high school graduates in Wisconsin will be granted admission to UW-Madison (top 10% for other UW schools). That doesn't affect the Law School.

The compromise also places hiring caps on non-student-facing staff positions For the Law School, that does not apply to faculty, instructional staff, admissions, OCDP, student affairs, academic affairs, for example. Position count will be based on a snapshot of levels from October 2023 and the campus will figure out how to hold schools, colleges and departments accountable for the next three years. positions.

As mentioned in the last faculty and staff meeting, the dean shared that campus is considering a different budget model (along the lines of Responsibility Centered Management model) that could change the way we budget and operate in the future, so more to come on that.

Under the newly announced Wisconsin Research, Innovation and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) Initiative (designed to help address significant, complex challenges of particular importance to Wisconsin and the world, through accelerated and strategic faculty hiring, research infrastructure enhancement, interdisciplinary collaboration and increased student and educational opportunities), the dean said AI is the first focus and another is likely to be named soon. Each unit will have to subsidize a position to get another funded by campus. Law is interested on the AI front, in tune with UW Law goals of expanding faculty in areas of need.

### **HR updates:**

Central Compensation Fund is back/renamed, Bethany Pluymers shared. CCF is money from campus to provide additional raises beyond pay plan, as well as bonuses. She is waiting for guidance and hopes to receive it in the next week or so. Primary drivers for these dollars are retention, parity and compression. HR will share information about eligibility and nominations once it is available but will need a quick turnaround.

Reminder that all will get 2% pay plan raise (not from this process) July 1st.

### **Potential future programming topics:**

#### **Potential Future Programming Topics for Staff**

Retirement planning: Jennie to reach out to Justin Boehm regarding a session.

Teaching Professor title: Jennie to reach out to Ursula Weigold to see if she can speak for 5-10 minutes at our next meeting about this placement in a new title series.

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### **Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.