

Committee on Academic Staff Issues (CASI) meeting DRAFT minutes for Nov. 17, 2025

Room 5215

Attendees:

Present:

Jennie Broecker
Eric Giefer
Adam Gratch
Sachin Gupte
Annie Haugen
Emily Lau
Elizabeth Manriquez
Andrew Norman
Lauren Restivo
Scout Slava-Ross

Associate Dean and CAO Rebecca Scheller (ex officio)
Dean Dan Tokaji (ex officio)

Absent:

Rachel Burg

Order of business:

Greeting and opening:

Meeting began at 11:01 a.m.

Business items:

- **Standing item:** The Oct. 20 minutes were approved.
- **Dean's Corner:** Dean Dan Tokaji addressed two areas.
 - Instructional workload proposal update – The dean shared that concerns from Law School staff have been shared with University and UW System leadership.

He added that while we do not know what will be adopted by the Board of Regents, he is cautiously optimistic that the policy would be implemented in a manageable way and expects that further guidance from the UWS and UW-Madison leadership will be forthcoming.

- New strategic plan – The committee with members from across areas of the Law School has met a handful of times. Its work is about to move from the brainstorming phase into the listening sessions / surveying phase.
- **HR Corner:** Associate Dean and CAO Rebecca Scheller said:
 - Employee-focused efforts: Dean Scheller said she would like to find ways to help boost staff support and morale, which syncs up well with efforts by the newly formed Outreach Subcommittee. She and the subcommittee both suggested a brown-bag lunch date for staff to socialize and get to know each other better. She also said she would pursue an educational session next semester on retirement to meet a request that comes up regularly.
 - Education around policies and procedures: There was an Academic Staff Chat on nonrenewals and layoffs in November; it only had 40 spots for the entire university population. Jennie Broecker was waitlisted but never got in, so she reached out to Mallory Musolf, the secretary of the Academic Staff, to see if another session will be held. John Lease, secretary of the University Staff, said he has no plans to offer something similar. Dean Scheller said she will explore conducting a Law School session for academic and university staff.
- **Legal Analysis, Advocacy, and Writing representation on CASI:** Last month, Andrew Norman shared a proposal to create a CASI seat in the bylaws just for LAAW since they have issues different than other academic staff and clinicians, and they are committed to filling a seat. Jennie came back with numbers on academic and university staff to help members make a decision. Conversation trended in favor of the proposal. Andrew added that the instructional workload policy proposal is yet another reason in favor of having dedicated LAAW representation. Jennie asked Andrew to re-send the proposal to CASI members for additional review and a vote in December.
- **Academic Staff Assembly updates:** Eric Giefer said at the most recent meeting, Craig Thompson from University Relations raised the concern that the instructional workload policy would put UW at a competitive disadvantage to peer institutions. He also said Rob Cramer said very early feedback to LINK at UW with finance professionals was mixed. Most CASI members have not heard much about this centralization effort and want to know more about its impact and what input CASI can offer.
- **CASI leadership for 2025-26:** Adam Gratch and Annie Haugen have expressed interest in serving as co-vice chairs to introduce themselves to the responsibilities and role, so Jennie will work to bring them up to speed in the coming months.
- **Priority areas and subcommittees:**
 - a. Outreach subcommittee: The first meeting brought about suggestions, including a virtual question/suggestion box that can be placed on the CASI website, in leadership's email signatures and QR code signage in common areas. They also drafted a survey to be voted on at the December meeting. And they suggested

that HR connects academic and university staff with a CASI member during the onboarding process for new employees.

Next meetings and adjournment:

The meeting ended at 11:58 a.m. The next meeting is at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, 2025.