

Committee on Academic Staff Issues (CASI) meeting minutes

3 p.m. Oct. 24, 2023

7200 - Lubar Commons, University of Wisconsin Law School

Attendees:

Sumudu Atapattu
Jennie Broecker
Rachel Burg
Eric Giefer
Grace Kube
Jenner McLeod
Bonnie Shucha
Greg Wierchioch

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

Absent:

Moji Olaniyan

Order of business:

Meeting began at 3:03 p.m.
Jennie Broecker agreed to take minutes.

Interim Chair Eric Giefer shared that Moji Olaniyan resigned Oct. 23, 2023, due to time constraints. Dean Tokaji was alerted to appoint her replacement.

Recent meeting recaps:

- Sept. 11 meeting with university staff: University staff were receptive to being included in CASI and could decide in the future if they want to go further to create their own group. Meeting with the group was engaged and positive.
- Sept. 29 meeting with the chancellor: Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin's visit to the Law School and specifically with CASI as part of that was important for her to get to know both the Law School and members of CASI. Folks appreciated the fact that she both listened and asked attentive questions.

As prompted by conversation at our August meeting, Eric Giefer and Bonnie Shucha drafted proposed changes to the CASI bylaws that include:

- Adding university staff to CASI, going from 9 to 11, approved unanimously on voice vote.
- Changing academic staff to “staff” or “academic and university staff” to reflect their addition.
- Creating 2 new seats with three-year terms: one library and one nonlibrary, approved unanimously on voice vote.
- Cleaning up language tied to vacancies, as off-cycle ones are appointed by the dean.
- Changing the approach to committees: standing them up based on need instead of having permanent ones.
- Changing quorum from 5 to 6 to reflect the bigger size of CASI.
- Acknowledged current by-law on approving minutes at the next meeting. Requested that the procedure (not in by-laws) minutes to be circulate as soon as possible among CASI while memories are fresh and then formally approve at the next meeting.
- Clarified definition of CASI, removed “the CASI” and “CASI Board” both simplified to CASI.

Eric said he will share the latest draft of the bylaws for official vote approval at the 11 a.m. Dec. 15 meeting; the board gave unanimous voice-vote approval to head in the direction of adding university staff in the meantime in order to initiate university staff elections. The goal is to have university staff members of CASI chosen in time for the December meeting. Eric will work with the dean’s executive assistant to get that process going.

Since the current CASI was all elected at the same time there is no ability to fulfill the bylaws of having staggered terms unless 3 of us choose to be 1-year, 3 choose to be 2-year and 3 choose to be 3-year. Due to time constraints, discussion on whose terms will be which has been deferred to the December meeting, though we mentioned that Moji’s term should expire at the end of the academic year, which means the person appointed by the dean would have to run for election this spring if indeed interested in continuing service on CASU.

Also deferred to December: The ability to choose meeting dates for spring semester, since the teaching schedule has not been set.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.