

# ***Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting***

*1:30 Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Room 9341*

(Professors Berry, Burke, Burstyn, Cavagnero, Cui, Garand, Gellman, Goldsmith, Hermans, Jin, Landis, McMahon, Moore, Nathanson, Schmidt, Shakhashiri, Sibert, Skinner, Stahl, Weisshaar, Wright, Yoon attending.)

Rachel Bain, Stephen Block, Arrietta Clauss, Bob Duessler, Pat Egan, Gery Essenmacher, Bruce Goldade, Jeanne Hamers, Char Horsfall, Tony Jacob, Jeff Nielsen, Vanessa Orr, Dennis Reece, Matt Sanders, Rodney Schreiner, Mike Schwartz, Bob Shanks, Cheri Stephens, Cecilia Stodd, Martha Vestling, Chad Wilkinson, Erynn Zweifel also attended.)

## ***Open Session***

**Minutes of the last meeting (10/11/16) were approved on a voice vote.**

### **Announcements and Reports**

#### **Safety Update**

Jeff Nielsen talked about condition of the Shain tower doors. They have had some issues closing properly. If alarms are going off in your lab, check the lab note card and call one of the responsible people, which may include Jeff.

If we experience an alarm that clears the building during cold weather, we will all gather in Ed Science (southeast of Chemistry across Johnson and Mills).

#### **Administrative Update**

Pat Egan pointed out that Open Enrollment for benefits ends Friday, November 11, at 4:30. Char will have an open lab from 7-9 on November 9 for questions. Health Savings Account selection must be done every year.

Dennis Reece is retiring February 3, after 10 years with the Department.

#### **New Staff Members**

Jeanne Hamers introduced Erynn Zweifel, new Program Associate in the Undergraduate Chemistry Office. Bassam Shakhashiri introduced former Associate Dean and Director of the Undergraduate Chemistry Office Gery Essenmacher, who will work as an Outreach Specialist in Bassam's group.

#### **Faculty Recruiting**

Tehshik Yoon reported that 2 weeks from the closing of the PVL, we have 220 applications, and the committee has already considered one-third of them. There are a fair number of diversity candidates, and 2 high-quality underrepresented minority candidates have been identified. Faculty can use their netIDs to log onto the website to look at application packages.

Candidates have been sorted into a "Long Short List" for which the committee will need input. We have permission to interview, and 3 people have been lined up. Senior candidate Dan Weix will be here December 14-15.

#### **Report on the Building Project**

John Moore announced that the Madison Plan Commission recently approved the plan to demolish the house next to the church and the north side of our building.

We have received the 35% design report. Plans are laid out on the table in the Chair's office and a table in Room 1305. Now is the time to check the plans to see if everything we wanted was incorporated.

Bob McMahon announced that the Board of Regents and the State Building Commission should approve the 35% Design Report in December. The current plan has 2 organic floors. We believe at this point that the plan will be approved.

The Chancellor and Mike Knetter (head of UW Foundation) met recently to discuss funding of the remainder of the building, which would require a \$25M donor. There was some optimism that such a donor could be identified.

#### **Climate Task Force Report**

Judith Burstyn reported that she has met with all the new chairs of the relevant committees, and the full Task Force should meet soon.

#### **Faculty Senate Report**

Judith Burstyn reported that Marsha Mailick gave a report on the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education's (VCGRE) office. There has been an increase in WARF money available for recruitment and retention. There will be an overhaul of the way information technology is managed on campus. An update to the CANVAS learning management system is coming.

The Faculty Senate approved changes to the post-tenure review policies. This is to reconcile UW policies with Regent policies.

#### **Workshop – Creating an Inclusive Educational Environment – November 18 at 3:30**

This workshop will be presented by staff members from the Office of Equity and Diversity.

#### **Business**

##### **Report on Philanthropy via Endowed Chairs**

Stimulated by the awarding of the first McNall and Shain Chairs, Bob McMahon reviewed the situation for endowed chairs in the Department. The longest-standing chair is the Hirschfelder Professorship, currently held by Jim Skinner. We have created several professorships from the Hall-Fisher Fund. We have the Helfaer Professorships, and Meloche-Bascom Professorships. We created a professorship from the Voza endowment.

More recently, we have received the Lester McNall Professorship, the Irving Shain Chair, the Wayland Noland Distinguished Chair, and the Yamamoto Family Professorship. There is likely one more such fund coming in the near future.

We are very grateful to the donors to these funds for their generosity.

With no additional business brought to the Department Committee, the meeting was adjourned after a motion from Clark Landis and Gil Nathanson.

December 2, 2016. MJS