

Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting

1:30 Tuesday, March 8, 2016, Room 9341

(Professors Berry, Brunold, Burstyn, Ediger, Garand, Gellman, Hermans, Kiessling, Moore, Nathanson, Schmidt, Schomaker, Weisshaar, Wright, Yoon, Zanni attending.

Sue Martin, Jeff Nielsen, Danielle Tesch, Ilia Guzei, Cheri Stephens, Pam Doolittle, Mike Bradley, Alan Silver, Matt Sanders Dennis Reece, Desire Bates, Charlie Fry, Heike Hofstetter, Karin Stephens, Jim Zernicke, Pat Egan, Bruce Goldade, Betty Moore, Rachel Bain, Rodney Schreiner, Cheri Rossi, Ariel Andrea, Cecilia Stodd, Robert Shanks, Paul Hooker, Sarah Specht, Tony Jacob, Kris Turkow, Martha Vestling, Jeanne Hamers, Tracey Drier also attended.)

Open Session

Minutes of the previous meeting (2/09/16) were approved on a voice vote.

Announcements and Reports

Bob McMahon & Lloyd Smith are out of town – Matt Sanders ran the meeting

Safety Update

Jeff Nielsen gave the report. The fluctuation in building temperature is due to the unseasonably warm weather and the steam/heating system still operating. Physical plant doesn't want to shut down the heat for the season in case there is cold weather coming.

The department emergency texting notification system will show as 313131 on your cell phones. The text notifications will be used in case power and email systems are down. Please don't block this number if you want to receive emergency texts.

Police have inquired about how we store chemicals and accessibility to students. Chemicals should be stored and controlled so they are not easily accessible.

Groups have been asked to start weekly meetings with a safety moment – 5 minutes talk about safety related to daily activities.

There is an effort to reduce the number of carboys in labs. Pickup has been moved to 2x per week. See Jeff if your group needs longer term storage.

Awards

Matt Sanders announced the awards: Etienne Garand has received the Sloan Research Fellowships — prestigious and competitive awards given to promising young researchers in the early stages of their careers.

Tracy Drier, master scientific glassblower, has been selected to receive the 2016 Chancellor's Hilldale Award for Excellence in Research for Critical Support. The award is given by the Professional Development and Recognition Committee of the Academic Staff Assembly to recognize outstanding contributions in supporting the research mission of UW-Madison.

Graduate Recruiting Weekends – THANK YOU

Matt Sanders thanked all those involved in a very successful graduate student recruiting weekend. Approximately 75% of the students that received offers visited during the two weekends.

Academic Program Review complete at L&S

Matt Sanders reported that the 10 year Academic Program Review has been completed and the comments from the committee were very good. Specifically, the department received high marks for teaching innovation, outreach, and minority recruiting efforts.

Administrative Update

Pat Egan reported that effort reporting is about 80% complete and we hope to finish within the next month.

There have been issues with getting reimbursements approved if the travel was more than a day on either side of the business purpose. If travel is outside of that window, a cost comparison must be submitted to prove extra costs weren't incurred.

Faculty Senate Report

Judith Burstyn reported. The library committee has proposed a depository to house all UW publications. The item will be re-visited at future meetings.

The HR policy on Children in the work place was affirmed by the senate.

Discussion of the implementation of the University Research Council (URC). The URC will provide advice and consultation to the leadership team of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education (VCRGE) regarding the research enterprise on campus. At a future date, to be decided by the VCRGE and the University Committee (UC), the UC and Senate will incorporate URC functions into Faculty Policy & Procedures (FP&P), constituting it as the governance body for the VCRGE.

Other Announcements

Ariel Andrea reported that the library assistant will be moving from the chemistry building.

Chemistry Building Project and Fundraising

John Moore reported that the building design process is finally started up again. However, the anticipated ground breaking for construction will most likely be in August 2017. Plans for the use of the Medical Sciences Center have been finalized for temporarily housing classes and labs during the new building construction.

John emphasized the importance of fundraising and showing support for the building project by the chemistry employees. As Nick Jaeger is raising donations, it would be helpful for him to have backing by all the department employees. To help encourage fundraising from the department, John and Betty have offered to match donations to the building project up to a total of \$50K (\$5K match per person). The fundraising efforts will be facilitated by the UW Foundation and more information will be forthcoming.

Remarks Concerning Staffing

Matt Sanders clarified the budget solutions and hiring freeze instituted by L&S as part of the campus wide budget reductions. Chemistry has a very strong and committed staff and everyone is essential in the mission of the department.

Current selections for department leadership are underway, including the Provisional Balloting to confirm Bob McMahon's last year as chair and the Chair Canvassing Committee to select next year's associate chair and chair elect – chaired by Gil Nathanson

Remarks concerning update of Chemistry Structure, Policy, and Procedures

Matt Sanders reported. The policies and procedures for the department are contained in the "Harriman Document" which includes tenure and faculty promotions. The department is currently in the process of updating the document to reflect recent changes.

With no additional business brought to the Department Committee, the meeting was adjourned after a motion from John Moore and Judith Burstyn.