

Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting

1:30 Tuesday, April 12, 2016, Room 9341

(Professors Berry, Bertram, Brunold, Burke, Burstyn, Choi, Coon, Fredrickson, Garand, Gellman, Goldsmith, Hamers, Hermans, Jin, Kiessling, Landis, McMahon, Moore, Nathanson, Schmidt, Sibert, Skinner, Smith, Stahl, Weisshaar, Wright, Yoon attending.)

Rachel Bain, Desire Bates, Stephen Block, Arrietta Clauss, Pam Doolittle, Libby Dowdall, Tracey Drier, Pat Egan, Bruce Goldade, Iliia Guzei, Jeanne Hamers, Paul McGuire, Steve Myers, Nathan Neff-Mallon, Jeff Nielsen, Nick Riley, Cheri Rossi, Matt Sanders, Alan Silver, Sarah Specht, Cheri Stephens, Karen Stephens, Cecilia Stodd, Danielle Tesch, Kris Turkow, Martha Vestling, Chad Wilkinson also attended.)

Open Session

Minutes of the previous meeting (03/08/16) were approved on a voice vote.

Announcements and Reports

Safety Update

Jeff Nielsen gave the report. Jeff presented a table of incidents that had occurred in the Department during March, together with a summary for the Academic Year 2015-16. Incidents were classified as Exposure, Injury, or Other. Two of these events were “near misses”, which means the potential for injury or exposure was significant, but no injury actually occurred. Five incidents included chemical exposure, small cuts, and inhalation exposure; there were two “near misses”.

The Safety Committee strongly encourages “safety minutes” at the beginning of each meeting.

One of the most significant problems we have encountered recently has been that administrative personnel don't always know which students, undergrads, visitors, etc are in each lab at any given time. The PI or the Chemical Safety Officer knows, but they are not always the ones to first respond to an incident. Groups need to document who might be working in their labs, and also that those people have been trained in the techniques they are using. Jeff mentioned John Berry's group as a case of good documentation that everyone has been trained.

Awards

Bob McMahon announced the awards: JR Schmidt will be the Journal of Physical Chemistry-C Lecturer at the August ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia. Bob Hamers was selected as the Langmuir Lecturer. Laura Kiessling has received the Gibbs Medal from the Chicago Section of the ACS. Etienne Garand has received an American Society for Mass Spectrometry Research Award. Stephen Block has been selected as a recipient of a College of Letters & Science Early Career Award.

Administrative Update

Pat Egan reminded faculty that student Summer appointment sheets were due April 1, and that PI Summer salary info is due April 27.

ACS is no longer requesting PMCID numbers (required for articles published with NIH funding) for free. Progress reports cannot be submitted for non-compliant articles.

A reminder also that Individual Development Plans (IDP) are required for all NIH-sponsored grad students and postdocs.

Faculty Senate Report

Judith Burstyn reported. Laura Kiessling's Hilldale Award was announced. One important item of discussion was the layoff provisions of Faculty Policies and Procedures. The Regents adopted new policies on tenure at their March meeting, policies at odds with recommendations from the Faculty Senate.

Chemistry Building Project

John Moore reported that there will be a colloquium presentation on Friday, April 15, at 3:30. This will be followed by a reception and poster session concerning the layout and construction of the new building. There will be two all-day planning sessions next week to further the design.

Jeff Nielsen pointed out that before the new building is started, we will need to clear out significant spaces for storage. He is arranging with Reynolds for off-site storage. It will be unheated, and cost \$0.55/sq ft, which will need to be paid by PIs. We will have limited storage in the existing buildings.

Academic Calendar Changes

Bob McMahon reported that he had recently been informed of an initiative to tweak the academic calendar. The number of days of instruction would change slightly. More on this as we learn it.

Business

Discovery to Product (D2P) Program

Robert Pozner from D2P gave a presentation. D2P is a partnership between UW and WARF, sponsored by the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education's office. They help with intellectual property, commercialization services, and consulting. They have "Pre-Igniter" classes (4 hours) and a five-week "Igniter" course to help researchers bring ideas to the market.

Course Approvals – Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Jeanne Hamers presented the need for several new courses. These include "Study Abroad" courses Chemistry 155, 355 and 555 at the Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced levels; Topics courses Chemistry 375 and 575 at the Intermediate and Advanced levels; and "Lecture-Only" courses Chemistry 105 and 106 to correspond to Chemistry 103 and 104. (Lab-Only versions of Chem 103 and 104 have been approved already, Chem 101 and 102.) **All proposals were approved on voice votes with no negatives.**

Remarks Concerning Climate Surveys

Bob McMahon thanked the GSFLC for the work they did on the climate and mental health survey which has been a major topic of discussion in the Department recently. Faculty and staff turnout for their presentation was quite good. We also have the results of the WISELI survey which will be presented during finals week. The Department is moving forward on determining how to structure committee(s) that will respond to points raised by the students.

With no additional business brought to the Department Committee, the meeting was adjourned after a motion from John Berry and Bob Hamers.

May 3, 2016. MJS