

Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting

1:30 Tuesday, December 13, 2016, Room 9341

(Professors Berry, Brunold, Burke, Burstyn, Cui, Garand, Gellman, Goldsmith, Jin, McMahon, Moore, Nathanson, Shakhashiri, Sibert, Skinner, Smith, Stahl, Weisshaar, Yethiraj, Yoon, Zanni attending.

Ariel Andrea, Rachel Bain, Jessica Baran, Cheri Barta, Stephen Block, Arrietta Clauss, Pam Doolittle, Libby Dowdall, Tracy Drier, Pat Egan, Ilia Guzei, Jeanne Hamers, Paul McGuire, Jeff Nielsen, Vanessa Orr, Dennis Reece, Matt Sanders, Mike Schwartz, Bob Shanks, Alan Silver, Cheri Stephens, Karen Stephens, Martha Vestling, Chad Wilkinson also attended.)

Open Session

Minutes of the last meeting (11/08/16) were approved on a voice vote.

Announcements and Reports

Safety Update

Jeff Nielsen cautioned to watch for icy conditions with Winter approaching. Slips, trips and falls are a leading cause of injuries nationwide. It's not just ice that leads to falls. A recent coffee spill was not cleaned up and someone slipped on that, hurting themselves in the process.

Jeff has been under scrutiny for electrical safety. Inspections have resulted in admonitions that appliances cannot be plugged into plug strips. Plug strips are acceptable for computers, printers, scanners and so on. He will be focusing on improving the break rooms, and adding electricity as necessary.

The nitrogen in the fill room was shut off when someone turned off the main control valve. Training of all users is critical to maintaining the service for everyone.

Bob McMahon pointed out an article that has been shared among faculty in the Organic Path. This concerns the relatively higher toxicity of hexane over that of pentane or heptane. Apparently they are metabolized differently. We should start considering this in deciding which bulk solvents to purchase. The Safety Committee will review this report and make a recommendation to the Department.

Administrative Update

Pat Egan asked the faculty to let their coordinators know if they would be participating in Grad Recruiting in February and/or March.

Pat announced that University Staff should pay close attention to their holiday hours this year. Christmas Eve and New Years Eve are on Saturdays this year, and the normal days off will become floating holidays. Because University Staff are paid on an annual basis, these days must be used before December 30 or they will be lost.

We try to give student hourlies a raise during the year. If you have anyone you want to give a raise to, let Char and Pat know.

Holiday Luncheon will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, December 14.

New Staff Member

Jeanne Hamers introduced Jessica Baran, new Program Associate in the Undergraduate Chemistry Office.

Faculty Recruiting

Tehshik Yoon reported that we have already interviewed four faculty candidates, another candidate will be here tomorrow and Thursday, and we will interview another candidate next week. There will be a reception on the 8th floor Thursday at 3:30 for a candidate. We have three more scheduled to visit in

January, and we have received permission to interview one more Materials candidate. Jim Maynard has recorded the RPs and seminars. We will meet Wednesday, December 21 at 3:30 in Room 9341 to discuss first impressions of the candidates we have seen by then.

Report on the Building Project

John Moore thanked the donors who contributed to the building; the matching goal has been fully met. The Board of Regents approved the 35% design report, and presumably the State Building Commission will approve it tomorrow. Detailed planning to take the design to 100% will begin January 9. Meetings during that week will involve Lab Directors and users of the new lecture halls. We expect construction to begin November 2017 and last for two years.

Bob McMahon thanked John Moore for managing the design of the project, and he thanked John and Betty Moore for their willingness to extend significant matching funds. Bob acknowledged that there is still some uncertainty in the position of the State Building Commission, stemming from the fact that only \$86.5M (80%) has been secured so far for a project that was enumerated at \$107-\$108M. They are used to expecting projects to be fully funded before they are approved. Bob will discuss the funding package in more detail at today's Executive Committee Meeting.

Climate Task Force Report

Judith Burstyn reported that we will hear soon about coordinating all the activities of the Department that affect climate. The Graduate Curriculum Committee is working on redesigning our group joining process.

Faculty Senate Report

Judith Burstyn reported that the campus's post-tenure review process did not get sent to the Regents because the new Regents' policy was changed to give the Deans of each College more say. The two policies must be reconciled and approved by April 7.

The Faculty Senate approved a motion to support undocumented students.

Nominating Chemistry for a Departmental Award from UW System

Bob McMahon announced that Ilia Guzei and Desiree Bates were spearheading an effort to nominate the Department for this award.

On-Line Course Evaluations

Jeanne Hamers announced that almost all courses now have some component of on-line course evaluations. Cheri Stephens helped enormously in this process. The response rate is about 65% for faculty evaluations, 60% for TA evaluations. Faculty can see the results only after their final grades are submitted.

Business

Report on Changes to the Chemistry Library

The Library will close to circulation after December 23. The space will be open to students studying through Fall 2017; the books will be gone, but reference materials will be there. Let Ariel know if there are things you use frequently in the Library, and she will arrange to have them available. Interlibrary loan default delivery site can no longer be the Chemistry Library. Course reserves have been moved to College Library. If you tell Ariel, she can have a different site for reserves, e.g. Steenbock.

Report on Changes to the Academic Calendar

Matt Sanders described the changes. We will have roughly 150 minutes less for TR or MWF classes. We will also have our 1-day-a-week discussions and labs reduced to 13 days from the current 14. This should help us with TA work load.

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