

Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting

1:30 Tuesday, February 9, 2016, Room 9341

(Professors Berry, Bertram, Brunold, Burke, Burstyn, Cavagnero, Choi, Cui, Ediger, Garand, Gellman, Goldsmith, Hamers, Hermans, Jin, Kiessling, Landis, McMahon, Moore, Nathanson, Raines, Schmidt, Sibert, Skinner, Smith, Stahl, Woods, Wright, Yoon, Zanni attending.

Rachel Bain, Desiree Bates, Arrietta Clauss, Pam Doolittle, Tracy Drier, Pat Egan, Iliia Guzei, Jeanne Hamers, Kristi Heming, Heike Hofstetter, Sue Martin-Zernicke, Paul McGuire, Jeff Nielsen, Dennis Reece, Cheri Rossi, Matt Sanders, Rodney Schreiner, Bob Shanks, April Sonnentag, Sarah Specht, Karen Stephens, Cecilia Stodd, Danielle Tesch, Kris Turkow, Martha Vestling, Chad Wilkinson, Jim Zernicke also attended.)

Open Session

Minutes of the previous meeting (12/08/15) were approved on a voice vote.

Announcements and Reports

Safety Update

Jeff Nielsen gave the report. The latest concentration by the Fire Department is egress paths. Jeff has had to remove the tables, chairs and vending machines from the exit on the west side of the Daniels building. EH&S has a new program for laser safety. They will be hiring a person devoted to this aspect of safety. Lasers will need to be registered with EH&S, and users will need to pass an exam to use a laser. Etienne Garand described the early version of the registration and exam as “bumpy”, but he believes it will get better.

Electrical safety has been a previous target. We need to avoid using plug strips as much as possible. If you have electrical power needs, let Jeff Nielsen know, and we will begin installing outlets as we need to.

All electrical power on the 7th floor of Daniels will be shut down this Friday for about an hour. The elevator will work, but there will be no lights in the car.

“Office Hours”

Tehshik Yoon introduced Alyssa Levy-Hussen, a therapist with UHS. She talked about increasing connections between UHS and Chemistry. There will be a drop-in mental health service offered to Chemistry grad students twice a month, once in Chemistry and once outside Chemistry. One goal is to see students who are in distress sooner rather than later.

Awards

Bob McMahon Announced the awards. Kyoung-Shin Choi was named a Vilas Associate; John Moore received the Van Hise Outreach Teaching Award; Ying Ge received the Georges Guiochon Faculty Fellowship; Qiang Cui has received a Kellett Mid-Career Award; Randy Goldsmith received the Benjamin Smith Reynolds Award for Excellence in Teaching; and Laura Kiessling received a Hilldale Award.

Administrative Update

Pat Egan reported that there will be new consequences for not meeting the effort reporting deadlines – no support will be received from RSP until the reports are completed, and any costs associated with unfulfilled Effort reports will be transferred to the Department.

There will be a workshop on “Maximizing Your Benefits” Wednesday in 9341.

Faculty Senate Report

Judith Burstyn reported. There have been some mergers of departments, especially among the languages. Faculty senators have been reapportioned, but Chemistry has not changed.

A major part of the last meeting was the report of the Sexual Assault Climate Survey Committee. A common survey was administered to students at AAU schools. The statistics on how many students have been harassed or assaulted by faculty and staff are disturbing; sexual assault is far too common on our campuses. In general, UW-Madison numbers are in line with numbers nationally.

Discussion of the implementation of new rules continues. The Regents' Education Committee has approved the new rules. Faculty should educate themselves as to what is contained in the new rules.

Update on Graduate Admissions and Recruiting Weekends

Arrietta Clauss reported that we had over 800 applications, and have made 240 offers. Although fewer women than men applied, offers to women were made at the same rate as offers to men. We made 25 offers to 65 AOF candidates.

A Facebook group has been created for the students we have made offers to. 9 current graduate students monitor it and answer questions.

We nominated 8 students as incoming Biotech Trainees – 5 will receive offers. Arrietta is also working to get some Genomic Sciences Trainee candidates identified.

Tim Grese from Eli Lilly has been working with Arrietta to establish a Summer internship for two of our incoming students – they would go to Lilly in the Summer before they started here.

Arrietta is also working on getting more of our students AOF offers.

Update on Graduate Course Grade Requirements

Arrietta Clauss reported on a recent meeting of the Graduate Curriculum Committee. Department official policy has been that a course for which a student has received a grade of BC will not contribute to the minor or major. But the Grad School allows those courses, only requiring a GPA of 3.0 for graduation. And practice in the Department has been that not all students were made to retake these courses. So Grad Curriculum Committee agreed that the decision on retaking or not would be left to the major professor.

Chemistry Building Project

Bob McMahon reported that the Governor has now signed the contract to allow the next phase of the Chemistry building design – the 35% design report – to proceed.

Department Chair Search Committee

Bob McMahon reported that he has appointed a committee to conduct the search for the next Department Chair – Gil Nathanson will chair this committee.

Women in Leadership

Desiree Bates reported that there will be a March 4 colloquium presented by Binu Palta Hill from the UW Business School. Binu is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion, and has developed programs that have increased diversity in the Business School substantially.

Business

Endorsement of Memorandum of Understanding for REACH Program

Clark Landis gave the presentation. The goal of REACH is to make active learning pervasive in our large undergraduate classes. REACH will be supporting the Chemistry initiative with about \$259K over the next 2 years. The motion from the General Chemistry Committee is to endorse the REACH Memorandum of Understanding. **The motion was passed on a voice vote with no negatives.**

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