



The Universities of Wisconsin System Administration

Academic Staff Committee

Contact: Cayla Leikin

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February 17, 2026

1:00-2:00

Teams or Room 126 780 Regent St

ATTENDEES: Holly Cho, Sarah Ebben, Cayla Leikin, Jack Moldenhauer, Lindsey Smeaton, Ka Lia Smith

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Jenna Swartz

AGENDA

1. Opening of meeting (Cayla)
 - a. Committee membership update- Shanna Nifoussi has resigned from Academic Staff Committee
2. 2026 ASC Chair and Secretary elections
 - a. Chair Election
 - Nominees: Cayla Leikin
 - Cayla Leikin to serve as Chair
 - b. Secretary Election
 - Nominees: Sarah Ebben
 - Sarah Ebben to serve as Secretary
3. Subcommittee Assignments (All)
 - a. **Awards**- Ka Lia Smith, Jenna Swartz, Jack Moldenhauer
 - b. **Communications**- Sarah Ebben, Holly Cho, Jenna Swartz
 - c. **Elections**- Ka Lia Smith, Jenna Swartz, Lindsey Smeaton
 - d. **Personnel Policies/Bylaws and Divisional Representation**- Cayla Leikin, Sarah Ebben, Lindsey Smeaton
 - e. **Resolution Drafting**- Cayla Leikin, Ka Lia Smith, Jack Moldenhauer
 - f. **UWSA Policy Review and HR Liaison**- Sarah Ebben, Jack Moldenhauer, Holly Cho
 - **Request**- returning members schedule a meeting for the subcommittee before March meeting to:
 - Review proposed chapter 2 revisions to the ASC handbook for subcommittee responsibilities
 - Set goals for the year
4. Updates from divisions (All)
 - a. OPLR- Hired for a new media position

- b. UWSA- Law Days next week (sign up for webinars- some might be particularly useful as members of the ASC); OESS hired a new project manager for strategic enrollment
 - c. UWSS- N/A
5. Statewide Rep update (Cayla)
- a. Meeting on January 30
 - b. From academic staff representatives session-
 - Security roles in Workday
 - Policy prioritization for FY 2027- Shared governance has been part of the process for 2 years
 - Potential strategy- ask policy owners what they know they need to work on in the upcoming fiscal year, and then try to make recommendations of those plans
 - c. From full statewide reps session-
 - President and Regent Bogost's update- Chancellor search and screens, Act 15 funds released, AI discussion groups with students
 - General Counsel update- Copyright policy out for comment
 - Policies update- Policy prioritization for FY2027
 - VP for Academic and Student Affairs update- Act 15 implementation
 - Discussion point- Deloitte contracted to work on strategic plan for UW System
6. Academic Staff Policy and Procedures Update (Sarah)
- a. Working on Grievances and Complaints chapters
 - b. Asked HR to take first attempt at drafting, and then we react to draft and discuss with HR
 - c. Next steps after initial draft is complete- full ASC review, Academic Staff listening sessions, Office of General Counsel and Academic Affairs review, filing with Board of Regents (90-day passive review, but handbook is considered effective at the time of filing)
 - d. Chapter 2 revisions- election of the statewide representatives alternate
7. Brainstorming and open discussion as needed (All)
- a. Meetings with HR subcommittee- have been consistent and productive
 - b. New subcommittee assignments- sheet on Teams site
 - c. Eugene Craven Academic Staff Excellence Award- HR going to discuss with leadership the plans for UWSA awards in 2026
 - d. Access to an Ombuds program for UWSA employees- good topic to bring up with HR in future meetings
 - e. Potential for another Coffee with Jay- target scheduling in June if at all possible

Next meeting March 18

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/uwsa/shared-governance/academic-staff/meetings/>

Persons wishing to appear before the Academic Staff Committee to address an issue on the agenda, or wishing to request an issue be added to the agenda, are urged to contact the Academic Staff Committee Chair (608-263-0221, cayla.leikin@business.wisconsin.edu) to do so. Advance notice is requested so that arrangements can be made to appropriately address an issue, including having background information and key contacts available.