



The Universities of Wisconsin System Administration Academic Staff Committee

Contact: Cayla Leikin (608) 263-0221

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October 15, 2026

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Teams or Room 126 780 Regent St

Attendees: Cayla Leikin, Lindsey Smeaton, Jack Moldenhauer, Sarah Ebben, Jenna Swartz, Ka Lia Smith

Not present: Holly Cho

AGENDA & MINUTES

1. Opening of meeting (Cayla)
2. Subcommittee Updates (All)
 - a. **Awards-** no updates
 - b. **Communications and Events-** planning holiday events
 - i. Hosting 3 events (1 per location):
 1. Dec 2 @ Van Hise- hot chocolate
 2. Dec 9 @ 660- donuts
 3. Dec 16 @ 780- cookie exchange
 - ii. Budget request- will share with HR next week and then with VP Gordon
 - iii. Notify risk management about cookie exchange
 - iv. Brand as opportunity to meet new members of ASC
 - c. **Elections-** coming up quickly
 - i. Launching call for nominations on Monday with Connect story on Tuesday
 1. Need to follow up with IT to ensure we are using the right listserv
 - ii. Ballot opens on November 9
 - iii. Will be helpful for current committee members to talk to 1-3 people and encourage them to run
 - d. **Personnel Policies and Bylaws-** regular meetings continue
 - i. Discussed holiday events- HR was supportive
 - ii. Extended out biweekly calendar sessions
 - iii. Draft handbook with Aaron and Wade- goal to get feedback before meeting next week
 1. Potential to meet with HR more frequently through the end of the year to get the handbook done

- e. **Resolution Drafting**- no updates
- 3. Updates from divisions (All)
 - a. **OPLR**- Stephen Schmid will be retiring in January
 - b. **UWSS**- no updates
 - c. **OBE**- lots of leadership transitions
- 4. ASC Chair Transition (Cayla)
 - a. Cayla will be transitioning into an interim limited appointment position and will no longer be able to serve on the ASC
 - b. Call for interest in serving as interim chair- term would be Oct 18 through Jan meeting
 - i. If interested, contact Cayla via email
 - c. Tasks during that time:
 - i. Reaching out to newly elected committee members
 - ii. Sharing Teams access and resources
 - iii. Invitation/strong encouragement to attend the holiday events
 - iv. Update website with new members
- 5. Update on Proposed Future Awards (Cayla/Sarah)
 - a. Leadership recognizes the importance of awards for morale
 - b. Fund names "professional staff" as being eligible- would seem to include academic and university staff
 - c. Proposal would be to have more awards per year with a larger monetary award to be open to academic staff and university staff
 - i. Anyone would be able to nominate members of the academic staff and university staff
 - ii. HR would collect nominations and a committee of representatives from the ASC and USC would select finalists to recommend
 - iii. VPs would make final decision about who receives awards
 - iv. Awards would be given at the Years of Service Awards Ceremony in the summer
- 6. Brainstorming and open discussion as needed (All)
 - a. Request for meeting with Interim President- waiting for other meetings get scheduled
 - i. Could have a new president named very soon- impacting bandwidth for scheduling
 - ii. New ASC committee members starting in January- could be advantageous to meet then
 - b. Statewide Rep Update
 - i. In morning meeting, elected chair, vice chair, and secretary
 - ii. UW-Stout updated academic staff handbook- removed ability to grieve performance reviews
 - iii. Many campuses have been having issues with positions being re-classified as limited
 - iv. Concerns with pay rates and compensation
 - v. Concerns about ICE on campus
 - vi. Issues with emergencies and inclement weather communications
 - c. Concern about increase in health insurance premiums for upcoming benefit year

Next meeting November 11

<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@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.