

# ***Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting***

*1:30 Tuesday, April 11, 2017, Room 9341*

Professors Berry, Bertram, Brunold, Burke, Choi, Coon, Cui, Ediger, Hermans, Jin, McMahon, Moore, Schmidt, Sibert, Smith, Weisshaar, Wright attending.

Ariel Andrea, Rachel Bain, Desiree Bates, Arrietta Clauss, Libby Dowdall, Kayla Driscoll, Bob Duessler, Pat Egan, Bruce Goldade, Ilia Guzei, Jeanne Hamers, Char Horsfall, Tony Jacob, Paul McGuire, Vanessa Orr, Cheri Rossi, Bob Shanks, Alan Silver, Chad Skemp, Cheri Stephens, Karen Stephens, Cecilia Stodd, Martha Vestling, Chad Wilkinson, Jim Zernicke also attended.

## ***Open Session***

**Minutes of the last meeting (03/14/17) were approved on a voice vote.**

### **Announcements and Reports**

#### **Safety Update**

Ive Hermans reported that there have been a number of recent glass breakage incidents. Perhaps labs can be redesigned, or better training implemented, to minimize these incidents.

#### **Administrative Update**

Pat Egan reminded faculty that Summer grad student appointments are due April 12. Summer salary requests for faculty are also due soon.

Chemistry Awards Ceremony is on April 28 at 3:30, with a reception for the Department starting at 3 in the Shain Atrium.

Graduation ceremony is on May 12, starting at 3 PM.

#### **Faculty Recruiting**

Bob McMahon thanked the Faculty Recruiting Committee – Tehshik Yoon, Steve Burke, Kyoung-Shin Choi, Sam Gellman, Jen Schomaker, Shannon Stahl and Jim Weisshaar – for the work they did to recruit several excellent young faculty to Madison.

#### **Report on the Building Project**

Bob McMahon reported that there has been no progress on the building design.

#### **Climate Task Force Report**

Bob McMahon reported that the Task Force met with the Chemistry Board of Advisers in March concerning climate issues. It was the first time all three groups had met together with the steering committee. They had a lively discussion with the Board.

#### **Undergrad Poster Session**

Cheri Barta reminded the Department that the Awards Ceremony on April 28 will be followed by an undergraduate poster session.

#### **March for Science**

Cheri Barta announced that the local section of the ACS is promoting the March for Science on April 22, starting at James Madison Park. Signs will be available.

### **Business**

#### **Report on Diversity Recruitment - REU and CHOPs**

Mark Ediger reported the results of last year's CHOPs efforts – we hosted 15 visitors, 12 of them applied, 6 were accepted, and 3 decided to come to Madison for Graduate School.

The CHOPs committee this year will be Arrietta Clauss, Desiree Bates, Rob McClain and Mike Schwartz. They are trying to find ways to make the program more effective. One suggestion is to increase the one-on-one interaction time with faculty during the visit. For example, if faculty could spend perhaps 30 minutes with each of two candidates, then the students may feel more connected with the program, and we will have more information with which to evaluate the close decisions when it comes time to do grad admissions. If fifteen-twenty faculty each volunteered to spend an hour talking to students during the CHOPs program, it could make a big difference. Where else can one hour of time have more impact on diversity?

The CHOPs program will be run September 14-16 this year.

Bob McMahan also reported that he would be going to the OXIDE diversity workshop next week.

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

May 5, 2017. MJS