

Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting

1:30 Tuesday, December 8, 2015, Room 9341

(Professors Andrew, Berry, Brunold, Burke, Burstyn, Choi, Coon, Ediger, Fredrickson, Garand, Goldsmith, Hamers, Jin, Moore, Nathanson, Schmidt, Skinner, Smith, Weisshaar, Yoon, Zanni attending.)

Ariel Andrea, Rachel Bain, Desiree Bates, Stephen Block, Arrietta Clauss, Libby Dowdall, Pat Egan, Iliia Guzei, Jeanne Hamers, Heike Hofstetter, Paul Hooker, Tony Jacob, Aaron McCoy, Paul McGuire, Steve Myers, Jeff Nielsen, Cheri Rossi, Matt Sanders, Bob Shanks, Alan Silver, Cheri Stephens, Karen Stephens, Cecilia Stodd, Danielle Tesch, Martha Vestling, Mary Weidner, Chad Wilkinson also attended.)

Open Session

Since Bob McMahon is away, Associate Chair Lloyd Smith ran the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting (11/10/15) were approved on a voice vote.

Announcements and Reports

Safety Update

Jeff Nielsen gave the report. There have been 3 incidents since the last meeting – 2 cuts and a minor explosion. Jeff met with the group CHOs (Chemical Hygiene Officers). One topic of discussion was required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in research labs – goggles, lab coats, gloves. Jeff will be taking some actions to reduce the volume of flammable liquids on the floors.

Administrative Update

Pat Egan reminded the group of the January 5 deadline for submitting reimbursements for travel more than 90 days ago. Realistically this means we need everything by about December 18. The College and University are demanding more information all the time. Please save information about conferences you go to and file that information with the receipts.

The Business Office will be providing another training session for Aestiva ordering, travel rules, and eReimbursement. This will be geared to 1st year students, but others could attend. January 15, 11 AM.

Faculty Senate Report

Judith Burstyn reported. There is ongoing discussion at the system level with respect to new tenure rules. A new policy (better than the previous version) has been passed concerning post-tenure review. Program discontinuation will be grounds for layoff. Leaders here are hoping that the UW-Madison policies will serve as models for System policies.

Bob Hamers is Chair of the Faculty Committee on Compensation and Economic Benefits. They are discussing parental leave for faculty and staff, and even discussed graduate student parental leave.

Applications for Chemistry Department Undergrad Scholarships

Jeanne Hamers announced that the application period will open December 28, and close six weeks later on Feb. 10. Please encourage your students to apply.

Department Faculty/Staff Holiday Luncheon - Wednesday, December 9

Taylor Teaching Award Ceremony - Friday, December 11

Business

Update on REACH Program

JR Schmidt gave the presentation. REACH stands for Redesign for Active Learning in High-Enrollment Courses. It is intended to ensure that student engagement and learning are increased in large classes, like General Chemistry. The proposal originated from the upper administration, and the main players are Chemistry, Math and Physics.

Stage 1 was completed last Summer. Stage 2, "Innovate and Design", is under way. What will a course look like? Currently our planning is specific to Chemistry 103 and Chemistry 104, and ALL Chem 103-104 lecture sections will be involved in the next several years. We've been doing a lot of this increased activity already.

The Chemistry REACH Executive Committee – Clark Landis, Ned Sibert, Judith Burstyn, and Rachel Bain – has requested about \$400K from the program.

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

December 21, 2015. MJS