

Minutes

CoE Committee Advocating for Staff Interests (CASI)

Wednesday, June 4th 2025

10:15 – 11:45 AM

Room 2188 Mechanical Engineering

CoE CASI Mission:

The College of Engineering Committee Advocating for Staff Interests (CASI) is a shared governance body of elected representatives, who serve and advocate for the interests of university and academic staff by advising the College of Engineering dean and leadership.

Read the CASI Mission Statement and Values: <https://casi.engr.wisc.edu/mission-and-values/>

Attendees: Nate, Daniel, Kelly, Jackie, Jason, Angela (plus 2 guests)

Virtual attendees: Brian Nunez (Mary Alt), Colin Vanden Huevel (Sara T-P Alt), Zach, Justin (plus 9 guests)

Absent: Andi, Libby, Carly

Schedule:

10:15 AM – 10:17 AM Call to Order & Consent Agenda

N. Jung

- Approval of Minutes
 - Wed. May 7th: <https://casi.engr.wisc.edu/meeting-summaries/#past-meeting-minutes>
Motion to accept: Nate, 2nd Angela, Approved

10:17 AM – 11:35 AM Business

N. Jung/D. Gaona

- CASI Election Results: 2 new members: Jennifer Detlor, Rob Kohlhepp; Jackie, Nate, Mary (interim) re-elected.
- CASI Chair Nominations: Nate nominates Daniel for chair, 2nd Kelly.
 - Co-Chair nomination from Daniel: Sara T-P; Jackie commented that Sara has not attended meeting in person for quite some time and a co-chair must be in person, Sara's alternate confirmed she has stated this will happen (Jackie 2nd the nomination)
 - **ACTION ITEM:** need to re-visit Bylaws to better define this process; suggestion to ask for nominations for chair and co-chair at April meeting, so people who are interested can make their voice heard (also seems like a lot of off-line conversations are happening around the chair/co-chair nominations).
- (moved up) Guest: Dorota A. Grejner-Brzezinka
 - Vice Chancellor for Research (started Sept 1, 2024); formally faculty at Ohio State University, global positioning systems (GPS) – part of early discovery to make this available to everyday people (not just the Department of Defense); was chair in CEE and Dean for Research in Engineering
 - Position was split between grad school and office of research (now combined)
 - Goal is to create a university-wide network to be ready for opportunities/collaborations
 - Works with Deans across campus
 - Large federal funding assistance
 - Federal government EOs have severely and negatively affected research; working very closely with UW legal and RSP; defending research operations and academic freedom; situation is very unpredictable



- Certain level of optimism - how to strengthen and demonstrate research impact and how to position the university to support the future
- Asked what CASI does and our impact (we want to understand how different things can affect COE and then provide an outlet, etc.)
- “We are all in this together”
 - No one knew the affects/damage
 - Our research enterprise is strong
 - Staff support units and at campus level
 - Want to better align research and staff to be more streamlined/help each other
 - UW (for the most part) has not been drastically affected – nothing that would lead to large losses (Bridge Funding has helped some)
 - Office is looking at allocations and ways to support areas with federal funding losses
 - Ongoing assault on indirect funding (15%) – does not cover our costs at this rate
- Question: what about staff on soft money? Bridge Funding, central funds; units colleges will help bridge those affected
- Small task force looking at projects that have been cut/reduced/etc.
 - Don’t want to lose talent
 - Furloughs? Hope advocacy will limit this from happening
- Executive Action Impacts (see above)
- CASI Coalition Letter Update:
 - Letter was sent and signed by a few groups; result was a meeting with some campus leaders (Nate attended); tensions with the understanding of TTC; TTC project is done, but OHR is working on Staff Development/Career Assistance/etc.; this needs to start at the DIVISION level and then go to OHR (70/20/10 model: 70-local professional development, 20-campus level PD, 10-off campus PD)
 - Questions:
 - Jackie: do divisions know they are supposed to be providing this?
 - Nicole S.: ASEC also agreed there are groups/concerns specifically with progression for academic staff
 - Colin: did OHR have any comments related to department level “refusals”?
 - What is the process? When do you escalate? What if you don’t trust your HR (or anyone in your division)?
 - Example: No one in COE is a Grad Program Manager, but other divisions do. People are told COE does not allow this position level (not the only title mentioned as not existing/available in COE: ex. Fin Spec 3, HR Generalists (none at dept level)
 - If staff want a promotion/progress in career, best/only option is to leave COE
 - University Staff: some roles are at the highest levels and can’t move to academic staff role
 - Workday will change MANY roles/responsibilities for staff
- July Meeting: currently scheduled for week of July 4 (Wed, July 2); Colin motion to cancel – no 2nd, meeting will remain on July 2.
- Dean Transition: Welcome breakfast for staff on June 16 in EH lobby (9-10am)
- Workday Transition: Kelly – finance people in COE doing a lot of work; Finance Facilitators Teams groups discussing MANY things not working/unable to test/etc.
- Updates from Leadership: Thank you to those that attended Dean Robertson’s ice cream social
- Professional Development Events: check CASI website – we are adding things to our calendar (listed as non-CASI event); Head shots will be on June 11 – 25 slots, look for email signup (will collect a wait list to gauge interest)
- Sub-Committee Reports
 - Planning/Tending
 - June Headshot Event (see above)
 - Communications resources tab on website updated
 - Recognition and Retention



- Kudos for CASI ~33 submissions, first drawing for swag prizes will happen at July meeting (CASI board cannot win)
- May Luncheon great turnout (~130 people)
- Budget Year End Review on budget (see Box folder spreadsheet)

11:35 AM – 11:40 AM	Updates from CASI members, if applicable none	N. Jung/D. Gaona
11:40 AM – 11:45 AM	Questions from Constituents, if time permits none	N. Jung/D. Gaona
11:45 AM	Adjourn Motion Jackie, 2 nd Kelly (CASI members – please remember to leave your name table tent on the table at the end of the meeting)	N. Jung/D. Gaona

Next Meeting – Date – Wednesday July 2nd, 2025 (subject to change based on vote in June meeting)
Time – 10:15-11:45
Location: Mechanical Engineering Room 2188 or Teams

TEAMS link for meeting:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 289 760 222 796

Passcode: iLemjW

Join on a video conferencing device:

Tenant key: wisc@m.webex.com

Video ID: 114 626 550 6

[More info](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Feel free to [Connect with CASI](#) (NetID required). Do you have something you want to share with CASI? You may connect with us via this web form.
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