



**Committee Advocating
for Staff Interests**
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Minutes

CoE Committee Advocating for Staff Interests (CASI)

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

11:00 – 12:30 PM

Room 1003 Engineering Centers Building

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: Daniel, Sara T-P, Rob, Jackie, Angela, Jennifer, Mary, Zach (plus 2 guests)

Virtual attendees: Nate, Justin, Jason (late) (plus 8 guests)

Absent: Carly, Kelly (maternity leave)

Schedule:

11:00 AM – 11:10 AM Call to Order & Consent Agenda

D. Gaona

- Approval of July Minutes
 - Wed. July 2nd: <https://casi.engr.wisc.edu/meeting-summaries/#past-meeting-minutes>
 - **Motion to accept: Zach, 2nd Mary, Approved**

11:10 AM – 12:20 PM Business

D. Gaona/STP

- This year's meetings:
 - 11am-12:30pm **new time!**
 - Mechanical Engineering 2180 and Engineering Hall 4610 **watch emails/website!**
- Guest: Donald Gillian-Daniel (**COE Director of Professional Development**)
 - New onboarding program
 - **Pilot program for new research faculty as a way to build relationships, navigate systems (how to buy things, mentoring, networking, research culture, etc.)**
 - **Don will sent flyer to Daniel to share – he is emailing all new faculty an invitation**
 - **9 total meetings: kickoff August 22 in ME Atrium, then 2-per-month x 2 hour meetings (Sept, Oct, Jan, Feb) – single topic for each meeting/department involvement**
 - **Dept tables at the kick off meeting (Donald/team have met with DAs about the program, DAs are in charge of deciding/planning who will participate from each department) – goal is to have department representatives at EVERY session (DAs to decide WHO will attend)**
 - **Focus of these sessions is on the people – who the contacts are in the college (or department) for various tasks specific to faculty**
 - **Building a Canvas site that will hold all of the information/materials/resources**
 - **Dept onboarding processes vs. college-level onboarding**
 - **Faculty cohorts (6 for this fall, may include 2024/early 2025 hires)**
 - **Question? What is the communication plan for this program to staff? (still in development)**



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- If you have ideas for panelists, etc. for this program, please email Don (dldaniel@wisc.edu)
- CASI Coalition Letter – quick follow-up: SMPH letter to leadership re TTC/progression/promotion – met with leadership, but putting on a pause for now
- Updates from Leadership: (David Noyce)
 - 1410 building (above ground) demolition complete; Findorff to start working on NE area for new building then remove 1410 basement; watch for another shift in Engineering Drive
 - Enrollment for incoming freshmen 1525-1540 students (BIG group!); question re course load for faculty/staff and international students (not seeing visa issues at this time)
 - Pay increase update? (Dean Ranjan said board of regents is meeting this month – will know more after)
- Budget update (Dean Ranjan): mission is primary even with budget cut (5%)
 - Committee has been formed to look at future student numbers, staffing numbers, faculty numbers, etc. (department Chairs are the “drivers” to know what they need and report to college)
 - Research faculty teaching ~40% (+ 40% research + 20% support?etc.)
 - Chairs need to have flexibility with staff workloads – faculty #s AND grants \$\$\$
 - Student-driven staffing (# of advisors to support students PLUS # of teaching lab support staff to support students)
 - Dean will hold office hours for people to drop in to ask questions, etc. (will be in departments)
 - Plans to hire a Chief Strategy Office (not a Chief of Staff) – someone who will support staff; Dean wants to know what CASI needs (questions after he left: was this a directive? **ACTION ITEM: Daniel/Sara T-P to email Dean follow-up email to ask questions**)
 - Request to normalize the relationship between CASI and the Dean; questions re CASI's involvement with APC (Academic Planning Committee?) – this deals with instruction; does he want a CASI representative on his committee looking at staffing?
- Budget Ad-Hoc Subcommittee update:
 - Will schedule to meet after August meeting wanted to wait to schedule until after this meeting
 - Daniel, Nate, Zach, Rob, Jackie, Kelly
- Sub-Committee Reports **ACTION ITEM: If you are not listed on a committee, contact Daniel or Sara T-P!** (see next page)
 - CASI Planning/Tending
 - Communications and Information
 - Recognition and Retention Dogs on Call was a huge success (33 attendees!)
- Workday MANY concerns:
- Workload for staff; staff hires were based on certain assumptions about Workday (many areas where things are not happening as told pre-launch which is adding unexpected work for staff members); LOTS of concerns with audits: so much is NOT going through approval process that was in place before launch (ex. P-card purchases, cost transfers – no faculty/PI approvals, etc.); issues with staff training; concerns about staff retention and growth – morale is LOW; request for Divisional oversight; shout out from many on CASI/guests to Kim Harrington and Noel Becraft for their huge roles in Workday functions
- [WEST](#) and [LinkUW](#) **TABLED UNTIL SEPTEMBER MEETING (ran out of time)**
- Revisit High Dream/Low Dream from August 2022 **TABLED UNTIL SEPTEMBER MEETING (ran out of time)**

12:20 PM – 12:25 PM Updates from CASI members, if applicable none

D. Gaona/STP

12:25 PM – 12:30 PM Questions from Constituents, if time permits none

D. Gaona/STP



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12:30 PM

Adjourn **Motion Sara T-P, 2nd Mary**

D. Gaona/STP

(CASI members – please remember to leave your name table tent on the table at the end of the meeting)

Next Meeting – September 3, 2025

11:00am-12:30pm

Engineering Hall 4610 or Teams

TEAMS link for meeting:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 289 760 222 796

Passcode: iLemjW

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.
- Recognize an engineering staff member with [Kudos from CASI](#)

CASI Subcommittees (will be updated after August meeting):

Planning/Tending

Daniel Gaona

Sara Tate-Pederson

Nathan Jung

Kelly Petersen

Communications and Information

Jackie Bastyr Cooper

Mary Fitzpatrick

Nathan Jung

Recognition and Retention

Carly Andrew

Justin Kyle Bush

Daniel Gaona

Angela Kita

Kelly Petersen