

Committee Advocating for Staff Interests
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
October 15, 2025, 12:00pm-1:00pm
14 Ag Hall

Attendees: Brian Asen, Josh Blaydes, Shyanna Brickson, Aaron Crandall, Marie Gilbertson, Amber Haroldson, Weiya Li, Ally Magnin Harvey, Emily Laabs, Sandy Peterson, Brandon Prochaska, Megan Sippel, Conor Klecker, Tammy Haack

Not present: Tom Browne, Tom Bryan, Nancy Esser, Tara Larowe, Veronica Law

Minutes by: Ally McCann

MINUTES

This meeting was called to order by Amber Haroldson at 12:02 pm.

1. Review agenda

No changes to the agenda.

2. Consent agenda

Minutes from the September 17, 2025 meeting were approved and will be posted on the CALS CASI website.

3. CALS IT

Conor Klecker and Chris Arndt gave a presentation on CALS IT. They have 22 Staff members and support 2500+ users. CALS IT can help you decide what tool would work best for a project that you have. They are also available to come and present on a topic. As a reminder, all requests should go through the ticket system for easy tracking and getting the request to the right place.

They have 4 main areas of support:

*-**Desktop support**, currently migrating all requests and problems in the ticketing system. Currently hiring IT manager to oversee this team*

*-**CSS (CALS Services and Solutions)**, manages the backbone of IT environment and CALS researchers specialized IT needs. Interviews and onboarding for RISE hires.*

*-**Cybersecurity**, partners with data owners to protect the college's data and systems from external and internal threats*

*-**App Development**, creates, manages, and supports custom software and database solutions for the college. Have built key access database, fleet management app, student travel requests, query hub, genetics independent study agreements*

-Can build something to work for your department.

-Departments are not charged for app development when it's something that can be used by the college more broadly.

CASI 2025-26 meeting materials are in Box at: <https://uwmadison.box.com/s/tdhl6l6mm6y6n1jq3dxih5y8u8szmjf9>

APC agenda and minutes can be found here: <https://apc.cals.wisc.edu/meetings/>

ASEC meeting materials can be found here: <https://kb.wisc.edu/acstaff/>

4. College updates and questions from the committee

Tammy Haack, HR Associate Director, gave an update on open enrollment. The deadline is the end of October and your insurance benefit needs to be set up in etf.

5. Subcommittee updates

a. Awards and professional development

The chair will be one of the returning subcommittee members. CALS awards were discussed. CASI is in favor of nominations being accepted for the University Staff Recognition Award and Academic Staff Excellence Award for 2025-26. There are few opportunities for staff to be recognized, and it may not be received well if only awards from last year are given out. More transparency would be helpful. The CASI Chair will send an email response to share these views with the Dean's Office.

CASI brainstormed about other ways to recognize staff and how that would be done. A "kudos from CASI" could go out monthly with nominations received through the CASI website, eCALS, or email. The subcommittee can discuss further and revisit at a future meeting.

b. Communications

Website access will be given to the new subcommittee members.

c. Nominations and mentoring

The welcome event is set for 10/29 1:30-2:30. 34 have signed up so far. A reminder will be sent the Monday before.

d. Personnel procedures, compensation and governance

No updates from the subcommittee.

6. Chair updates

CASI chair Amber Haroldson and Chair-elect Josh Blaydes can send an email for any guest speakers to come to CASI. The all college meeting was discussed. There was a lot of budget talk, a few 101 people were let go and some positions won't be refilled. It was similar to the presentation Dean Gillaspay gave to CASI. There were concerns about the teaching load policy and how it will impact CALS.

A question about searching for salaries post TTC was brought to CASI. There is a spreadsheet maintained by UFAS that is updated every few months. RSP also has a salary lookup tool on their website.

7. Academic Planning Council report and discussion

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Tara Larowe, APC Representative, said APC approved the merger between Nutritional Sciences and Food Science. They also talked about academic freedom on campus.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:07pm.