

**Committee Advocating for Staff Interests**  
**College of Agricultural and Life Sciences**  
November 19, 2025, 12:00pm-1:00pm  
14 Ag Hall

Attendees: Josh Blaydes, Shyanna Brickson, Aaron Crandall, Marie Gilbertson, Amber Haroldson, Weiya Li, Ally Magnin Harvey, Emily Laabs, Veronica Law, Sandy Peterson, Megan Sippel

Not present: Brian Asen, Tom Browne, Tom Bryan, Nancy Esser, Tara Larowe, Brandon Prochaska

Minutes by: Ally McCann

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MINUTES

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This meeting was called to order by Amber Haroldson at 12:03 pm.

**1. Review agenda**

*No changes to the agenda.*

**2. Consent agenda**

*Minutes from the October 15, 2025 meeting were approved and will be posted on the CALS CASI website.*

**3. College updates and questions from the committee**

*Veronica Law, HR Director, shared that open enrollment had gone smoothly for the college. HR continues to figure out Workday and address problems as they arise.*

*Tom Browne shared that CALS EDC is working on results of the climate survey. EDC is undergoing strategic planning that may involve a name change.*

**4. Subcommittee updates**

a. Awards and professional development

*CASI discussed a recognition program for CALS staff. There would be a link on the thoughts and questions tab of the CASI website. This link could be routinely shared in eCALS and people who were recognized could be in eCALS monthly, potentially with a write up. People recognized for each month could be entered into a drawing for a prize. College swag was discussed as a potential prize.*

*CASI will have a document with the general recognition process outlined, recognizing that the process could have some changes. PPCG will make a draft to be voted on. CALS did decide to take new nominations for the Academic Staff Excellence Award and the University Staff Recognition Award. Nominations are due December 1 and will be sent to CASI to review and make recommendations.*

**b. Communications**

*The subcommittee would handle the eCALS and website for the recognition program.*

**c. Nominations and mentoring**

*The CASI welcome event had lower attendance, but the format worked well with having representatives present. People appreciated being invited to talk and introduce themselves. The subcommittee will connect and look ahead for new members needed.*

**d. Personnel procedures, compensation and governance**

*The subcommittee can draft the process for recognition before the next CASI meeting.*

## **5. Chair updates**

*CASI chair Amber Haroldson and Chair-elect Josh Blaydes discussed CASI having a budget line in CALS. An email could go to Angie Seitler and Ann Bourque for this with a business purpose and expected spending. Amber will ask other colleges about budgets at the all CASI meeting. A budget line would give more consistency and would simplify knowing what fund would be used without having to ask.*

*There are many unknowns for Act 15 regarding teaching loads until there is more information. There are questions about how things are counted and how to plan curriculums going forward. More information should be provided from campus and the college in the coming months.*

## **6. Academic Planning Council report and discussion**

*No APC Representative present.*

## **7. Adjourn**

*Meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.*