

Committee Advocating for Staff Interests
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
January 21, 2026, 12:00pm-1:00pm
473 Moore Hall

Attendees: Brian Asen, Josh Blaydes, Shyanna Brickson, Tom Browne, Nancy Esser, Marie Gilbertson, Amber Haroldson, Veronica Law, Weiya Li, Sandy Peterson, Brandon Prochaska

Not present: Tom Bryan, Aaron Crandall, Tara Larowe, Emily Laabs, Ally Magnin Harvey, Megan Sippel

Minutes by: Ally McCann

MINUTES

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

3. College updates and questions from the committee

Tom Browne, Assistant Dean, gave an update on the Equity and Diversity Committee (EDC). They are working through climate survey results to make recommendations. EDC is meeting once more with the Office of Strategic Consulting and plans to make 1-3 general recommendations and departments would make plans based on those. This should happen in the coming months. The committee will go through some revisioning and continue to address belonging and inclusion while working with other committees.

Veronica Law, HR Director, has no updates.

There is a great deal of concern from international students about deportation in the current climate. A list of guidelines was sent in the Working at UW weekly email. The protocol is to get a supervisor/HR representative and call the Office of Legal Affairs. Do not release any information or take someone to an office if they ask. They can only be in public spaces.

4. Subcommittee updates

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/>

a. Awards and professional development

The subcommittee will provide strengths and weaknesses of CALS awards candidates. They meet once more to finalize their feedback and recommendations.

The recognition program was voted on and approved. Subcommittees will move forward with next steps.

b. Communications

The subcommittee will work to update the form for the recognition program.

c. Nominations and mentoring

The subcommittee has no updates. The college committee interest survey will go out in February.

d. Personnel procedures, compensation and governance

The subcommittee has no updates.

5. Chair updates

The CASI chair and Chair-elect discussed the draft budget letter. The amount requested is based on past events and future of the recognition program. One suggestion is mentioning the budget amounts that other CASI's have for comparison. This letter requests a line item for CASI in the college budget. The final draft will be voted on at a future meeting.

The possibility of having a future event in the spring was discussed.

6. Academic Planning Council report and discussion

No APC representative was present. The teaching load policy and Act 15 were discussed. There is a dashboard that shows instruction taught and a recent update changed the values shown. This could be a change in reporting the credits or the database not accurately showing credits.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.