

UW Law School CASI Board
Annual Report of the Chair
2016-17

The Committee on Academic Staff Issues (CASI) Board is a body of nine elected members (three clinicians & six members from other academic staff areas) that represents academic staff across the Law School and is an important part of shared governance at UW-Madison. CASI's role is to advise the Dean and represent the approximately 80-90 Law School academic staff in the formulation and review of all policies and procedures concerning the School's academic staff. CASI also supports education, networking, and recognition for academic staff.

The CASI Board term extends from September 1st through August 31st. In 2016-17, the Board met monthly during the fall and spring semesters. The following Law School academic staff members served on the Board: Sumudu Atapattu, Jeff Glazer, Michael Keller, Ben Kempinen, Sarah Orr, Kim Peterson, Bonnie Shucha (chair), Danielle Wampole, and Cheryl Rosen Weston. There were three ex officio members: Dean Margaret Raymond and Associate Dean Bethany Pluymers representing the Law School Administration and Eric Giefer as an Academic Staff Assembly representative.

This year, CASI sponsored two educational events. In November, Associate Dean for Administration, Bethany Pluymers offered a well-attended session on "Decoding the Academic Staff Promotions Process" in which she discussed the criteria for academic staff prefixes (associate, no prefix, senior, and distinguished). In May, Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development, Michael Keller offered a "Resume Writing Workshop" in which he provided practical advice on what (and what not) to include on a resume and how to best format it for clarity, consistency, and professionalism.

The CASI Board addressed several issues this year. A central theme was CASI's role and how it might best represent Law School academic staff. In October, Dean Margaret Raymond joined us for a discussion on ways to engage with and advocate for CASI

members. The Board also examined the results of the campus 2016 Academic Staff Work-life Survey, comparing general campus responses with those of Law School staff. In general, Law School respondents displayed higher work-life satisfaction than those of other campus academic staff. However, there were two areas in which Law School staff appeared to be less satisfied than other campus respondents: level of respect given by faculty and receptivity toward the new campus human resources redesign and performance appraisal system. The Board did recognize that the survey response from Law School academic staff was fairly small (22 responses) and left open the option to conduct our own self-study in the future.

Another issue that the CASI Board discussed this year was how CASI might best recognize the efforts of academic staff. We reviewed the Law School's participation in various campus academic staff recognition opportunities including professional development grants, excellence awards, and promotions to distinguished prefix. Although several Law School academic staff members have been recognized already, we discussed ways to help further promote these and other opportunities. One effort was to organize our educational event, "Decoding the Academic Staff Promotions Process." Another strategy was to update the CASI website to include information on campus and external recognition opportunities. Sumudu Atapattu offered to lead this effort.

In May, CASI conducted an election to replace outgoing Board members Danielle Wampole and Cheryl Rosen Weston. This resulted in the election of two new Board members, Ben Heidke and Wenjie Hu, to three-year terms beginning in 2017-18.

Respectfully submitted by
Bonnie Shucha, CASI Board Chair
August 2017