Ms. Craig called the meeting to order.

1. Ms. Craig introduced Vince Sweeney, Vice Chancellor, Office of University Relations. Vince noted that he is working in a newly created position at UW Madison and is coming from a background in UW Athletics. He noted that the Office of University Relations currently has 4 main objectives:

   - Strengthen the relationship with various constituents around the state (Governor’s office, the legislature, etc.).
   - Improve communication, both internal and external.
   - Manage any crisis situations with the media and try to anticipate them and minimize the negative impact.
   - Find ways to celebrate the successes of the UW and engage the outside public.

The faculty noted that it would be helpful to have some “talking points” while they are out giving seminars, etc. Any other suggestions, comments, or feedback can be sent to Mr. Sweeney.

2. Ms. Craig introduced Prof. Molly Carnes who gave a presentation on the Bias Literacy Workshop. Several faculty on campus are involved with the project and it is supported by NIH funding. The goals of the project:

   - Help faculty recognize situations that promote application of gender bias.
   - Provide tools to promote habitual response without bias.
   - In the long term, they hope to change institutional behavioral norms to allow UW Madison to achieve its egalitarian goals and reduce recurring problems of gender pay inequity and loss of women faculty.

Prof. Carnes asked that the faculty complete the baseline survey which was recently sent out to all faculty at UW Madison and invited them to participate in the workshop once it is scheduled.

3. Ms. Craig made the following announcement:
   A. Robert Landick will be appointed as the Charles Yanofsky Professor of Biochemistry & Bacteriology effective July 1, 2010.
4. Mr. Cox initiated discussion on the Biochemistry Scholar Program and distributed a draft proposal. The purpose of this program is to bring talented undergraduates into the research laboratory at an earlier stage and to provide an environment that will encourage more of these students to consider a career in research. The guidelines for the program were discussed by the faculty. Mr. Cox made a motion to establish a Biochemistry Scholars program following the general guidelines presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fox. The motion passed unanimously. It was noted that there may be funding available for this program through the Beckman Scholars Program or other university resources. The faculty thanked Mike for his efforts getting this started.

5. Mr. Cox gave an update on the new building. The project is still on track for move in during late summer 2011. The faculty will be able to try out or review some of the finishing touches, furniture, etc. in the next 2-3 months.


   A. Information regarding a proposal for combining the Biochemistry and Biomolecular Chemistry seminar series was distributed for review. The Seminar Committee met and discussed this issue and minutes from that meeting were also distributed for review. The committee felt that they could not recommend approval of the combined seminar proposal for several reasons. After lengthy discussion by the faculty, Mr. Fox made a motion to accept the minutes of the Seminar Committee as operating guidelines for the departmental seminar series (no change to current procedure). The motion was seconded by Mr. Cleland but failed to pass by a vote of 8 yes, 12 no.

   B. Discussion followed. Mr. Cox made a motion that 3 additional seminar slots be added to the Biochemistry spring series for BMC speakers following the current guidelines. The 3 additional speakers will be paid for by BMC funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeLuca and passed by a vote of 15 yes, 3 no, 3 abstentions. The additional seminars could be scheduled during spring break and later in May.

7. Ms. Craig gave an update on the faculty search and the status of the 2nd position/offer for Saskia Neher. Currently, Aaron Hoskins has accepted our offer and is planning to start during the summer of 2011. The offer letter has been sent to Dr. Saskia Neher with a deadline of April 14 for a response. Dr. Neher is pleased with the details of the offer but is having a difficult time making a decision as a faculty position for her husband fell through at UW Madison. If Saskia ends up turning down the position, the faculty voted during the March 12 faculty meeting to proceed with an offer to Dr. Weerapana; however, she has already taken another faculty position. Thus, the next step approved at the March 12 faculty meeting was to make an offer to Andrei Korostelev. Discussion followed.

   A. Mr. Attie made a motion that if Saskia Neher rejects the offer that the department not make another offer at this time. This will allow time for strategic planning and discussion regarding a possible future search. The motion was seconded by Mr.
Raines. There was considerable discussion that followed in regard to whether a faculty position will still be available next year and the likelihood of a successful search.

B. Mr. Phillips made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kimble and passed by a vote of 11 yes, 8 no. If Saskia rejects the offer, then a faculty meeting will need to be held shortly thereafter to discuss whether the department should move forward with the offer to Andrei Korostelev.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Craig
Chair