Faculty Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 12, 2016: 10:00am – 11:30am

PRESENT: Amasino, Attie (arrived 10:47), Bednarek, Clagett-Dame (arrived 10:27), Fox, Friesen, Hayes (arrived 10:09), Hoskins, Kiessling, Kimble, Markley, Martin, Mitchell, Ntambi, Palmenberg, Raines (arrived 10:16), Raman, Rayment, and Record (arrived 10:07; exited 11:15)

ABSENT: Ansari, Butcher, Cox, Craig, Holden, Henzler-Wildman, Landick, Pagliarini, Pike, Ralph, Senes, Sussman, Weibel, Wickens, and Wildonger

Fox called the meeting to order (10:06).

1. (10:06) Fox made the following announcements:
   a. Departmental Fellowship nominations are due February 12, 2016.
   b. Laura Kiessling was awarded the 2016 Hilldale Award in the Physical Sciences.
   c. New effort reporting (ECRT) consequences are in effect as of January 1, 2016.
   d. Apparatus Committee proposals are due February 15, 2016.
   e. Sloan Devlin, a potential spousal hire, will be visiting Biochemistry and Biomolecular Chemistry March 2-4, 2016. Her seminar will be held on March 2, with a joint chalk-talk on March 3. Details to follow.
   f. Lydia Finley, a Morgridge metabolism candidate, will give a chalk talk today at 12pm in WID.
   g. Ophelia Venturelli, a Biodesign candidate, will visit next week. Contact Bob Landick with email comments on the candidates. The search committee anticipates selection of the final candidate by February 23; a second visit will follow.

2. (10:16) Ben Miller, Director of Federal Relations at UW-Madison, joined the meeting, and exited at the completion of this agenda item.

   Miller introduced his areas of focus: connecting with traditional governmental agencies on issues that affect and are affected by the University; coordinating with agencies that fund research; developing student enrichment programs; and building the University brand.

   Discussion of FY16 and FY17 budgets followed; primary areas of focus are 1) precision medicine, 2) brain initiative, 3) microbiome initiative, and 4) antibiotic resistance. Support for early career investigators is being explored.
The University’s Federal Research Highlights and Impacts 2016 document was shared. Discussion followed about how best to consistently highlight the accomplishments of Biochemistry and the basic sciences.

Miller welcomes questions, comments at ben.miller@wisc.edu or 608-354-7336.

3. (10:53) Hoskins reported for the Seminar and Symposium Committee.

Biochemistry will be hosting Julie Ahringer for a seminar on June 29, 2016. Hoskins made a motion to name Julie Ahringer a special Everson Lecturer. Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Candidates for the usual Everson Lecture were presented and vote conducted. Nancy Bonini (nominators Wildonger and Dave Nelson) received 10 votes; Clara Kielkopf (nominator Rayment) received 9 votes. Hoskins made a motion that Nancy Bonini be invited for the 2016-17 seminar series and Clara Kielkopf for 2017-18 series. Kimble seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Anna-Marie Pyle (nominator Hoskins), candidate for the Green Lecture, was presented. Hoskins made a motion to invite Anna-Marie Pyle as 2016-17 Green Lecturer. Kimble seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Hoskins presented the committee’s 2016-17 Seminar Plan (attached) for organization of the seminar series. Hoskins made a motion that the faculty accept the plan as presented; Amasino seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. (11:12) Mitchell reported for the Electronic Technologies and Media Committee. Dave Nelson joined for this portion of the meeting (arrived 10:43), and exited following the completion of this agenda item. Mitchell reported activities for Website, Computer/IT in Teaching, Computer Infrastructure, and Aesthetics subcommittees (report attached). Nelson was recognized for his donation of the Curry sketches, which have been de-mounted and are now transportable and ready for installation. Further discussion of possible installation locations is warranted. Markley’s suggestion of local artwork to be displayed in Biochemistry will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

5. (11:22) Rayment provided an update for the I PiB Steering Committee. In response to a call from the Provost, the Steering Committee drafted Academic Assessment Plans for MS and PhD degrees. PhD documents were approved with minor edits at January’s meeting. Final documents were distributed for information only.

Rayment presented the MS assessment documents (attached) to the faculty. Rayment made a motion that the faculty approve the assessment plan. Amasino seconded the motion, which passed 17 in favor, 1 abstention.

6. (11:25) Fox distributed the report from the Strategic Planning Day for review. The topic of establishing a Board of Visitors was raised: faculty interested in serving on a committee to further the BoV should contact Fox directly.
7. (11:27) Fox distributed a draft proposal for rebalancing allocations of principal with the WARF endowment with the goals of creating more professorships and/or supporting additional departmental initiatives. In accordance with faculty-approved procedure for voting on spending from the principal of the endowment, the item will reappear for discussion on March’s faculty meeting agenda prior to voting.

The meeting was adjourned (11:29).

Respectfully submitted,

Brian G. Fox
Chair, Department of Biochemistry
2016-17 Seminar Plan

1. 30 total seminar slots for 2016-17 (not counting Ahringer)
2. 4 slots to named lecturers (Steenbock, Intl. Steenbock, Everson, Green)
3. 3 slots to IPIB student and postdoc invited speakers (already invited, confirmed)
4. Asst. Profs. in Biochemistry & BMC get 1 guaranteed invitation each
5. The final 5 seminars in 2017 will be reserved for a “theme”. Nominations will be solicited among Biochemistry faculty for the theme. Voting will occur by Qualtrics poll in early March. Faculty can form teams (it is OK to incl. BMC faculty) to find speakers and develop the theme.
6. The remaining 11 seminar slots will be filled by calling for nominations from both Biochemistry and BMC faculty. Faculty will be encouraged to nominate junior professors. Voting will occur by Qualtrics poll in early March. Both faculties vote for their top 11 choices.
Electronic Technologies Committee Report February 2016

Faculty Members: Julie Mitchell (Co-Chair), Alessandro Senes (Co-Chair), John Markley, Michael Cox, Colleen Hayes

Staff Members: Kerry Tobin, Robin Davies, Jean-Yves Sgro, Craig Bingman

The mission of the Electronic Technologies Committee is to oversee electronic technology and digital media as it relates to the research and teaching missions of the department. In addition, the committee will advise departmental art-related displays. The committee is divided into a number of subcommittees, whose members and activities for the 2015-2016 academic year are summarized below.

Website
Subcommittee members: Kerry, Alessandro, Robin

The website sub-committee (Alessandro, Kerry, Robin) met on 12/14 to discuss updates on the undergraduate section of the web site. The agenda included a request from Mike Cox to improve the visibility of the undergraduate research programs available on campus, nationally and abroad, on the page. The committee connected with the undergraduate advisor (Kendra Gurnee) to discuss how best to place this information. This led to a discussion regarding a revision of the entire undergraduate section of the website, which is cluttered and not optimally organized. The final resolution was that Robin would work in coordination with Kendra to gradually rationalize the undergraduate section to make sure that the information most relevant to the students is readily available. The process is ongoing. The sub-committee met again on 01/28 to discuss the general strategies for maintaining the Departmental and IPiB web sites up-to-date and for improving them over time. The two sites are on different platforms (the Departmental site is internally built and managed by IT and the IPiB web site was commissioned to a company).

Computer/Information Technology in Teaching
Subcommittee members: Julie, Alessandro, Jean-Yves, Kerry

The status of the space in 420 Henry has still not been clarified. Before thinking about setting up our own teaching lab, Julie and Alessandro visited the CALS computing labs along with Ann Palmenberg and Lynne Prost in order the assess the suitability of these labs for 551, 660, a possible summer “gentle introduction to coding” that we are considering for IPiB, and the PyMol mini course run by Jean-Yves. We determined that the lab would be suitable for 660, the PyMol mini course, and the summer coding course (subject to advance scheduling) and that the computers were able to support the class sizes and software needed in each case. For 551 labs, Lynne felt it may be feasible to have students install PyMol on their own computers and bring laptops into class for the week she does these activities. Because the time and expense needed to set up our own lab or have a rolling cart of laptops, we felt this option should be explored.
With regard to the mini courses offered by Jean-Yves, the 2nd floor lab is now set up nicely for smaller mini-courses. There are 6 computers, a large LED screen, and two smaller screens so that students can see coding examples while they are turned toward their computers. Jean Yves spent a good amount of time in the fall on 660 as per usual and invested some effort into learning Python, as this is a popular coding language in biochemistry and a potential future mini course. This spring, popular existing mini courses will be offered, and announcements will go out soon (one has already gone out for the advanced PyMol course.)

**Computing Infrastructure**  
**Subcommittee members:** Kerry, Julie, Alessandro, Craig

The computational cluster is fully operational and has been in use by members of the department. The cluster was previously also open to the campus community (Condor infrastructure) when underutilized internally, but there have been issues with the scheduler not giving full priority to departmental jobs. For the time being, the cluster has been configured to no longer accept jobs from outside the department.

**Aesthetics**  
**Subcommittee members:** Robin, John, Mike, Colleen

The Curry mural sketches are now free from the backing board and movable and installable anywhere. The same technician who removed them from the boards is also an expert on installation. We need to decide where they should be installed (HFD Biochem Labs main hallway?)

John Markley has suggested that Lisa A. Frank, a local artist might be interested in exhibiting in Biochemistry. Lisa Frank holds an MFA from the Design Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she works as a lecturer. She has an extensive professional background as an artist working in New York City where she designed textiles, wallpaper, and innovative surface treatments for residential and commercial interior projects. She painted scenery for the Metropolitan Opera, film and Broadway productions as a member of the United Scenic Artists union. Using her artwork to enhance interdisciplinary explorations, Frank was chosen to be a Senior Research Fellow at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2013. She is the first artist/collaborator to be given this distinction.

Her work can be viewed at:  

**Software Suite**  
**Subcommittee members:** Craig, Kerry, Jean-Yves

No reported activities
### IPiB MS Degree Learning Goals

**Curriculum Mapping**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course/Program</th>
<th>Goal 1: Biochemical Principles</th>
<th>Goal 2: Current Limitations</th>
<th>Goal 4: Independent Research</th>
<th>Goal 7: Ethical Conduct</th>
<th>Goal 9: Career Development</th>
<th>Goal 10: Teaching / Mentoring</th>
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<td>Assessment Activity</td>
<td>Assessment Outcome</td>
<td>Learning Goals</td>
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<td>1 Biochemical Principles</td>
<td>2 Current Limitations</td>
<td>4 Independent Research</td>
<td>7 Ethical Conduct</td>
<td>9 Career Development</td>
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<td>First-year committee meeting</td>
<td>The first-year committee meeting will directly assess the coursework needed to attain the level of understanding expected by IPiB. This occurs during the summer of the first year</td>
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<td>Ethical assessment</td>
<td>Ethical conduct will be taught and assessed through the biochemical ethics course (Biochem 701) (direct measure)</td>
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<td>Preliminary examination or final MS defense</td>
<td>Preliminary examination will directly assess the ability to communicate scientific concepts, and will test the background knowledge and understanding of the current limitations of biochemistry. This will be directly assessed by the four committee members who will prepare a report to be shared with the student, thesis advisor, and program administrator (direct measure)</td>
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<td>Teaching1 / Mentoring</td>
<td>Students will participate in teaching undergraduate and graduate courses for two semesters. Their performance will be directly assessed through student teaching evaluations and by the course instructor (direct measure)</td>
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<td>Annual committee meeting</td>
<td>The progress of each student towards all of the learning goals after completion of the preliminary examination will be evaluated annually by their thesis committee. This will occur between May and August each year until completion of the degree</td>
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<td>Exit Survey</td>
<td>The information recorded in the exit survey by both the Graduate School and IPiB will be collected, analyzed, and submitted (direct measure).</td>
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<td>Timetable</td>
<td>Years in which each learning goal will be assessed</td>
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IPiB MS Degree Learning Goals
Assessment Activities