



Department Faculty Meeting  
Friday, February 7, 2025, 2:30pm  
Location: Denny 213, remote option on Zoom: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/98500982088>

*Attendance*

Voting-eligible faculty (27): Ahmad, Atkins, Bhowmik, Cao, Chandekar, Cho, Choi, Dubrow, Handel, Iwata, Jesty, J. Kim, U. Kim, Lü, Ma, Marino, Matsuda-Kiami, Nazry, Nishikawa, Pauwels, Rominger, Sandjaja, Takeda, Turner, Wang, Won, Yu  
Others present (2): Vishnupriya Goswami, Kirk L. Van Scoyoc

*Minutes*

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Vote:** Approval of Minutes (January) (*standing item*; Handel) 2:30-2:35

III. **Announcements** (*standing item*; Handel) 2:35-2:55

- TA applications and TA positions

The budget situation in the college means a reduction in TA positions, unless we can find funding from other sources.

Five faculty members have been awarded sabbatical in 2025-26: Cho, Hamm, Jesty, J. Kim, Turner.

- Nominations for convocation speaker

Two received so far. Submit nominations by the end of the month.

- Anti-hazing and anti-discrimination trainings

These are mandatory, and may be used as a criterion for promotion.

- College budget planning
- Federal policy changes and local impacts (federal grants, immigration status, etc.)

IV. **Updates** (*standing item*) 2:55-3:05

- Search for new department Administrator (Handel)

The applications are in. The college is doing an initial pass. Zev, Chan and JungHee will work on the committee to review the qualified applications.

- Search for Assistant Teaching Professor of Vietnamese (Handel)

Report is done; voting faculty members will vote today.

- Search for Assistant Professor of Telugu (Handel)

8 applicants in total. 3 finalists approved. Now scheduling campus interviews.

V. **Update and Discussion: Diversity/EJI** *3:05-3:25*

- EJI Committee survey (Matsuda-Kiami)
  - Matsuda-Kiami presented the survey results. They were discussed.
- Sojourn DEI project with college departments (Handel)

VI. **Discussion: Faculty Committee on Scholarship of Palestine** (Bhowmik; Appendix 1) *3:25-3:35*

- Bhowmik made a motion expressing support for a cluster hire in Palestine Studies to be presented to the Faculty Committee on Scholarship of Palestine (see Appendix 1a). The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.
- Vote results:  
YES: 23 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 3
- **Motion passes.**

VII. **Discussion and possible vote: Authority to recommend competitive counteroffers** (Handel; Appendix 2) *3:35-3:50*

- Discussion was held on whether and how to delegate the department faculty's authority to recommend competitive counter-offers to the dean.
- Atkins made a motion: The faculty of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature delegates authority for recommending competitive counter-offers to the dean to an ad-hoc committee composed of three voting faculty members, to be appointed by the chair. At least one member shall be from the same program as the candidate, and at least one shall be from a different program. If possible, at least one of the members should be in the same or similar disciplinary area as the candidate. One of the members will be appointed as chair of the ad-hoc committee. The members of the committee shall consult with relevant faculty including all members of the candidate's program to the degree possible.
- The motion was seconded. Discussion followed.
- Vote results:  
YES: 26 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

- **Motion passes.**

**VIII. Update and Discussion: By-Laws Committee (Pauwels; Appendix 3) *3:50-4:00***

- Discussion postponed until next meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

## Appendix 1: Faculty Committee on Scholarship of Palestine

### 1a. Proposed Statement

#### **Palestine Studies Statement – Asian Languages and Literature**

The Asian Languages and Literature Department supports a faculty cluster hire in Palestine Studies at the University of Washington. Some of our faculty members work in areas that thematically overlap in the fields of languages, literature, film, and culture. These include postcolonial and decolonial studies (East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia), Arabic-influenced languages (Urdu, Bengali, Indonesian), religious studies (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam), minority and indigenous literature (Ainu, Okinawan, Urdu, Malay-Indonesian and Southeast Asian Chinese) and global Muslim cultures (modernity, folklores, science and speculative fiction). We believe that a faculty cluster hire at the University of Washington in Palestine Studies will serve to embolden our university's existing disciplinary strengths in the form of our comprehensive offerings in global languages and cultures covering areas in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

### 1b. Charge letter from Provost Serio to the Committee (on web here)

Dear Colleagues,

The University of Washington seeks to deepen our tri-campus expertise in the scholarship of Palestine, across the range of existing academic units. As members of this faculty committee, you are tasked with:

- Cataloging existing scholarly and creative activity focused on the study of Palestine, inclusive of the full disciplinary breadth of the University
- Identifying areas in which there are opportunities to build thematic strength by expanding this foundation through a faculty cluster hire

While beyond the scope of this committee, our goal is to expand our foundation for future faculty- led fundraising, grant application, and/or organized research or study units.

On the recommendation of this committee and the Deans of the corresponding units, I will commit seed funding to accelerate a hiring plan beginning in fall 2025 to support this goal. To integrate your work into the FY26 budget process, I would appreciate the structuring of your work on the following timeline:

- October 2024: committee convenes
- December 2024: initial check in with the Provost
- January 2024: check in with the Provost
- Mid February 2025: check in with the Provost to share draft recommendations
- Mid March 2025: final recommendations due to the provost Thank you for your time and attention in this

Sincerely,

Tricia R. Serio  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Professor, Biochemistry

**1c. Request to our department from the Committee (in email of January 13, 2025)**

Provost Serio expects us to gather input and suggestions from as broad a segment of our faculty as possible. We will appreciate it if you can give us your own thoughts on this topic and encourage your faculty to do the same. We welcome the views of individual faculty but if it's possible, our committee would also find it very useful to hear a statement that represents a consensus view of your unit as a whole. We are especially interested in the following questions:

1. Do you have any classes, programs, or similar initiatives in your department that can serve as a foundation for building and strengthening Palestine Studies?
2. Do you already have plans or aspirations to make investments in Palestine Studies or in areas that may include or be linked to Palestine Studies? How do these plans fit with your existing strengths?
3. What would your intellectual justification be for encouraging a research university such as ours to make an investment in Palestine Studies at this point in history?
4. How can we connect the needs that grow out of this specific juncture to the long-term growth of the University of Washington, assuming that any hires that are made now will be part of this university for several decades?
5. Any other thoughts you may have.

We strongly feel that this is a very important opportunity for us to take advantage of. It is important that we include the voices of as many of our faculty as we can, and we are grateful for your help in this effort. The Provost is expecting to receive our draft by the end of the winter quarter. To meet that deadline, we are operating with a soft deadline of **February 15** for receiving as much input as we can.

## **Appendix 2: Biennial renewal of authority to recommend competitive counteroffers**

The following motion was passed in October 2023.

“The members of the faculty of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature delegate to the department chair the authority to recommend competitive salary offers to the dean. The chair will consult with appropriate faculty members as necessary or desirable in each individual case. In the case of spousal or other appointments that present a conflict of interest for the chair, the associate chair will exercise this authority.”

On August 8, 2024 the Faculty Senate affirmed the following:

- The delegated faculty committee is advisory to the chair and therefore should not include the chair
- Throughout the Faculty Code, the term ‘committee’ is interpreted to be plural and, therefore, the expectation is that it includes two or more persons

We can either delegate this authority to a committee, or leave the authority with the department faculty as a whole.

Note that the department faculty do not have authority to make counter-offers; this authority is about recommending to the dean whether a counter-offer should be made.

## **Appendix 3: Survey Results on Bylaws**

*See separately distributed file.*