

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD FACULTY SENATE
Minutes from meeting of November 10, 2009

PRESENT: Senators Balco, Canedy, Decker, DiChiara, Fang, Gray, Hansen, Hill, Lashgari, McCloskey, Mellodge, Pence, Poggio, Russell, Shepela, Siegel (reporting), Tetel, Weinholtz, Wetherbee, and Woodard. **Also:** Maria Marques, Fred Jenoure

Chair Shepela called us to order at 12:23 PM

Presentation by university ombudsman Fred Jenoure

Jenoure explained that his position is a hybrid– ombudsman, as well as senior assistant to the president. He sits on several community organization boards in the Hartford area, and has been at the University of Hartford in various capacities for 17 years.

In his role as ombudsman, he strives to resolve many kinds of conflicts or “issues” as they may arise among faculty, staff, and students, and even visitors to campus. He sees his role as characterized by 4 tenets: confidentiality, neutrality, informality, and independence. The International Ombudsmen Association is embarking on a new initiative to certify ombudsmen, and Fred is looking forward to undergoing the process himself.

Some concern was expressed by senators that the role and even the existence of the ombudsman here on campus is not well known or well understood, and several suggestions were offered for getting the word out.

Administration Liaison Committee report--

Senator Gray indicated the committee would be meeting in a couple of weeks to talk about emergent technologies in classroom wireless.

The university text message system just underwent a test; we were encouraged to sign up and to encourage our students and advisees to sign up.

Curriculum Committee report–

Senator Decker highlighted the specific actions summarized in the handout already provided. Minor changes were sought for some A&S, CETA, and Hillyer courses. We approved. A proposal from English, dealing with some cross listed classes that do not really exist, had been tabled by the committee.

Environment & Sustainability Committee report–

Senator Poggio indicated that the committee had met twice recently, and that 3 task forces had formed to focus on Operations, Curriculum, and Campus Engagement. One issue under discussion is Aramark’s use of plastic containers. There was much discussion of a construction-related pile sitting on the high school campus grounds. There was also discussion as to how best to disseminate information from the committee, and attention focused on the need for a centralized, “one stop shopping” area of the university website to seek information about environmental issues. Senator Poggio also announced the showing of “Tap,” a film about the bottled water industry.

Faculty Affairs Committee report–

The committee had been reviewing data from the survey of part time faculty, with an eye toward identifying a handful of action items. Overall, results of the survey were positive. It is clear that there is an appreciation of initiatives that have been put in place over the last few years. The survey indicated a need to help part time faculty feel “better connected”– improved communication, workshops on technology and other classroom issues at times likely to be convenient for such faculty; etc. Yet much of what the survey respondents say they want is already here on campus (e.g., email accounts), suggesting a need to better publicize what we already provide. The committee recommends a formal orientation for part time faculty, which might be in part or in full online (linking to the assistant provost’s Faculty Development website?). It was also suggested that deans need to periodically remind department chairs of their own responsibilities to part time faculty. For the purpose of improved communication with part-time faculty, the committee strongly recommends that, for each semester, an email list of part-time faculty teaching during that semester be collected and made available to the faculty senate among others.

Other issues discussed included faculty development monies for part time faculty, office space, and continued pay increases. The highest dissatisfaction appears to be in the lack of a pay scale based on experience and qualifications. Vice Chair Russell and Jay Stewart met with the Council of Deans recently. The assistant provost will set up a task force to make a 5-year plan for part time faculty compensation.

The first of the CARS symposia went well, attracting about 30 attendees. The next symposium, focusing on sustainability, is set for the afternoon of Friday the 13th.

Scholarship of Engagement–

Chair Shepela updated us on the “scholarship of engagement” proposal. The Council of Deans wishes to wait to see feedback from their own P&T committees before voting themselves. Shepela suggested perhaps first getting a vote on wording for the FPM flexible enough so that each college could go in different ways, then look at how individual colleges interpret and implement the wording.

The Tuesday portion of our meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM, to be continued on Thursday, November 12th.

Paul Siegel
Recorder

Minutes from meeting of November 12, 2009

Present: Senators: Canedy, Decker, DiChiara, Fonte, Gray, Hansen, Hill, Lashgari, Lei, Lewis, Machuga, McCloskey, Mellodge, Moslehpour, Pedro, Pence, Rosiene, Russell, Sekou, Shepela, Weinholtz, Wetherbee, and Woodard. (23 out 32, 72%) Also Maria Marques and Provost Lynn Pasquerella.

PROVOST PASQUERELLA'S REMARKS

The Provost announced that the President is in London, working on the Hertford College exchange. She then opened the floor to questions and discussion of topics of concern to the Senators.

Several committees have been working on the Strategic Planning process, which will be presented to the Board of Regents at the November meeting. The Regents will also see the Facilities Master Plan at that point. The Provost's office is looking at faculty part-time salaries, some of the Senators have been asked to serve on a committee that will look at a 5-year plan.

Among the most obvious concern was the announcement that she will be leaving to take a position as President of Mount Holyoke College.

Senators presented their congratulations in behalf of their colleges and voiced their thanks for what she has contributed to the University. The Provost replied "I love it here, and I have never been happier"...this has not been an easy decision..." She referred the Senators to a letter Posted 11/10/2009 in UNotes (text follows at end of Précis. She voiced her desire to collaborate in common issues.

The President has formed a Provost Search Committee with the goal of naming a Provost for next fall. The Committee includes two staff; two student, 1 regent, 2 senior administrators and seven faculty. (See below)

In response to this concern she cited her determination to put things in place by institutionalizing changes, so that work will continue on such things as the sustainability committee, the Status of Women Committee, Civil Liberties, Scholarship of engagement, (Later Faculty Chair Shepela also challenged the Senators to work on institutionalizing change. Make perpetual changes, not just annual ones to preserve her legacy.)

For example, representatives of the committee which was convened by then Provost Donna Randall to devise quality indicators for the scholarship of engagement met with the Council of Deans and subsequently asked Fred Sweitzer to call a meeting of a representative from each of the P&T committees so that the committee can clarify what is consider to be the scholarship of engagement and discuss expanded quality indicators. "This is a culture change," Chair Shepela commented. She said that people are afraid that it cannot be measured or it is not really scholarship. How the Senate can be more involved will be discussed in Faculty Affairs Committee. The Provost said that the ideal is to empower the P&T committees to move it forward.

A Senator asked, "You will have input of the Provost's office on next year's budget, do you

anticipate pushback because of your leaving before the budget is put in place?” “No, that is why the process of consultation is so crucial, identifying what we want to move forward in a time of financial constraints.

A Senator inquired about applications for 2010. The Provost reported the University is short 300 from this time last year. The trend seems to be that students are waiting longer and longer before committing to an institution. Students are savvy on the programs they want. It is very encouraging.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Co-chairs Sekou and Pedro brought the Senate up to date on the status of the Diversity Tool Kit. Frederick Sweitzer has given the committee suggestions to reshape the document. Assistant Provost & Dean Sweitzer asked to be involved in the meetings as changes progress. Recommendations from the Tool Kit that Sweitzer put into the guidelines for searches for the current academic year in order, summarized as: [Tool-kit Document](#)

- Reflect a broadly defined diverse membership.
- Consist of individuals with different perspectives, expertise and a demonstrated commitment to diversity.
- Include women and members of underrepresented from within the department.
- Identify two or three key members who will serve as advocates for women and members of underrepresented groups.
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The point was made that this is an advisory tool, not a directive.

GRANTS/STIPEND COMMITTEE

Senator DiChiara reported that 10% hold back affects Coffin grants –in addition, a supplement from the Provost’s office is also not available this year brings the number of awards from 7 to 4. All 7 summer stipends are available. Wording in the call could point to this deviation, and hopefully encourage more faculty to apply for Summer Stipends.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

A tour of the Students area, as well as discussions with the students is planned for December by the Committee. It is suggested that a SGA member serve on student affairs, and have student sit in on Faculty Senate. The president of the SGA has voiced their desire to have a Faculty Senator sit in the SGA meetings (weekly).

We adjourned at 1:20 PM

Maria Marques
Recorder

A Message From Provost Lynn Pasquerella

Posted 11/10/2009



Lynn Pasquerella

The following is a letter to the University community from Provost Lynn Pasquerella.

Dear Colleagues:

As you know from President Harrison's announcement last Monday, I will be leaving on July 1, 2010 to assume the presidency of Mount Holyoke College, my alma mater. When the presidential search committee approached me last May, I was straightforward in telling them that I was immensely happy at the University of Hartford. I also told them that I was eager to continue carrying out a variety of initiatives we had begun together.

The University of Hartford has felt like home to me from the moment I walked onto our campus. You have all heard me say on several occasions that the University of Hartford offers a level of intellectual, artistic, and creative vibrancy and collegiality that is unprecedented in my experience. Every time I hear a faculty lecture, attend an art exhibit, see a performance, or talk to students and staff about how they are involved in enlivening our University, I could not be more proud of being a member of the University of Hartford community.

At the same time, I confessed to the search committee that it was impossible for me to refuse an opportunity to give back in such a significant way to an institution that transformed my life. You see, I was a first-generation college student who relied on Pell grants and the Comprehensive Employment Training Act to attend college. When I transferred to Mount Holyoke from a local community college, my life was changed. Upon graduation, I vowed that I would do whatever I could throughout my career to demonstrate a commitment to access to excellence in higher education, to promote the centrality of liberal learning, and to be an advocate for women's education and leadership worldwide.

During the next few months of the search process, I talked with President Harrison about the

enormous difficulty I had in even considering leaving the University of Hartford. He made my decision that much more challenging by being all that one could hope for in a mentor and role model. However, a turning point for me in the decision-making process came with the death of our dear friend, Penny Mahon. I am a philosopher, so I ponder the most fundamental questions of human existence on a daily basis. But as I was sitting in the church during Penny's memorial service, I was personally struck by the reality that there are profound risks in waiting for the timing in life to be perfect, for that time may never come. It was at that moment I made the decision to move forward with the pursuit of an opportunity of a lifetime.

I want all of you to know that my time here has been the most professionally satisfying time of my life. I look forward to working together toward our common objectives for the remainder of this academic year. With your help, I am also counting on future collaborations between Mount Holyoke and the University of Hartford—two institutions that I love so dearly.

Sincerely,

Lynn Pasquerella
Provost

The following is a message to faculty and staff from President Walter Harrison.

November 19, 2009

Faculty and Staff
University of Hartford

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce the members of the Search Committee who will work with me to identify the next provost of the University of Hartford. They are:

- **Dominic Fulco** '81, regent
- **Arosha Jayawickrema** '91, vice president of finance and administration
- **Lee Peters**, vice president of student affairs
- **Laura Pence**, professor of chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Donn Weinholtz**, professor of education, College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions
- **Bharat Kolluri**, professor of economics, Barney School of Business
- **John Nordyke**, associate professor of visual communication design, Hartford Art School
- **Bilal Sekou**, associate professor of political science, Hillyer College
- **Kathryn Stevinson-Nolett**, associate professor of dance, The Hartt School
- **Clara Fang**, assistant professor of civil engineering, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture
- **Jennifer Sanborn**, director of the Women's Education and Leadership Fund
- **Linda Zigmont**, administrative assistant, Office of Communication
- **Zain al Masri** '09, graduate student, Barney School of Business
- **Ariana Tarpinian** '11, undergraduate student and student regent

Susan Fitzgerald, senior advisor to the president, will staff the committee.

The committee, which I will chair, will begin its work immediately, and my goal is to have a provost identified by the summer to succeed Lynn Pasquerella. I hope that we can have finalists visit the campus by the end of the spring semester, and I hope you will all join us in interviewing them then. I am very proud of the collective manner in which we have identified the past two provosts, and I am hoping that we will continue that strong tradition with this search. I am sure that the talented members of the Search Committee join me in that commitment.

We will be selecting a search consultant very soon, I hope, and I will be writing to you just after the first of the year to ask for your help in identifying talented candidates. My desire is to find the strongest candidate available to lead the academic enterprise at the University.

Should you have comments or questions, please feel free to contact Sue or me.

Sincerely,

Walter Harrison, President

NOTES FOR SCHEDULING:

SENATE

Tucson, AZ 85706 Sharon, at the end of the meeting with Fred and Lynn, they both suggested that it might be a good idea if Fred presents this work to the faculty senate. Lynn said the sooner the better. You have the calendar of visitors and know the schedule. Since you were not there when they said this, I wanted to pass on the info to you. Ingrid