

UNIVERSITY *of* HARTFORD STAFF ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2009

PRESENT

Bonny Barsi, Judy Chestnut, Barbara Dessureau, Carla Fuller, Donna Galin, Lynn Galvin, Marsha Gaulin, Evelyne Haldimann, Colleen Kruger, Ellen Levasseur, Louise Melanson, Jim Mello, Lisa Parker, Jason Pomposelli, Jennifer Sanborn, Karen Schermerhorn, Sharon Scorso, Bonny Stoecklin, Jillian Vollentine, Martha Whitehead, Connie Yoczik, Linda Zigmont

PRESIDENT REPORT

Jim Mello opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The April 8, 2009 SA minutes were accepted.

STAFF ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

BENEFITS TASK FORCE – No new information to report.

BAT – The committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow.

WELLNESS – The Wellness Fair held on April 29, 2009 in Konover was very well attended. The Hawk Walk is scheduled for June—the specifics will be announced soon.

MEMBERSHIP – No new information to report.

TREASURER – No new information to report.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Louise Melanson volunteered to represent the Staff Association on this committee which is chaired by Peter Lisi from IPSR.

FACILITIES MASTER PLANNING – The general consensus was that the materials presented by SLAM were confusing, but the bottom line is that the University lacks sufficient space. The main goal of the architects is to make recommendations for redistributing the space already available on campus. This is a long-range goal over the course of the next 10 years. Some members raised concerns regarding what measures can or will be taken in the short-term to relieve some of the space issues.

OLD BUSINESS

As a follow-up to Aroscha Jayawickrema's presentation on the University's financial position during the last meeting, Jim reported that the data collected by the Admissions office looks good for the new academic year. The prospective students' deposits received by the May 1, 2009 deadline were in line with deposits from the same time last year. However, this does not guarantee that the 10% hold back in expense lines will be released immediately, or ever. The final results still depend on several factors such as the economy, financial aid commitments, and the number of students who actually enroll.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Proposed title changes:

Would the Staff Association be interested in renaming the President and Vice-President to something more appropriate like Chair and Co-Chair? If anyone has any ideas for other titles that would better suit the positions, please forward them to an EBoard member.

Another name change proposed is that of Building Representatives to Community Representatives. This would more accurately indicate that these individuals represent people, not buildings.

b. Proposed additions to the Executive Board:

The Executive Board would like to increase its membership by 2 more members from the University staff. If we choose one exempt employee and one non-exempt employee, there would seem to be a fair representation of all members of the staff. Currently, all members of the Executive Board have responsibilities (chairing the meetings, recording minutes...) The proposed "members at large" would be free of the responsibilities, while participating fully in the process and broadening the perspective of the EBoard.

c. Proposed Action Teams:

The new EBoard would like to organize various action teams (similar to the concept of "committees") made up of 3 to 5 members. These smaller groups would each pursue a different goal agreed upon as being important to the Staff Association, and would then report their findings at a meeting. Each team would include at least 1 member of the EBoard. Some ideas for action teams presented were:

- Awards and Recognitions
- Staff Advocacy Program
- Review of the SA Constitution and By-Laws
- Membership Structure
- Social Events
- Service/Outreach Opportunities

An action team for the SA Barbecue was formed by volunteers Sharon Scorso, Marsha Gaulin, and Jason Pomposelli. They will research various barbecue sites, times and dates.

Please give these new ideas some thought and consideration. Voting will be held on items a, b, and c at the next meeting.

Jim ended the meeting by reading past recipients of the Outstanding Staff Member Awards. Several of them are active members of the Staff Association. There was discussion regarding the creation of a plaque to pay tribute to past and future winners.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be June 10, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in the Gengras Student Union Room 331 (Hartford Room).

Judy Chestnut
Recording Secretary