

University of Hartford Staff Association

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2009

PRESENT

Bonny Barsi, Elinor Cherry, Judy Chestnut, Barbara Dessureau, Nancy Fields, Carla Fuller, Marsha Gaulin, Clare Johnson, Ellen Levasseur, Mary Anne Lipira, Cheryl MacMath, Jim Mello, Sandi O'Donnell, Lisa Parker, Jennifer Sanborn, Karen Schermerhorn, Jillian Vollentine, Connie Yozik, Linda Zigmont

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Mello opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. The June 10, 2009 SA minutes were accepted.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

BENEFITS TASK FORCE – No new information to report.

BUDGET ADVISORY TEAM – No new information to report.

WELLNESS – The Hawk Walk is in process and going well.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE – The committee appears to be dormant right now.

STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – No new information to report.

TREASURER – No changes in balance to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was discussion to further define and clarify the responsibilities of the proposed exempt and non-exempt members at large. These two individuals would be additional voices on the Executive Board as well as points of contact for the two types of staff members on campus--exempt and non-exempt. The question as to how this will be accomplished will depend on the individuals chosen and the evolution of these two positions as the group moves forward.

A vote was held on the motion to add the positions of "Exempt Staff Member-at-Large" and "Non-Exempt Member-at-Large." 19 members were present; 19 in favor and 0 opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbecue Planning Update—In continuing the planning of the traditional summer SA Barbecue, a few members have submitted various catering quotes. The prices vary and are higher for the full-catering service (as opposed to having the vendor drop off the food and having volunteers cook.) As no volunteers have come forward to plan and cook for the event, a previous discussion was revisited.

To what extent do members want to serve other members? Historically, the barbecue has been used as a membership drive—the SA appears to be at a turning point with question of dues payment. There was much discussion weighing the pros and cons of collecting dues. Some of the pros are: the barbecue, subsidized Thanksgiving Lunch, perceived investment in the organization, and gifts and cards to staff members for life-changing events. Some of the cons are difficult economic times, the significance of the SA rewarding itself with a Barbecue rather than having it come from the employer, the irony of having the barbecue to collect dues to pay for next year's barbecue, and the reality that the payment of dues will most likely not affect the staff attendance at monthly meetings/investment in the organization.

NEW BUSINESS

Commuter Tax Benefit Program—This is an employer-initiated program that allows employees to set dollars on a pre-tax basis to apply toward certain commuting costs, similar to a flexible spending account for medical/wellness expenses. The Chair asked if any members would like to volunteer to research the current use of commuting resources situation and how many employees may be interested in utilizing such a program. No members expressed interest in tackling this project, so the Staff Association will not pursue the implementation of this program.

Website—The website is currently under construction, but the meeting schedule and locations will be added to decrease confusion.

Online Parking Renewal—It has not been spelled out clearly, but it would seem likely that there will be a 2.75% transaction fee assessed on all credit card payments made using the new online system for renewing parking passes. There would be no additional charge using an electronic check. Also, VISA cannot be accepted. Ellie Cherry will check with Public Safety and let us know whether or not we still need to go to the Facilities building during the process.

Final Word on August '09 Barbecue—The picnic area in front of Konover is still reserved for August 19, 2009. Feel free to bring your own lunches, chairs, blankets, and tablecloths and enjoy! Further details will be forthcoming.

MEETING SCHEDULE

August 12 th -- 12:00 pm	GSU 345
September 9 th -- 1:00 pm	Woods Family Classroom (Library)
October 14 th -- 12:00 pm	GSU 345
November 11 th -- 1:00 pm	Woods Family Classroom (Library)
December 9 th -- 12:00 pm	GSU 345

Chair Jim Mello thanked those present. The Executive Board will reflect on all comments and will solicit further discussion on these matters.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next meeting will be August 12, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. in Gengras Student Union, West Hartford Room 345.

Judy Chestnut
Recording Secretary