

# University of Hartford Staff Association

## Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2009

### PRESENT

Bonny Barsi, Judy Chestnut, Carol Courtney, Ellen Crandall, Nancy Fields, Lynn Galvin, Cheryl MacMath, Jim Mello, Sandi O'Donnell, Lisa Parker, Karen Schermerhorn, Jillian Vollentine

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Mello opened the meeting at 12:03 p.m. Because there was not a quorum in attendance at today's meeting, the acceptance of the July 8, 2009 Staff Association minutes was tabled.

### UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

**BENEFITS TASK FORCE** – Lynn Galvin reported that medical renewal rates for 2010 will be the topic for the August 20, 2009 meeting.

**BUDGET ADVISORY TEAM** – No update to report.

**WELLNESS** – Barbara Dessureau reported, via e-mail read by Jim Mello, that the recent Hawk Walk wrapped up at the end of July. Participants averaged 385 miles each during the contest! Congratulations to the winning team, Blended Strength, which included Jennifer Brown, Tricia Coppolo, Ellen Crandall, Fred Jenoure, Kathy Manizza, and Tom Perra.

At this time, Human Resources Development is no longer able to provide a chairperson for the Wellness Committee. The committee will be put on hold until HRD is able to facilitate the work of the committee.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE** – It was discovered that this group is properly called "Community Engagement Council" and there may be a meeting in the fall.

### STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORTS

**MEMBERSHIP** – No new information to report.

**TREASURER** – The Staff Association awarded a \$500 scholarship to a Junior in the College of Education, Nursing, and Health Professions.

### OLD BUSINESS

On July 15, 2009, Ellie Cherry and Jim Mello met with President Harrison to discuss the possibility of having staff representation on the Board of Regents. The original request was for three representatives to equal the number of faculty representatives. The President agreed to speak to the Chair of the Board of Regents regarding the request. The Board of Regents currently has 60 members.

In the meantime, President Harrison has committed to meet with members of the Staff Association on a quarterly basis. Also, Provost Lynn Pasquerella has committed to meet with members of the Staff Association on a monthly basis.

**Staff Association Dues:** The Executive Board has decided that Staff Association dues will be eliminated for the 2009-2010 membership year (October 15, 2009 – October 14, 2010). This action provides all eligible staff access to membership in the Staff Association regardless of cost. There will still need to be a registration process (probably an online process) in order to become a member of the Association. This process will be initiated by mid-October and will be announced in UNotes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Awards and Recognition**—No report.

**Review of Constitution and By-laws**—The revisions will begin once the initial changes to the Staff Association that have been enacted by the current Executive Board have been finalized.

**Staff Advocacy Program**—No report.

**September Meeting:** At September's meeting, the topic of staff training and development needs will be discussed. This meeting is intended to be a productive and positive exchange of information which will guide the direction of the current Executive Board over the remainder of its term.

Please submit letters of interest for the two open Executive Board positions to [uhartsaf@hartford.edu](mailto:uhartsaf@hartford.edu) by August 28, 2009. The Executive Board hopes to announce these two new members at the September meeting.

**SA Scholarship:** Evelyne Haldimann will lead an effort to review the Staff Association Scholarship program. The criteria and process need to be defined for future awards.

**Turkey Luncheon:** An action team will meet to help organize a Thanksgiving meal for all Staff. Anyone interested may call a member of the Executive Board. The duties include making arrangements with ARAMARK, distributing flyers, collecting money, and determining which 'extras', such as raffles or food drives, will be part of the event.

**Upcoming Basketball Events:** Ellen Crandall, the Associate Athletics Director, announced that the University will be hosting both the Men's and the Women's America East Tournaments on March 4 through March 7, 2010. Many volunteers working together are required for the event to run smoothly. Any staff members interested in taking advantage of this exciting opportunity to volunteer at the Tournaments can contact Ellen at [ecrandall@hartford.edu](mailto:ecrandall@hartford.edu).

**Brownbag Picnic and Potluck Dessert:** To be held August 19, 2009 at the Konover Grove. (It will be held inside the Konover Building if it rains). All are welcome to bring lunches and, if desired, a dessert to share!

**Faculty/Staff Kickoff:** This year's event will take place in the newly renovated Gengras Student Union on August 26, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. Some staff members commented that this is a very difficult time of year as well as a difficult time of day for staff members to vacate their offices. Jim Mello made the point that it is important for staff members to try to attend.

**The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m. The next meeting will be September 9, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. in The Woods Family Classroom in the Mortensen Library.**

Judy Chestnut  
Recording Secretary