

University of Hartford Staff Association

Meeting Minutes September 9, 2009

PRESENT

Bonny Barsi, Tina Berrien, Bonnie Cameron, Elinor Cherry, Judy Chestnut, Barbara Dessureau, Carla Fuller, Donna Galin, Lynn Galvin, Nancy Lilliquist, Jim Mello, Sandi O'Donnell, Lisa Parker, Jason Pomposelli, Jennifer Sanborn, Jillian Vollentine, Lorelle Wilson, Connie Yoczik

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Jim Mello opened the meeting at 1:07 p.m. Members in attendance approved the Staff Association minutes from July and August, 2009.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

BENEFITS TASK FORCE – No update to report.

BUDGET ADVISORY TEAM – No update to report.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE– Barbara Dessureau reported that The Wellness Committee will continue and a new chairing Department will be appointed by Arosha Jayawickrema.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL – No update to report.

STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORTS

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACTION TEAM – No update to report.

TURKEY LUNCHEON ACTION TEAM – Cheryl McMath and Lynn Galvin have volunteered to coordinate this event.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION – No update to report.

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS – The revisions will be presented at a later date.

STAFF ADVOCACY – No update to report

MEMBERSHIP – The voluntary enrollment form will be introduced soon.

TREASURER – Permanent funding plans for the Staff Association are in process.

OLD BUSINESS

Jim asked for feedback from the August 19 Potluck Picnic and Dessert. Most comments were positive.

There are no new announcements regarding the addition of two Executive Board positions. The Chair sent a campus-wide notice extending the deadline for submitting letters of interest to September 25, 2009. The Executive Board hopes to announce the two new members at the October 14, 2009 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Most of the meeting was dedicated to discussion on the subject of Staff Training and Development. A general brain-storming session focused on several issues:

--There was agreement that being a new staff employee at The University can be very challenging. We need more of the basic employee introduction and training sessions. This is not necessarily a function of the Staff Association, but of the University.

-- Some members expressed an opinion that there are other systemic issues on campus regarding general employee development.

- What is the best time for staff members to be available for an hour or so for a training/development class? The general consensus was that 11:00 in the morning would be feasible along with lunch/brown bag sessions.
- Sessions should be a minimum of one hour, but not too much longer than that.
- Members suggested that, for future thoughts, perhaps a half or full-day during the students' break could be devoted to an intense Staff Training and Development event.
- As staff members, we may need to approach our supervisors and negotiate asking for the time to participate in such programs. The overall results could be beneficial to both the individuals and the departments.
- Members were reminded of the benefits extended through The Hartford Consortium and that it may be useful to University of Hartford Staff members. This benefit could broaden choices for academic subjects to study.
- Many members have found The President's College to be very informative and worthwhile. This is a series of powerful speakers and course and is free to all staff, although they must register.
- The Informational Technology Systems' Tuesday classes have been great and many staff have benefitted from them, but Staff members are now looking for more advanced computer training.
- The success of the Women's Wednesday program provides a good example.

Going forward, we could actively solicit more volunteers who have a talent or information they would like to share with the University Staff.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Note the change in date for the next meeting. It will be Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 11:30am in Gengras Student Union, Room 335 (Simsbury). President Walter Harrison and Jane Horvath, Senior Advisor to the President, will attend the meeting to discuss the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the University Values Committee.

Judy Chestnut
Recording Secretary