

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD
STAFF ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES
September, 2010, Mortensen Library 1:00 pm

PRESENT: Evelyne Haldimann, Nancy Fields, Ben Ide, Cheryl MacMath, Carla Fuller, Jason Pomposelli, Melanie Angel, Barbara Dessureau, Lisa Parker, Lisa Belanger, Samantha Cahill, Jane Horvath, Jennifer Keyo, Lori Holden, Maria Marques, and Bonny Barsi.

MINUTES: Members in attendance approved the Staff Association minutes from the July 14, 2010 meeting.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORTS

BAT No Report - Meeting on September 9th

WELLNESS Lisa Belanger reported on behalf of Kathe Snow. HRD is hoping to have the wellness survey distributed mid to late September. Both the Benefits Task Force and the Wellness Committee are striving to offer employee options for healthy choices which will hopefully have an eventual positive impact on health care costs.

BTF Lisa reported on behalf of Lynn Galvin and shared that renewal bids are out to health care providers. A meeting to discuss recommendations is scheduled for September 9th. Results of renewals will be available by the end of September.

STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORTS

WEB ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Barbara Dessureau reported that the committee met and is ready to set up a blog. The group is inviting others to join them via the blog to create solutions for mutual problems.

OFFICE STAFF COMMITTEE - Cheryl MacMath reported that the committee is creating a staff survey and met with Lisa Belanger (HRD). They have discussed appropriate questions for the survey, format, and audience. Some questions about the survey will be presented to legal counsel.

CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS - Ben Ide shared that the Staff Association Eboard is reviewing and revising these documents, but is not changing their fundamental nature. Some of the changes address the fact that we no longer charge for membership, and there are changes to the titles of officers and representatives. There are no changes in the way we meet. There is more emphasis on promoting the well fair and general interests of the membership. Membership will be notified of all changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The balance was \$3261.27. There were no new expenses or revenue since the July report.

GUEST SPEAKER: Jane Horvath, Associate Professor of Economics and Senior Advisor to the President - addressed the issues of non-smoking initiatives and community building. Interest in these issues was expressed by membership at the July, 2010 meeting.

Last year's Values Initiative focused on ways to implement the community values as articulated in the Values Statement and was embraced. This created a "springboard" for conversations and activities. For example, students wanted more spaces to gather and relax. It was agreed that if people have a place to be, community happens. It was also determined that University communications regarding campus activities could be improved.

Even though there are several video screens on campus, the information displayed is generally specific to the college rather than the University. The walkway between the bookstore and the library presented a perfect place to create both an outside gathering place and a centralized communications area since most students cross through that space entering the academic side of campus from the residential side. The new pergola (an arbor or passageway of columns supporting a roof of trelliswork) was thus created on that site. The flat screen, space, and, wireless connection were made possible via a Parent Association grant.

Students want this area to be smoke free, but encouraging a smoke free zone at the pergola requires a culture change. Returning students are not used to the area being smoke free. All students need to inform each other and enforce the concept of this new smoke free zone. This is not just a student effort, but is one that involves all members of the community-students, staff, and faculty. Another new addition to this space is a solar trash compactor. Students gather in this area more now and create more trash which needs to be emptied more often. The trash compactor that was in front of the Commons was moved to the pergola.

Jane is meeting with Student Government and the Student Athlete Advisory Council, and members of Greek Life to discuss how the smoke free zone can be successfully expanded from the pergola to other sites on campus. If members of the Staff Association have ideas to help expand the smoke free zone, please email Jane at Horvath@hartford.edu. Some suggestions were mentioned at the meeting. Unfortunately the recent first year orientation "Our Campus - Our Planet" was not videotaped. Had it been it might have been worthwhile to show sections of it on the pergola screen. Last year several of the University's sports teams committed to a weekend of campus clean up and may be willing to repeat their contribution again this year. It was suggested that the Greek community be asked to participate in weekend clean ups. Jane mentioned that efforts were being made to sync up the screen to the SGA campus scheduling calendar "R25". Efforts are also being made to have the separate monitors around campus share more information. Perhaps having video "advertising" clips highlighting smoke free zones, campus cleaning initiative, and use of the trash compactor would be helpful. There was some discussion about CT State Law and/or University of Hartford policy requiring a smoke free zone within 25 feet of doors. It was suggested that perhaps signs could be posted on all outside doors informing students of the policy.

GUEST SPEAKER: Laura Pence, Professor of Chemistry in A & S, addressed the meeting regarding campus sustainability. Laura is one of two University sustainability coordinators who are gathering interested persons together to discuss, plan, and propose initiatives to improve sustainability at the University. The topic is very broad and specific needs vary widely across campus. Many of the individual colleges, departments, and organizations on campus have active sustainability initiatives, but bringing all of the separate initiatives together in a coordinated effort to address large projects such as campus recycling is one of the primary goals. Questions such as, "What needs to be done?", "Where are we now?", and "Who is doing what?" all need to be addressed. Laura is currently trying to get a good "lay of the land" and she encouraged staff to visit the new web site, created by Lisa Parker at www.new.hartford.edu/sustainability.

As an example of the complexity involved, Laura spoke about recycling. The University does not pay town taxes and therefore does not have access to town trash and recycling services. We have to purchase private services and are always conscious of containing

costs. Currently the Facilities Department has recently changed to purchasing a "single stream" recycling contract which means that all recyclables get put into big green bins. If we could more effectively use large pure/clean recycling streams we could retain dollars or get dollars back. Recycling needs in each area of campus may be very different. It is believed that staff members may have a broader vision of how recycling needs to be accomplished in each area. She asked staff members to consider participating on committees to address recycling issues. Some items raised by those at the meeting included questions about the current processes for recycling toner cartridges, suggestions that a Fraternity (APO) currently collects recyclables, and the suggestion that we educate people about how to use fewer recyclables in the first place. It was also suggested that the University needs to provide identical (consistently identifiable) containers throughout the campus for collecting recyclables. Staff members interested in participating in further discussions about campus sustainability were encouraged to email Laura at lpence@hartford.edu

UPDATES/FOLLOW-UP July Meeting (August meeting was cancelled)

The self-defense class scheduled for August was cancelled due to low interest/enrollment. It may be rescheduled for October.

IT courses - the new schedule for the September - November offerings is available on the website (<http://its.hartford.edu/itcourses>). Classes will be cancelled if there are not two or more people signed up.

The Faculty Senate invited a representative of the Staff Association to join them. Jennifer Keyo of the Staff Association Eboard has been appointed to be that representative.

Respectfully submitted by

Nancy Fields
Recording Secretary