

GUEST SPEAKER:

- I. Mark Overmyer-Velazquez: Professor History and Latino & Latin American Studies, university campus director at UConn Hartford; chair of the search committee for the next campus director at UConn Stamford
 - a. Mark was on campus a few weeks ago, got a tour from student government, met with staff and faculty; looking to use this meeting for thoughts/concerns, thoughts about how we want to attract candidates to UConn Stamford
 - b. Process of job search: a job firm is running the dissemination of the job ad, they will draft an ad and use their powers to disperse it nationally; February will be the first round of interviews, second round will consist of finalists coming to campus for presentations/convoos etc; campus director will start July 1, 2022
 - c. List of characteristics for future university director put together by SFC and presented to Mark;
 1. Concerns about space and ongoing construction at UConn Stamford, the building has been at its capacity for years; has to be one of the top priorities to sort this out and find a solution
 2. campus director needs to be on top of things, regularly communicate with UConn Stamford community and needs to allow faculty/staff to have a bigger say so in what happens with the building; director needs to understand they are responsible for UConn Stamford first and Storrs second;
 3. there has been lack of communication with faculty about things that were happening at UConn Stamford; spaces were being taken away; things were happening with the building that we didn't know about; positions being terminated and we didn't know about it;
 4. faculty activities to involve students – voter registration etc; in the past, this didn't get any response or even brief appearance from campus director; we need a director who encourages different pedagogy techniques and who's involved and engaged
 - d. As the campus director of UConn Hartford, Mark understands that candidate has to be a staunch advocate for regional campus for needs of students/faculty/staff; from personal experience, Mark knows it's a constant struggle and negotiation balancing the unique condition of commuting students vs Storrs students, students who have multiple jobs vs Storrs students; issue of mental health that affected students from challenging socio-economic backgrounds more; all of that has been heightened by the pandemic and shed a bright light on the difference between Storrs and Stamford;
 - e. Students won't have the best learning opportunities if we don't create spaces that will support that, e.g. when space is being taken away; Stamford is the second

largest city in CT; UConn Stamford produces a lot of revenue for this state and for Fairfield county, we have a financial pull here according to Bill; we contribute far more to the Storrs budget than we get in return;

- f. Suman mentioned that campus university directors at UConn Stamford never really stay beyond five years; some people have resigned midterm;
- g. Suman also mentions that distance from Storrs is an issue for UConn Stamford faculty/students, esp when faculty has to teach a course at another campus or students have to take a course that is not offered at UConn Stamford; opportunities for students to take major courses/elective courses at Storrs vs Stamford is not the same and it doesn't even seem they're getting the degree from the same university;

OPEN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- I. Approve 11/18 Minutes (attached)
 - a. Approved by Beth
 - b. Seconded by Meredith
 - c. Carol Ann abstained because she didn't attend the 11/18 meeting
- II. Tomorrow is meeting with Souder; Bill will present the topics SFC members mentioned for discussion in the google doc Bill had sent out
- III. Felicity: Souder is doing a terrific job, first time she has seen movement on the dance studio space; he negotiated the dance studio with the Y and he gave us back the outside speaker fund
- IV. Outside speaker fund: nothing will happen till spring semester begins, so topic will be picked up again then
- V. SFC members agree that we should continue to find speakers for the meetings organically; if someone has a topic they think would be interesting/beneficial for members and faculty to learn more about, we'll reach out to persons who can present on mentioned issue/topic
 - a. Meredith has already received bios from some SFC members; she'll send out an email to persons whose bios she's still missing
- VI. Spring meeting schedule for SFC council: we set on every fourth Monday from 7-8.30pm and Bill will send out another doodle to find an afternoon meeting time, either Monday, Wednesday, or Friday
- VII. Next meeting: Monday, January 24, at 7pm