

Stamford Faculty Council Meeting  
Feb 28, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Minutes by Johanna Ortner

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Zach Claybaugh, Student Success Librarian at UConn Library

- UConn looking at Barnes and Nobles First Day Complete – program would charge student a flat fee for their learning materials for the entire semester. Currently negotiating the deal, but the program needs to be in place by the time students register for fall 2022 classes this spring. It's an inclusive access program. It's a means to deliver course materials to students at a set price. Everyone will be charged this set price and by paying that price students will have access to all of their materials, no matter if their instructional materials would have been 600 or 200 Dollars for the semester. Every student will be charged a fee on their bill, every undergrad student at every campus will pay 285 dollars, however, the fee doesn't deviate from the amount of credits that students will take. So it's a flat fee. Fee is for every fall and spring semester. Students will be provided with all textbooks and ancillary required instructional materials for classes, items like tools, lab coats, art supplies etc will not be included. Expectation is that lab manuals will be included.
- *Students will be automatically included in this, it is an opt out program only.* At the point of registration they will receive a series of 5 emails from point of registration to begin of the semester to let them know their opt out rights. They have the first 10 days of the semester to opt out of the program.
- *UConn negotiated an extra loop hole:* Students will either have it elected to have materials shipped to their homes or to their Barnes and Noble book store. If students don't choose either option, it will be through their bookstore. If a student does not opt out, but never picks up their items, they will not be charged and automatically be opted out.
- *Students need to return print materials to the bookstore at the end of the semester.* It defaults to print. Where there is print stock of text books that will be the default. There's only digital access if that's the only access available. Students won't be able to keep the materials. They have to pay additional money if they want to keep it, they need to pay if they lose items/text books.
- *Pros:*
  - 1. Macro level price transparency
  - 2. Fixed instructional materials costs
  - 3. One-stop shopping
  - 4. Provost's Office will scrap the program after the first year, if it doesn't meet the needs of students
  - 5. Provost's Office has done a great job negotiating off ramps for students to opt out
- *Cons:*
  - 1. Materials fees are automatically billed
  - 2. Lack of granular cost transparency

- 3. Can strongly affect student choice and purchasing options
- 4. Does not include equipment that students are required to purchase, such as lab coats, tools, art supplies etc.
- 5. Some students stated that they had to go outside of Barnes and Noble for some materials that the bookstore doesn't carry
- 6. Textbook rental, no perpetual access
- 7. Opt-out may not be lengthy enough
- 8. There will be confusion while the students add/drop classes at the beginning of the semester, which may lead to students overpaying through the program
- 9. Moves the conversation away from eliminating textbook costs and dependence on commercial publishers
- 10. While it provides cost equality, it solidifies inequity.
- 11. Has the potential to disincentivize moving to OER and other free and low-cost options. UConn would be the third largest institution to join the program, most participants are significantly smaller colleges and universities. Would put UConn further behind other institutions in the state, such as the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, in pursuing OER and other no-cost instructional materials.
- Claybaugh states that it might be good to get in touch with administration to share any faculty concerns with this program. Can get in touch with the main negotiator from the Provost's Office – Michael Bradford ([michael.bradford@uconn.edu](mailto:michael.bradford@uconn.edu))

## OPEN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

### *I. Approve 1/24 minutes:*

- a. Beth moves to approve meeting minutes. Meredith seconds, Bill thirds.
- b. Carol Ann abstains from meeting.

### *II. Approve 2/09 minutes:*

- a. Beth moves to approve meeting minutes. Meredith seconds, Bill thirds.
- b. Kriti, Claudia, and Carol Ann abstain from meeting.

### *III. Third upcoming meeting with Interim Director Souder:*

Council decides to cancel the March 22 meeting with Souder.

- a. Bill will email Marta to cancel the meeting. Bill will send an email for council members to add points/questions for Souder to be emailed to him.
- b. April meeting with Souder is still scheduled and might be used to address the points collected by the council members.

### *IV. Director Town Hall Observation:*

Town Hall took place on February 15.

- a. Topics discussed included police chaperoning of faculty, specifically in the evening when heading back to parking lots; mask mandate; ongoing construction in the campus building

### *V. Future Guest Speaker Plans:*

Mike Bailey: 3/09 SFC meeting

Emily Sears: 3/26 SFC meeting

VI. Continued SFC Awareness/Branding:

Meredith still needs a few more bios. PLEASE SEND A SHORT BIO TO HER IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY.

VII. Stamford Director Search Status:

Carol Ann and Kriti state that there is a great pool of candidates for the position. The search focused in on twelve candidates in particular out of a pool of fifty candidates. They interviewed six candidates already and will interview six more on Wednesday, March 2. Three to five candidates will be short listed for an in-person interview right before and after spring break. Details about their interview/job talk and candidates' CVs will be sent out via email to faculty.

VIII. Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday, March 9, 4pm.

**New Business:**

- A. Beth got an email from Marie about Suicide Prevention today that Katlyn Griffin will do a seminar on Suicide Prevention for interested faculty members. Marie's email includes doodle poll to show your interest in attending, or email your interest directly to [stamfordmhrc@uconn.edu](mailto:stamfordmhrc@uconn.edu).
- B. Kriti got email from Kathleen Hindman who works with FYE, she is the honors coordinator. She has sent the info for the undergraduate research exhibition on April 12, students' applications are due on March 11. Share the link with students: <https://ugradresearch.uconn.edu/frontiers2022/>