

Stamford Faculty Council Meeting  
November 14, 2022, 5:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Minutes by Jonathan Gilbert

**SFC Attendees:** Jonathan Gilbert, Bill Schwendner, Claudia Kraemer, Carol Ann Wetmore, Johanna Ortner, John White, Phil Dwire, Samuel Schoonmaker, Marie Ruizmartinez, Beth Ginsberg

**Guest Attendees:** David Anderson, Erica Granoff

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Emily Sears

I. CSD

- a. Outlines the process of CSD
  - i. If the student ever asks about mental health or other mental health issues the student should be referred to the MHRC, not CSD.
  - ii. CSD doesn't recruit. All students must reach out directly to CSD and request accommodations.
  - iii. All students will meet with Emily personally to determine educational limitations based on personal issues.
    1. Accommodations are always appropriate and individualized.
  - iv. Student may reach out to their professors with accommodations however, CSD will reach out to the professors to address the nature and scope of the accommodation.
  - v. CSD asks students register at orientation but acknowledge this is not always the case.
  - vi. Any requests that are complicated will be reviewed by a team.
  - vii. CSD is always receptive to conversations with the professors regarding student accommodations and limitations.

II. Open questions for Emily

- a. David asks if a student has accommodations do they have to have diagnosis or incoming IEP – from high school.
  - i. Mostly correct. CSD will accept diagnosis, IEP's, and 504's. Chronic health issues with no recorded conditions can be evaluated on an individual basis, however documentation is a requirement.
    1. COVID barriers have increased time frames and record acquisitions.
  - ii. Erica adds there are now so many accommodations that were not historically classified as disabilities.
    1. A broad spectrum of ailments has impacted the CSD ability to quickly assess and initiate student accommodations.
  - iii. Carol adds her gratitude for the work of CSD and adds the nursing program is willing to accommodate to the best of their abilities.

1. Adds that advocating for student's mental health and the is paramount to their success.
2. Co morbidity is increasing and have been nationwide.
- iv. Beth seconds Carols sentiment.
  1. Again, thanks the work of CSD and Emily.
  2. She shares an anecdotal experience for a student that wasn't able to attend a class, and CSD was able to find an alternative.
  3. She acknowledges the frustration given certain accommodations and says that Emily has been a valuable resource in assisting the faculty with come up with solutions.
  4. Having children with accommodations she emphasizes and holds an appreciation for the process
- v. Emily brings up the topic about behavior or addressing accommodation issues in the class.
  1. She acknowledges that the process can be difficult but because she shares a personal connection with the student, she can assist.
- vi. Claudia asks about how Erica was the point person regarding student issues.
  1. Erica reiterates Emily is the person to discuss accommodations.
  2. Erica says if there are behavioral issues in the class, responsibility lands on the instructor, however, conduct falls under Erica's domain.
- vii. Bill reminds the group that before the addition of Emily and Erica, there were no support services for faculty regarding student behaviors and accommodations.
- viii. Emily reminds the group that as finals are approaching, she will be emails reminding faculty and students.
- ix. Phil asks Erica and Emily what are the top issues that CSD receives that is not in the prevue of CSD.
  1. Erica says as there is no Director of Academic Affairs, and most issues land on them that should not. There are no key people to direct students to but has not been the job of Emily or Erica.
  2. Emily gets COVID referrals by email but re-iterates the need for them to be addressed to Student Services.
  3. Phil adds that if there is anything we (faculty) can do to assist, student services and CSD are welcome to reach out.

## RESUME COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

- I. Approve 9/28 Minutes: Bill motions to approve, Beth seconds, Johanna abstain
- II. Approve 10/10 Minutes: Bill motions to approve, Claudia seconds. Beth abstains.
- III. Welcome Phil Dwire:
  - a. DMD specializes in marketing, planning, business and more. Has been on the Stamford campus since 2014. Prior to DMD was a director of media for the athletic at Storrs. Continues to do research and consult.
  - b. Bill offers the links to the google docs. Phil says he requested info. Bill agrees to approve request.
  - c. Bill covers the active member doc with current makeup and offers to send again to the group.
- IV. Council Membership Changes
  - a. Carol Ann announced a move to an administration position. Due to the laws of the FSC (current professors) will have to leave and find a replacement.
    - i. Carol Ann offers a found replacement – Christina McElroy from the school of Nursing.
    - ii. Bill asks if we should vote now or wait until the next election cycle.
    - iii. Bill asks the group if a secret vote or open vote should be held.
      1. No objections
      2. Bill motions to open vote.
        - a. No objection, no abstain
    - iv. **Christina is acknowledged as the newest member. Bill will send an email and Carol will reach out as well.**
- V. Meeting with Jennifer
  - a. Went well and wants to continue to meet in the future.
  - b. Low member turnout (5/13). Only 5 faculty members attended (less than 2%). Bill asks how to get more faculty engaged.
    - i. Johanna suggests that mental health due to COVID may be limiting involvement. Suggests the possibility of another meeting in the future.
    - ii. Carol says the meeting times may be difficult. With heavy adjunct membership and evening classes, alternative times may be needed.
    - iii. Bill asks about Town Hall attendance
      1. Claudia says she has not seen a high turnout, but not as limited as other events (ie SFC meetings)
- VI. Active Threat Training
  - a. Bill will send an email giving details for in-person training
    - i. Tuesday & Wednesday (11/29 & 30) 12:30 -1:30 & 3:30 – 4:30
    - ii. The police will find a space to give training
  - b. Carol asks who will be giving the training

- i. Bill says most likely Mickens but could have other representatives.
    - c. Bill has asked that the training to be recorded
    - d. David Anderson asks if students will be involved – as is done in Norwalk public schools
      - i. This meeting is just for faculty
      - ii. Bill will suggest the idea to Jennifer and ask what is offered to students.
      - iii. David says there are a variety of threats and suggests other topics like swatting be discussed.
- VII. Future guest speakers
- a. Erica Grannoff 11/30
  - b. Phara still has no confirmation. Beth asks if someone can get her in for the 11/14 meeting
    - i. Johanna offers to reach out
  - c. No other guest lineup for 2022
- VIII. New business
- a. Merideth Rusoff sent an email to Bill and Beth about physical health care on campus.
    - i. Given the 3000+ students and residential, then there should be.
    - ii. Suggests vaccines (flu and COVID) for interim and find fulltime healthcare
    - iii. Claudia says the topic at the town hall as the medical professional will be coming.
    - iv. Carol says Nursing tried to partner with no success. They cannot run the program but are willing to help.
    - v. Beth acknowledges as the campus is growing, the needs will increase. Offering healthcare will be necessary.
    - vi. Bill offers to send an email to Jennifer
  - b. Beth says that the bookstore and café should be open past 5.
    - i. Claudia says that Jennifer is willing to assist with the faculty lounge. We need to write down options and they will do their best to supply both permanent and consumable items.
    - ii. Beth says that there should be an option for students and faculty as classes run until 8:30 and options are limited in the residences.
  - c. Marie says there is only 1 water filling station on the first floor.
    - i. Claudia says this may be an option for the faculty lounge.
  - d. Beth offers to send an email to Pam with a CC to Jennifer regarding the campus bookstore, café, and water options.
  - e. Claudia offers to list possible items for the faculty lounge for additions.
    - i. Any additions should be emailed directly to Claudia
  - f. David says he met with Jennifer to discuss mindfulness options. He asks the group for possible times.
    - i. Beth suggests sending a survey to the faculty as well as sending flyers (to their mailboxes).

- ii. Beth advises talking to Cathy Harrison to reserve a space and suggests possibility of the Schreiber reading room.
- iii. David reminds the group that this would be a secular practice and the reiterates the benefits of mindfulness.
- iv. Bill suggests coming up with times and can assists with distribution via email.
- v. Carol adds that mindfulness is being included for a host of other ailments.
- vi. Na Zeng (HDFS) also teaches mindfulness. Sam offers to connect David to Na.