

Stamford Faculty Council Meeting  
November 11, 2024, 7:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Minutes by Jonathan Gilbert

**SFC Attendees:** Claudia Kraemer, Bill Schwendner, Sharon Lattig, Katie Nagrotsky, Felice Lesser, Beth Ginsberg, Christina McElroy, Ellie Sherafat, Evan Rawley, Marie Ruiz-Martinez

**Guest Attendees:** Diedre Simmons, Oskar Harmon

### **OPEN COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- I. Approve Minutes
  - A. 9/9 minutes
    - I. Claudia motions to approve, Beth seconds
  - B. 10/14 minutes
    - I. Non available. Jonathan will get the minutes out before the next meeting.
  
- II. Introduction
  - A. Evan Rawley –Business
  - B. Ellie Sherafat – Engineering/CS&E
  - C. General SFC status
    - I. There are now 11 Stamford members
      - A. FT – 9 (82%), PT 2 (18%)
      - B. The quorum is at 7
  
- III. Follow up status
  - A. Faculty Concourse Office Hours
    - I. Aris & Laura are waiting for SFC to produce a list of dates & people.
      - A. They ask that the events not be on the same day and not on Fridays
      - B. Bill offers a list of dates through the spring semester with members to add input. Members discuss and sign up:
        - I. STEM –
          - I. Tuesday Feb 2/11 @ 2:00 – 3:30 pm
            - I. Bill, Marie, Jonathan, Caludia
        - II. Fine arts/Social Science/Business –
          - I. Thursday March 3/6 @ 3:30 – 5:00pm
            - I. Ellie, Beth, Evan
          - II. Thursday March 3/6 @ 2:00 – 3:00 pm
            - I. Felice & Ellie
  
- III. Education

- I. Wednesday 4/9 @ 2:00-3:30 pm
        - I. Katie
    - IV. April is up in the air, and we will address in the spring.
  - B. Financial aid
    - I. No news but Marie is asking for assistance and believes we should continue to explore.
      - A. Bill offers to move the subject to the spring semester so we can get more council assistance
  - C. Jorge Aguirre, creator of Dora the explorer, will be on campus Thursday @ 2:00 pm Rm 109 to talk
    - I. A meet & greet will be held after.
    - II. A member asks Oskar to send a reminder over the listserv
    - III. Members agree that there are needs to bring more professionals to educate students and engage the community.
  - D. Stamford Graduates / graduation ceremony
    - I. Claudia reports that there will not be a special ceremony for Stamford despite pleas from faculty
    - II. The topic is now closed
  - E. Campus CPR class coming
    - I. Claudia and the biology club are organizing another class for CPR/AED
      - A. The class is tentatively planned for Spring 2025
  - F. AED (defibrillators) locations
    - I. Upcoming spring broadcast in the spring
  - G. SFC webpage maintenance
    - I. Ellie has the information to take over.
    - II. Please send Ellie new or updated bios by 11/15
- IV. Town Hall
  - A. 11/14 12:00-2:00pm Auditorium. Faculty & Student awards.
    - I. Lunch is included but all attending need to register.
- V. Fall Faculty Colloquia
  - A. No more faculty colloquia. We are looking for spring.
- VI. Upcoming guests for SFC meetings
  - A. Polled faculty with low (no) response.
  - B. A member questioned the need to have guests when attendance is so low.
    - I. Maybe we will leave all meetings open unless there is a special guest request.
- VII. Reminders
  - A. HR benefit fair, now Wednesday 11/13, 11-2pm, concourse
  - B. 2 more sessions scheduled for the spring, not scheduled for Fridays

- VIII. SFC meetings 7:15 pm
  - A. 12/2 – last for the Fall semester
  - B. Spring proposed dates:
    - I. 1/27, 2/10, 3/10, 4/28
    - A. No objections from current members**
  - C. 2025-2026 SFC presidents will be needed, and Claudia and Bill are stepping down
    - I. 2 presidents are needed.
  - D. We need to discuss the future of the SFC/focus/effectiveness
    - I. Marie suggests that we offer mentorship for the campus faculty.
      - A. Offer evaluations & assistance for junior faculty.
        - I. Other members agree this would be valuable as CETL cannot offer precise information for specific fields and the Stamford campus
- IX. Deirdre Simmons brings up the point that the students are very underprepared.
  - A. Members agree and express their concerns about their competency
    - I. One member questions how some students were admitted.
    - II. Many members are generally exhausted with the intro classes and students this past semester.
  - B. Deirdre offers some solutions and volunteers to be a speaker at the SFC.
- X. Beth met is in meetings about Kosher food options on campus
  - A. She will meet with head of dining services the new temp DEI officer to discuss Kosher dining food options.
- XI. Wednesday 3/13 at 4pm, Beth will hold a post discussion recap with other Political Science members across campuses.
  - A. Beth will discuss numbers and voter turnout.
  - B. Other members will discuss other aspects (including foreign policy, courts, effects of climate, etc.)
  - C. Pizza will be present.
- XII. AAUP will be on campus on Wednesday, 12:00-1:30 to meet with faculty. Another meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Zoom.
  - A. The link to the will be sent to the listserv.
  - B. A member asked if the meeting will be recorded.
- XIII. Marie, as a faculty leader of the LCI, raises concerns regarding the immigration landscape and as asking if faculty wanted to assist for another event in the Spring
  - A. This past spring, an immigration lawyer came to discuss available resources
    - I. This was a highly attended event
  - B. Marie is looking at 1. Having open conversations, or 2. Run a clinic where people can sign up with professionals.

- I. If interested, please reach out to Marie directly.
  - C. Beth suggests reaching out to the Law center.
    - I. Marie agrees and has contacts at Yale law
  - D. Another member points out the serious warrants including the administration.
    - I. Marie is aware and recognizes and has had success with the administrators assisting with the last event.
- XIV. Marie and the LCI are starting a new oral history project and ask any faculty or students interested to contact her directly.

**NEW BUSINESS**