

Stamford Faculty Council Meeting
November 13, 2023, 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Minutes by Jonathan Gilbert

SFC Attendees: Jonathan Gilbert, Claudia Kraemer, Felice Lesser, Bill Schwendner, Kevin McEvoy, Sharon Lattig, Christina McElroy, Phil Dwire, Katie Nagrotsky, Marie Ruiz-Martinez, Beth Ginsberg

Guest Attendees:

Guest Speaker: Laurie McCarthy (CETL/Executive Director Faculty Development)

Discussion Points:

- I. Laurie
 - a. Started with faculty development at
 - i. Found way to UCONN during COVID
 1. Has been to Stamford to gather feedback and run a pedagogy talk.
 - b. As Ansley moved on, the position has not yet been filled.
 - i. Laurie has served as the regional campus contact.
- II. Dec 1 @ 12:30 there is a CETL talk on AI. Lance Eaton, faculty development for 'faculty unbound'.
 - a. CETL wants to know what faculty would like to know about the topic of AI in the classroom.
 - b. Ithaca A&I research project
 - i. More information to come soon.
- III. Working on full day workshops & opportunities to adjust courses
 - a. CETL will walk through
 - i. Approaches to instruction, assessments, tech tools, accessibility.
- IV. Trying to tie in topics with Common Core.
 - a. Working with Jamie Hymen to develop faculty assistance
- V. Applications for course revisions will be
 - a. Locations will depend on cohort and their locations.
- VI. Kevin asks what type of input would be taken from faculty when developing the curriculum.
 - a. The issue of common curriculum
 - i. Laurie welcomes feedback at anytime. The common core curriculum was developed through faculty governance and is 10 years in the making. Information is available for review.
 - ii. The departmental changes need to reflect the common standard, but the needs of the students are considered.
 1. They are aware that regionals have particular needs.

- VII. Beth asks about the possibility of a faculty group discussion about ‘small teaching’ workshop
 - a. Laurie is receptive of progressing the conversation in the Spring.
 - i. Topics for the workshop are based off a book by James Lang.
- VIII. Beth asks who faculty should be contacting for CETL questions, “the new Ansley”.
 - a. Laurie says she will accept emails
- IX. Claudia points out that there were workshops available online during COVID, but now relevance has changed. Given the needs of Stamford, Claudia suggests setting up workshops in person at Stamford
- X. Katie asks if there is work, workshops, or teaching resources for non-English speaking students
 - a. Laurie speak with Laura and will look into the possibilities and will look into
- XI. Bill asks how he should tackle the issue of degrading education. Specifically, in STEM, has there been pressure or concerns seen?
 - a. There have been changes during COVID, and the changes need to be addressed.
 - i. Concerns of mental wellbeing and absenteeism are the biggest topics, and the reduction of curricular standards.
- XII. Kevin points out that Stamford needs are very different than Storrs, therefore the culture and standards are not applicable.
- XIII. Beth reiterates the issues pointed out by Bill and Kevin. To follow up, there are changes that need to be addressed and we would like help from CETL to address ‘our’ students needs.
 - a. A CETL course that is great up at Storrs, may not be applicable to Stamford.
 - i. Laurie will be committed to assisting the faculty.

OPEN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- I. Approve Minutes
 - A. Beth requests to amend the minutes. Add Fred
 - B. 11-3 – Beth motions to approve, Kevin seconds, Bill Abstains.
 - C. Kevin thanks Jonathan for compiling the minutes.
- II. Follow up status.
 - A. La Comunidad Intellectual LCI activities/tutors
 - I. Marie has been hiring tutors that are bilingual and STEM
 - A. Currently there are tutors that speak Spanish, Portuguese, and Creole.
 - B. Can we get resources / better training for the tutors from CETL?
 - II. These tutors will be available in the Q center.
 - B. “Know your Rights” November 16, 2023 presentation, Paola Donovan (Connecticut Institute of Emigrants and Refugees) 12:30 – 1:30 Schriber Reading Room.

- I. Would like to start a collaboration with the organization, possibly in the spring.
 - C. Holiday Celebration – Anything planned/organized?
 - I. Beth mentions that there was a faculty holiday party, with food, last year.
 - A. There is no word on this year.
 - I. Table discussion until we hear something from Jennifer.
- III. Faculty Colloquia
 - A. This past month Kriti presented and there were 2 faculty members.
 - I. Attendance needs to improve to continue the colloquia.
 - A. Bill suggests using 1 day for 2-3 presentations as opposed to the monthly.
 - B. Nov 30 - Matt Worwood (rm 106)
 - C. Nothing queued for December or the spring semester.
- IV. Town Halls
 - A. Nov 15 (11-12), Dec 5 (11-12)
 - B. Coffee Hours w/Director (9/19, 10/26, 11/29) 1:30 – 2:30
 - C. Claudia will attend in October and November.
 - D. All other members are encouraged to attend.
- V. New Items
 - A. By law changes (executive discussion)
- VI. Guest Speaker
 - A. Next (11/13): Laurie McCarty (CETL / executive director faculty development)
 - B. 12/4: Erica Conklin (Stamford CSD lead)
- VII. SFC website
 - A. All Bios updated.
- VIII. SFC schedule, 7:00pm Dec 4th
- IX. SFC Farewell
 - A. David Anderson will no longer be an SFC member
 - I. Quota levels are OK (4 remaining).
 - II. Search is not necessary and there are open positions (for adjuncts).

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

- I. By law Changes
 - A. Proposed: Council member's role when not teaching during a semester?
 - If a Council member is not teaching a semester during their elected membership term and
 - Is a full-time instructor (not an adjunct or part time) and is still under a University contract (i.e., remains a University employee), then the instructor can (a) continue to exercise their full SFC roles / responsibilities, (b) take a sabbatical from the Council (leave of absence)

not longer than a semester and temporarily suspend their voting rights) or
(c) resign from the Council, or

· Is an adjunct or part time instructor and is not under a University contract (i.e., not a University employee), then the adjunct will be a non-voting member of the SFC (quorum will be adjusted temporarily) for that semester. This shall only be applicable for one semester. If that member is not teaching or under University contract for a second semester they will need to resign from the council. This applies to members who have taught at UCONN for fewer than 15 years.

· If a member is an adjunct or part time employee and has served at UCONN for over 15 years, they may, upon agreement of a majority of the council members, continue to serve on the SFC without a contract as a non voting member for 2 semesters. If at the third semester they are still without a contract they will be asked to resign.

- I. Prior to the vote, Kevin points out that the University has changed their employment terms.
 - A. If you live out of state and work out of state, you cannot be a UCONN employee.
 - I. There may be exceptions but may not exist. The rules have not been well articulated.
 - II. Kevin is concerned that he will not have a position in the Spring (or moving forward)
- II. Vote:
 - A. Beth motions to approve, Bill seconds, Felice abstains, no concurs.
 - I. Marie is no-vote. 9 vote yes.
- III. Beth brings up the office hours in the concourse. There are 2 types of student questions, 1 for specific guidance questions and 2, mini-review sessions.
 - A. Yes, there are some interested faculty. Ideally, a room would be reserved for the group.
- IV. Felice is requesting that anyone advising students to send them to dance.