

Stamford Faculty Council Meeting
January 22, 2024, 7:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Minutes by Jonathan Gilbert

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

Guest Attendees: Joel Blatt

Guest Speaker: None (rescheduled)

OPEN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- I. Approve Minutes
 - A. 11/14 minutes
 - I. Beth motions, Claudia seconds, no objections, no abstains.
 - B. 12/4 minutes
 - I. Beth motions, Bill Seconds, no objections, no abstains.
- II. Follow up status.
 - A. Faculty Office Hours/Concourse – communication sent to Jennifer.
 - I. Suggestions given to Jennifer that 1 table be set up in concourse.
 - A. Waiting for reply from Jennifer
 - II. Beth clarifies that these sessions are mini-review sessions, rather than 1-on-1 student meetings.
 - III. The idea is to make faculty more accessible and approachable to students.
 - B. Space Planning Effort
 - I. Bill has reached out and is waiting to hear from Aris.
 - A. There is supposed to be a new planning effort.
 - B. No new news from Aris.
 - C. Non-Connecticut residency impact on Spring 2024 SFC Council
 - I. Kevin is removed from the SFC due to the new rule.
 - II. A member points out that there seems to be a move to organize classes in-person and away from online.
- III. Faculty Colloquia (planned)
 - A. 1/24 wed Dr. John Carney
 - B. 2/29 Thurs, Dr. Annamaria Csizmadia

- C. 3/27 Wed, Dr. Luke Reynolds
- D. 4/18 Thurs, Dr. Serkan Gorkemli

IV. Upcoming SFC guests

- A. Feb 2, Erica Conklin (CSD)
- B. March 4, Officer Mickens (UCONN Police)
 - I. Talk about current plans for safety.
 - II. Scope for safety and personnel.
 - III. A member mentions concerns about crossing Washington Blvd. to the parking lot.
 - IV. Bill asks members to submit topics to discuss.
 - A. Felice asks if we can discuss active shooter training.
 - I. Jonathan posted the video the uconn police used during the training in the chat (run, hide, fight)
 - V. A member asks about increased safety at night.

V. Proposed Guest Speaker & meetings

- A. Health & Safety Advocates - Stamford visit (from Storrs)
 - I. Classroom dynamics and ergonomics
 - A. Ie. chairs and standing desks for teaching spaces.
 - II. Christina will reach out to 'occupational health and safety' and see if there is a representative.
- B. Financial Aid
 - I. Marie will lead and reach out by the next meeting.
- C. Diversity of equity and inclusion
 - I. Bill will reach out.
- D. Katie asks about the new Concap advisor.
 - A. Katie will reach out.

VI. Town Halls

VII. New items (cont'd)

- A. Pedestrian traffic Safety Survey to address the concerns of Washington Blvd traffic & pedestrian incidents.
 - I. Kevin brought the topic to the SFC.
 - II. A member asks if this will need administrative approval.
 - A. Another member suggests proposing that the faculty are interested in producing a safety survey for faculty.
 - I. Sharon will address the issue.
 - I. Bill will forward Kevins email.
- B. Stamford Faculty Directory Content Refresh
 - I. A few names have not been included in the directory
 - II. Bill will reach out to departments to see who is missing

- A. A member mentions that titles (ie Dr.) were included on some name plates and not others.
- B. Claudia requests that all names, departments, and title changes be sent to Claudia.
 - I. She requests that a time limit of 2 weeks.
 - II. After all changes are compiled, she will send 1 document to Aris.
- C. Parking issues
 - I. Claudia mentions the parking lot was filled on Tuesday and was told it was due to an event that UCONN was hosting.
 - A. Jennifer and Aris were informed.
 - II. Beth mentions there was a visiting guest speaker (for her class) could not get a spot in the lot.
 - A. She was told that guest parking would not be covered for guest speakers.
 - I. The issue arises from the fact that they will cover parking for many members of large events, displacing current faculty, but will not cover costs for 1 academic guest speaker.
 - B. Beth will reach out to Aris.
- D. Bill will reach out to the faculty.
 - I. Beth mentions nameplates were off titles names.
 - A. Claudia will compile the issues/changes into 1 document.
 - I. Claudia requests that in Bills email that they send all changes with a deadline.
- E. Beth mentions that the Café will be opening soon.
 - I. They will be serving hot food and coffee.
- F. The director's office will be hosting the student awards.
 - I. There may be food included.

VIII. SFC schedule

- A. 2/12
- B. 3/4
- C. 4/15

IX. SFC Farewells

- A. Sam Shoonmaker steps down.
 - I. The SFC now has 10 members.
 - A. 8 full-time & 2 adjuncts
 - II. Bill will include a message about joining the SFC in an email.

- X. Joel brings up the proposal budget. While he does not know all the details, he hears there are expected budget cuts.

- A. 15% reduction over the next 5 years. -Campus wide
- B. Stamford asks to cut 3% this year and 4% next year.
 - I. A member clarifies that Jennifer mentioned these figures but talked of growth and building at Stamford.
 - II. Several departments are seeing budget cuts and have asked to make changes.
 - III. Student enrollment will dictate class changes and cuts
 - IV. Another member mentions that their department has been reducing adjuncts
 - V. Another member mentions that at the latest town hall slides from the president show the wage difference between UCONN and UCONN health.
 - A. UCONN wages were higher.
 - VI. Joel suggests that it might be good to have Jennifer, or someone that can clarify the budget concerns, to the SFC.
 - VII. Christina mentions that the school of nursing has been phasing out adjuncts and increasing full time faculty.

NEW BUSINESS