

Stamford Faculty Council Meeting  
February 12, 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, Phil Dwire, Felice Lesser, Christina McElroy, Beth Ginsberg, Marie Ruiz-Martinez

**Guest Attendees:** Anne Borsai Basaran, Joel Blatt, Phara Bayonne

**Guest Speaker: Erica Conklin**

I. Background

- a. Completed undergrad at UCONN Storrs
- b. Completed Graduate school and studied school psychology.
- c. In New Canaan - 504 & PPT Chairperson.
- d. Weston Public Schools - Social emotional interventions
- e. Worked at Sasco River center as a private psychotherapist.
- f. WCSU joined their accessibility office.
- g. Joined UCONN and replaced Emily Sears in August.

II. Disability

- a. What percentage of adults in the US have a disability?
  - i. According to the CDC, 26% (61 million people)
  - ii. Includes people with a history of physical and/or mental impairments.
- b. Most students apply for more than 1 disability at a time.
  - i. Each disability must be classified and verified.
  - ii. Impairment must substantially limit one or more life activities.
- c. Covered under several rules.
  - i. Fair housing act
    1. Covers emotional support animals in residence halls.
  - ii. Rehabilitation act 1973
    1. Civil rights law and applies to public universities & entities that receive federal funding.
    2. Sect 504 – for students
    3. Sect 508 – faculty requirement to produce accessible course materials.
  - iii. Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008
    1. Widens the Rehabilitation act to institutions that do not receive federal funding.
- d. Students served

- i. 2022-2023 - 5,838 registered (all campuses)
  - 1. In Stamford there are currently ~300 with an additional 100 added this last month
- ii. Most cases are psychiatric in nature (2,283)
  - 1. Symptoms can be erratic and require a wide variety of accommodations. (ie. Attendance flexibility)
- iii. Second leading, chronic health (1,529)
- e. Accommodations are adjustment to provide a level playing field rather than a boost.
  - i. Remove barriers and provide equal access, not equal outcomes.
- f. In k-12, IDEA law
  - i. Education law for those that were not meeting the goals and objectives for the student.
    - 1. The PPT team would meet and adjust the settings and goals to meet the student.
  - ii. This does not apply in college, and many students have trouble adjusting.
- g. Reasonable and appropriate
  - i. Accommodations have limits.
- h. Student Responsibilities
  - i. Meet all university qualifications as determined by admissions.
  - ii. By choice, students must reach out to CSD and disclose their disability.
    - 1. K-12 students are identified by the school and a learning plan is developed.
  - iii. There must be valid documentation.
    - 1. Students can post online through CSD website.
    - 2. Then an in-person interview must be given
  - iv. Expectation that the student must be in good academic standing, proper behavior, and timely notifications.
    - 1. Once documentation is verified, Erica will reach out to faculty.
- i. Faculty Responsibilities
  - i. Review record of approved
    - 1. A fundamental alteration of the course.
      - a. If the student cannot complete the course due to their disability
  - ii. Refer a student to CSD if approached about needing accommodations.
    - 1. Faculty should not offer accommodations that have not been registered with CSD. This is a safeguard to protect the faculty and the university.
      - a. All accommodations must be processed in a specific manner.
- j. Accommodation letters
  - i. Should be completed at the beginning of each semester and are NOT retroactive.

- k. Interpreting Services
  - i. Anyone can request UCIS for sign language interpreters or closed captioning.
    - 1. Prepare - allow time to coordinate.
- l. My Access is the digital front for all things CSD.
  - i. Faculty can access all student letters.
- m. March 4<sup>th</sup>, "Get the Tea" Erica will help answer CSD questions.
- n. Testing room open Monday through Friday 8am-5pm
- o. FAQ
  - i. You may not request documentation regarding a student disability. Send them to CSD (Erica)
  - ii. Should I wait to discuss the accommodations with the students.
    - 1. CSD encourages students to reach out.
    - 2. Faculty can reach out if they receive a letter.
  - iii. Can I deny accommodations?
    - 1. No. If it's a fundamental change to the course, please reach out to CSD.
  - iv. Can I inform my TA of a student accommodation?
    - 1. Yes. Anyone that helps the student can view the letter and their accommodations.
- p. Questions
  - i. A member asks about their student. The student wants 2x on their exam which would be 4 hrs. The faculty is not in the room after 2 hrs (the duration of the class). Should they be referred to CSD to schedule a test?
    - 1. Yes. They must book a proctored exam through CSD if the time falls outside of class (completed before 5 pm)
  - ii. Anne asks if instead of providing the students with 2x time for assessments online, they can be 'forced' to take the quiz in-person to avoid cheating potential.
    - 1. To meet the 2x exam time accommodation, yes, they will have to schedule the exam with CSD. The 2x time does not have to be offered online.
  - iii. Beth asks about the verification process for accommodation letters.
    - 1. Erica will do her due diligence for all students. She will call & look up the prescriber.
    - 2. Several providers that are working with a student. May allow non-defined disabilities for low stakes accommodations.
      - a. High stakes accommodations are listed in the CSD website and are always verified.

## OPEN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- I. Approve Minutes
  - A. 1/22 minutes
    - I. Will be voted at next meeting.
- II. AAUP recap (Claudia)
  - A. Will follow-up the next meeting.
- III. Follow up status.
  - A. Faculty Office Hours/Concourse – communication sent to Jennifer. Waiting to hear back.
  - B. Space Planning Effort
    - I. An effort by Aris will begin shortly.
    - II. Sharing an office would be not well accepted by faculty
      - A. Another member said this may violate union contracts.
  - C. Parking concerns
    - I. Beth spoke to Aris.
      - A. Tuesdays and Thursdays are the busiest days of the week.
      - B. If anyone cannot find a spot to send the details (date,time,wait time) directly to him.
        - I. He will consider a parking form (like maintenance)
      - C. Parking services will rent spots for events which limit space.
        - I. Hopefully the spots rentals will be reduced.
      - D. The first 2 weeks of the semester are the toughest.
        - I. They will consider not to rent spots during the busiest time.
      - E. Laura might consider a schedule that distributes classes over Mondays and Wednesdays
      - F. The university will NOT reimburse faculty to park elsewhere (like target)
    - D. Pedestrian survey (Sharon)
      - I. A survey has done by the City of Stamford
      - II. Project ‘vision zero’ is a collaboration with mayor and UCONN to reduce pedestrian incidents.
        - A. Possible changes include limiting Northbound traffic on Washington Blvd from Westbound on Broad, adding speed humps, markings, and limiting
        - B. May start as soon as spring, but no later than 18mo from now.
        - C. Additional suggestions or ideas can be sent to Sharon who will compile and pass along to Aris.
    - E. SFC Content refresh
      - I. Claudia compiled the name and title changes and sent to Aris.

- II. All other changes for the directory or door placards should be sent to Aris or Rosa directly.
  - F. Health & safety
    - I. No movement on this topic.
  - G. Financial Aid & Scholarships
    - I. Marie has no new news in terms of discussing at the SFC
      - A. There are legal issues with discussing scholarships.
    - II. All students with requests should be directed to the website.
- IV. Faculty Colloquia (planned)
  - A. 2/29 Thurs, Dr. Annamaria Csizmadia
  - B. 3/27 Wed, Dr. Luke Reynolds
  - C. 4/18 Thurs, Dr. Serkan Gorkemli
- V. Upcoming SFC guests
  - A. March 4, Alfie Roby (Director of Student Success Equity & Inclusion)
  - B. Any questions for Safety officers or campus police should be sent to Bill.
- VI. New items (cont'd)
  - A. Graduation Ceremony
    - I. Perhaps propose to Laura that we have a 'cap & gown' graduation ceremony.
    - II. Are they invited to Storrs?
      - A. Yes, but some are interested in staying local.
    - III. Beth says that it was once done on campus and would like to help.
      - A. She will reach out to Jennifer & Laura
      - B. Maybe include the student awards.
- VII. SFC schedule
  - A. 3/4 – Day change because of spring break.
  - B. Council Officers: 2024-2025
    - I. Claudia and Bill can retain the presidency for the next terms
      - A. Beth suggests that sending an email to all.
    - II. Jonathan & Marie are also up.
      - A. Again, an email will be sent

## NEW BUSINESS

- I. Phara announces that the position for Nancy Dryden will have to be filled with 1 or 2 positions.
  - A. There will be a new library position and asks the faculty what specialty they should focus on for the job description.
    - I. A member asks if the School of Business.
      - A. Yes, but any faculty with suggestions should email Phara directly.
  - B. Humanities Liaison
  - C. University archivist, Betsy Pittman, is available to assist with any archiving.
    - I. Betsy will archive information & documents, clubs, lectures, etc.
    - II. Possible SFC guest speaker
      - A. What to archive, the process, and types of documents.
  - D. Space offices
    - I. Meeting location in the library (seats 22) can be used for multipurpose.
      - A. Email Phara directly. Cannot reserve through standard channels.
- II. Joel says that the Town Clerk might be a good contact through Stamford as they have records dating back to 1700's.