

Stamford Faculty Council Meeting
March 4, 2024, 7:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Minutes by Jonathan Gilbert

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

Guest Attendees: Mars Plater, Nicole Fusco

Guest Speaker: Alfy Roby, UCONN Director Student Success Equity & Inclusion

- I. Background – SSEI (student success for equity and inclusion)
 - a. Designed to bridge the gap in student services.
 - i. Attempting to boost retention and graduation rates among marginal groups.
 1. 1,943 students in this category
 - b. The office is growing with several new hires to assist students.
 - i. The office intends on being open 15 hrs. a day, 5 days a week (240 days of the year)
 - c. Bringing together 14 minority groups on campus that offer additional support services.
 - i. Academic advising
 - ii. Tutoring
 - iii. Mentoring
 - iv. Carrer counseling
 - v. Study skills workshops.
 - vi. Time management workshops
 - d. RISE
 - i. Partnered with synchrony.
 - ii. Faculty can refer students to the RISE program.
 1. Either ‘At risk’ or those wanting to explore scholarship and support services.
 2. Referral form can be found online or in the recent email announcement.
 - e. A member asks a question about midterm reports. Because faculty submit grades, is this information sent to SSEI, or does there need to be additional reporting?
 - i. Because the program runs year-round, the idea is to refer prior to midterms.
 - f. A member asks who the 1,950 students include?
 - i. First generation minority students.

- g. Marie asks how to increase participation in the services already available because any of those that are doing poorly are not seeking assistance or taking advantage of the numerous services that already exist.
 - i. Once the office becomes established, the goal is to proactively identify and approach those students in need.
 - ii. Gone goal is to determine the ‘why’ failure is occurring, then address the issues, and progress track to assist.
- h. ConCap is a high school program and now falls under the SSEI department.
 - i. Address students prior to attending UCONN.

OPEN COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- I. Approve Minutes
 - A. 1/22 minutes
 - I. Bill motions, Beth seconds, no objections, no abstains.
 - B. 2/12 minutes
 - I. Jonathan will complete shortly.

- II. Budget Updates
 - A. AAUP Meeting Recap
 - I. Claudia attended 2 meetings. There are vague allusions to future changes.
 - A. There will be job cuts and fundraising over the next year.
 - B. Best advice, stay close to your department and seek news from them.
 - II. Town Hall (3/3)
 - A. Several people voiced their concerns and were told that additional information will be coordinated to department heads.
 - III. A member asks about the budget review several years ago with the Stamford branch as having positive income.
 - A. Yes, we believe this is true, but departments will still see a shortfall.
 - B. Intro classes that do not rely on TA’s will be best insulated from cuts.
 - IV. A member asks about the increase enrollment of students.
 - A. Yes, they are increasing enrollment to boost income.

- III. Follow up status.
 - A. Faculty Office Hours/Concourse
 - I. Bill and Claudia will pilot 3/28 with several tables in the main concourse.
 - II. Bill sent the faculty schedule to Aris and will decide on future concourse hours.
 - B. Parking concerns

- I. Beth spoke to Aris and reiterated to email him with issues.
 - A. He will work on reducing the spots.
 - B. Busiest days are Tuesdays/Thursdays
 - C. Financial Aid (scholarship division)
 - I. No news from Marie. She reached out to Laura but came to a dead end.
 - A. Any advise or leads are welcome.
 - D. Stamford Graduates / Graduation Ceremony
 - I. Last Thursday of April in the works.
 - A. Another member points out that this is the ‘Senior night’, an annual tradition. The goal is to get a ceremony.
 - II. Claudia asked Jennifer and she said she will ask again.
 - E. Council Officers: 2024-2025
 - I. No new nominations.
 - A. Claudia & Bill retain Co-presidents
 - B. Jonathan as Secretary
 - C. Marie as Communications
 - II. Beth motions to approve, Christina seconds
 - A. Council officers approved.**
 - F. UCONN Stamford Open House Engagement
 - I. March 23rd (Saturday)
 - A. Bill offered as interested to Laura, and but did not hear back. Claudia did receive confirmation and will attend.
- 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. April 15, Ana Ocasio: ConnCAP (Center for Access & Post Secondary Success)

NEW BUSINESS