University of Hartford

Staff Association Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 14 – GSU 335 – 1:00 p.m.

Present: Christine Adams, Jessica Abbott, Randi Ashton-Pritting, Ellen Crandall, Ben Ide, Ellen Levasseur, Aubrey McCarthy, Therese Morris, Cindy Oppenheimer, Catherine Rose, Gina Signorello (recorder), Bonny Taylor, Linda Zigmont

I. Introductions
   • Members in attendance introduced themselves and stated which department they work in.

II. Discussion and Approval of Minutes
   • Minutes from the March 9th meeting were approved.

III. University Committee Reports
   • Budget Advisory Team
     o No report. BAT meets next week.
   • Wellness Committee
     o Lindsay was not at the meeting but she sent an update via email.
     o The Cardio Circuit class has been cancelled due to low attendance.
     o The Tai-Chi trail class last Thursday was a big success with 15 attendees.
     o Community Supported Agriculture money is due no later than Monday, April 25th.
   • Benefits Taskforce
     o They have been looking at health insurance rates for next year.
     o The Cadillac Tax will determined by the election.
     o The taskforce has been visiting topics that haven’t been discussed in a few years such as adjunct benefits.
     o Randi brought up the issue of trying to simplify donated vacation time. Cindy will bring it up at the next meeting.
     o Randi also brought up paternity leave. Cindy will bring this up but it might also be beneficial to have it brought up at the meetings for the Presidential Commission for the Status of Women.
   • Presidential Commission for the Status of Women - no update

IV. Staff Association Reports
   • Web Advisory Committee
     o No real update. The committee has been discussing the new features and some problems that users are having with the update.
   • Faculty Senate
Walter Harrison spoke about the Hartford Mayor’s plan to address their budget shortfall by possibly taxing the University of Hartford along with Trinity College and three hospitals.

Jason Farrell spoke to the group about facilities. The discussion was similar to the one at a previous Staff Association meeting.

- Treasurer’s Report- The final balance is $417.53
- Membership Director Report- membership is down to 117
- Fundraising Committee- Valerie Gilleran got the name of the contact for a plant sale. The contact did not think it would be a good idea.

V. Annual Report

- Speakers: Flo Polek, Payroll Manager talked about EmpCenter; Lisa Condon, Director of Procurement Services talked about new purchasing policies; Kenna Grant and Gail Syring from Connections Health Education and Wellness Center presented on Green Dot; Andy Hillberry, Chief Information Officer of OTS; Jason Farrell, Director of Facilities; Mike Kaselouskas, Assistant Chief Department of Public Safety.
- Continued staff representation on Budget Advisory Team, Wellness Committee, Benefits Task Force, and Faculty Senate. New to this year, representation on Presidential Commission for the Status of Women and Staff Excellence Award Committee.
- First year completed for our Executive Board (Ben Ide (Chair), Jessica Abbott (Vice Chair), Erica Light (Secretary, until December), Christine Adams (Treasurer), Ellen Levasseur (Membership), Linda Zigmont (Non-Exempt Staff Member At-Large), and Ellen Crandall (Exempt Member At-Large)). Secretary position replaced with Gina Signorello in February.
- Staff Association Barbeque, August 12, 53 people attended, netted $283 in fundraising;
- Thanksgiving Luncheon, November 13, 77 people attended and we collected 197 pounds of donated food for Hands On Hartford, loss of $1527.
- New Fund Raising Committee formed, led by Valerie Gilleran.

VI. Old Business

- Thanksgiving Luncheon
  - We cannot afford to do the same event as last year
  - The EBoard will talk to Ann Butzer from catering about our options and the possibility of doing the luncheon on the third floor of GSU. Gina will email Ann.

- Proposals
  - Lynn Galvin drafted the original proposals for a universal menu at commencement and recognition day. A&S now has one recognition day for retirees.
  - The EBoard will make a final decision to either move forward with the proposals or hand them back over to Lynn.

- Survey
  - Ben has not drafted the questions yet but he will soon.

VII. Future Meetings
• Norm Young will present at the meeting on May 11th regarding campus projects.
• There is no meeting in June
• It is possible that we will have someone from HRD present at the July meeting about staff compensation.

The meeting ended at 1:50pm