University of Hartford
Staff Association Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2016 – GSU 330 – 1:00 p.m.

Present: Jessica Abbott, Jason Farrell (guest speaker), Valerie Gilleran, Ben Ide, Ellen Levasseur, Aubrey McCarthy, Lindsay McKeegan, Randi Ashton Pritting, Catherine Rose, Gina Signorello (recorder)

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

II. Guest Speaker Jason Farrell
- Jason started off by suggesting that facilities workers are only human and are doing the best they can. He would like to begin a dialogue about personal responsibility and shared responsibility to avoid an “us vs. them” mentality. We need to maintain and build relationships between facilities and other departments.
- It is important to remember that the University of Hartford is also a business that sometimes has to make business decisions. When making calls about snow days for example, they the ripple effects need to be taken into consideration.
- A snow plan will be published on the University website within the next month or so.
- We are understaffed when it comes to custodians. Lots of our custodians have been here a very long time and as such, have five weeks of vacation. Facilities consistently has only about 75-80% of their custodial workforce.
- A new text alert system has been put in place when calls to facilities come in. They are still researching its effectiveness in terms of prompt response time however, this system will help document every call made into facilities which can later be used for analysis.
- Many buildings on campus are very old. Here are the upcoming building projects . . .
  - The renovation of the library is major. It is already underway
  - Renovation to the student union is in the works
  - Auerbach Hall is looking to do a major renovation
  - Yearly summer projects will continue. Each summer, one building on campus gets freshly painted.

III. Discussion and Approval of Minutes
- Minutes from the January 13th meeting were approved.

IV. University Committee Reports - we did not have time to discuss reports. Information was emailed to Gina Signorello
- Budget Advisory Team - given by Randi Ashton Pritting
  - There was a presentation by Anton Goff (Director of Athletics). He presented six pillars of success- Academics, Athletics, Accountability, Compliance, Community Service, and
Character. Student athletics translate to University pride, higher retention rates, and alumni engagement. There is a new logo and brand identity.

- Melissa McCaw left her position as Director of Budget to work for the City of Hartford. Josh Duhaime has been promoted to her position. Josh was previously the Internal Auditor.
- Randi suggests that the Staff Association invites Anton to present to the group.

- Wellness Committee- given by Lindsay McKeegan
  - Cardio Circuit has been having really great attendance and we plan to keep this class going for the rest of the spring 2016 semester
  - The January biometric screenings has great attendance at about 175- indicative of employees signing up for the new Rally wellness program.
  - There is a Rally Lunch and Learn on February 16th. Lindsay will report the attendance at our next meeting.
  - Weight Watchers has seen a big decline in membership and in order to keep this wellness initiative going, Lindsay needs more employees to commit to attending the on-campus meetings and/or joining Weight Watchers.

- Benefits Taskforce- did not meet
- Presidential Commission for the Status of Women- did not meet

V. Staff Association Reports

- Web Advisory Committee- given by Barbara Dessureau.
  - Hartt is coming on board with CMS
- Faculty Senate- given by Ben Ide
  - Arosha gave a report on the economic health of the University (mixed, but overall good)
  - President Harrison and Sue Fitzgerald talked about sexual assault awareness programs on campus
  - The Provost gave an update on salary compensation and talked about two annual surveys- the Graduation Survey and the National Survey of Student Engagement.
- Treasurer’s Report- given by Christine Adams
  - No change
- Membership Director Report- given by Ellen Levasseur
  - No change in membership. It remains at 121.
  - Ellen sent welcome memos to the 10 new employees announced in UNotes earlier this week.

VI. Old Business

- A fundraising report was delivered by Valerie Gilleran. They have had a brainstorming session and come up with ideas such as . . .
  - A plant sale in the spring and maybe a bulb sale in the winter
  - A “wash and wine” in the summer months
  - A used book sale
  - A trip to NYC maybe to see a show
  - A cookbook
VI. New Business

- The Thanksgiving Luncheon was briefly discussed. We are considering not hosting this year due to the expense and declining quality of the food. We will distribute a survey on Survey Monkey to get a feel from the group.
- We very briefly touched upon solidifying what the Staff Association’s role is at the University of Hartford. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The meeting ended at 1:00