University of Hartford
Staff Association Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 12th—GSU 335—1:00 p.m.

Present: Jessica Abbott, Lisa Costa, Katie Cox, Barbara Dessureau, Ben Ide, Aubrey McCarthy, Cindy Oppenheimer, Catherine Rose, Gina Signorello (recorder), Bonny Taylor

I. Gail Syring, Connections Wellness Center
   • The Wellness Center is located on the ground floor of Commons
   • It is an education and outreach center focusing on . . .
      i. Violence prevention
      ii. Drug and alcohol abuse prevention
      iii. Health and nutrition, eating disorders
      iv. Grief support
   • The office has a lending library
   • There is a safer sex contraception program
   • Current freshman trends
      i. For post-9/11 babies, safety is a primary feature of parenthood which can cause these students to be risk-resistant (in a good way)
      ii. Parents are increasingly involved in student’s lives
      iii. There is intense homesickness; more than ever before.
      iv. These students grew up entirely under “no child left behind” and “common core” practices. They learned in a very specific, black or white, way. They must be taught how to ask for help in a healthy way.
      v. They are used to having information on demand (technology)
      vi. Because of technology, they don’t necessarily know how to make friends face-to-face.
      vii. They are a smaller population of children so many have never had to share a room.
      viii. Psychological issues include never having learned how to deal with failure. There is higher self-esteem with few accomplishments.
      ix. High school was guaranteed success whereas college is equal opportunity. This trend . . .
         1. Lowers resilience factors
         2. Lowers frustration tolerance
         3. Turns small crisis into large crisis
      x. These students are at a lower developmental level than ever before
   • How to work with freshman student workers . . .
      i. Make sure to give them clear and precise instructions with concrete expectations
      ii. Provide a lot of feedback
• If anyone is ever concerned about a student, call Suzanne McNeil or Gail Syring.

II. The minutes from the September 14th meeting were approved.

III. University Committee Reports
• BAT- no updates
• Wellness- we are still waiting for open enrollment to start. It is likely to stay the same.
  i. The biometric screening will be in January
  ii. There are a few new improvements to Rally
  iii. There are 3 fitness classes right now: yoga, Pilates, and Tai Chi
  iv. There is currently a Weight Watchers program in session
  v. There was a flu shot clinic on Monday
  vi. The committee will be on hiatus until Fall 2017
• Benefits Taskforce- changes coming soon. They are meeting tomorrow
• Presidential Commission for the Status of Women- Ben will contact Meagan Fazio about the status of this committee

IV. Staff Association Reports
• Web Advisory- Things are in limbo right now with ITEC committees meeting
  i. The ADA policy is being reviewed
  ii. There is a lack of information about web forms
  iii. They are working on a better calendar
  iv. Hartt and HAS are now on CMS and CETA is close
• Faculty Senate- There were presentations from Fred Sweitzer and Walter Harrison
  i. Student enrollment is down
  ii. Retention is up a little bit
  iii. Dorm deposits are down
  iv. There is great interest in the Presidential Search Committee

V. New Business
• Ben has asked Charles Amerson to speak to the Staff Association about the Presidential Search Committee
• HR has been asked to speak at the Staff Association in January
• Katie Cox has volunteered to be the new Treasurer. The balance is still $417.53
• We need a new Exempt Member at Large to replace Ellen Crandall