**Staff Council Meeting Minutes**   
 April 14, 2021 | Wednesday | ONLINE (WebEx)   
 Participants: Professional Staff of University of Hartford

Discussion and approval of the minutes from previous general meetings:

* March 10, 2021 meeting minutes approved by majority vote via WebEx poll

Staff Council Reports

**Treasurer’s Report:** (Linda Zigmont) Balance is $1,422.98

* No change

**Benefits Taskforce:** (Cindy Oppenheimer, Laura Heemskerk)

* Last meeting cancelled, but remember…
* Health insurance is up for renewal. We will be looking at all lines of coverage. Quotes will be obtained by various carriers and BTF will review and meet with potential carriers over the summer. Are people happy with Aetna?

**Resource Planning & Priorities committee**: (Laura Heemskerk, Laura D’Angelo-Gohn)

* The RPPC meeting was April 1, 2021 – We discussed the ongoing efforts toward compensation surveys for employees and reviewed various budget scenarios for the upcoming months.
* Our next meeting is scheduled for May 6th

**Faculty Senate**: (Rachel Yacouby)

* President Woodward spoke about the current state of the University of Hartford – Highlights include…
* UH is up on applications, admitted more students at this time, completion rate of 92% - cautiously optimistic about fall numbers
* Moving facilities to Aramark saves us about $1.5 million. Aramark is giving us $3 million to help with facilities/campus upgrades.
* Hired consulting firm (Winter’s Group) to help and plan for DEI on campus
* A second round of early retirement notices went out to those who are eligible
* Tentative plans for commencement: 10% capacity in any indoor area. XL center hold 13000 (1300 is 10%). Can do 400 students at a time with 2 guests. Just under 3500 students are eligible. Would need to do 6 ceremonies at the current numbers 8:30, 2, 7pm on Saturday and Sunday. Can’t bring in faculty and board.
* Environment and Sustainability committee is looking into a possible end-of-the-year event thinking about “reuse, recycle, repurpose” mindset during the last week of classes (May 3 or May 5). Looking at 2 sites on campus and mirroring the event the first week of Fall 2021

**Human Resource Department**: (Lynn Thibodeau)

* The United Way Campaign is underway and will run through May 1st. Donations can be done online, but you must create an account to do so. There is also a form available that you can fill in and send directly to the United Way through a secured email. Folks can email me if they have any questions about any of it.
* The Dialogue for Direction program is also in full swing. Completed D4Ds are due to HRD on May 28th.
* There will be a new DEI training program in the next few weeks that will be conducted online through the EverFi system that was used at the end of the last calendar year. More information will be emailed to all faculty and staff shortly.
* HRD is working on return to work and remote work policies with several key University policy makers.

New Business

* Presentation on the Partnership Council by Lynn Baronas, Senior Director, Strategic & Corporate Engagement for Institutional Advancement
* Promote partnerships for the good of University students and campus community
  + Comprised of working groups: Toolkit, communication
* Partnership page of website improvements are forthcoming
* Five Points Center for the Visual Arts – UHart has partnership with this organization
  + Assists Hartford Art students with obtaining studio spaces
  + School of Communications and CETA working with them on grand opening
  + Barney doing market research for Five Points
* Lynn encourages UHart members to spread awareness of Partnership council to anyone who may be involved in outreach to organizations and can help
* <https://www.hartford.edu/news/press-releases/2021/02/ns-uhart-partnership-five-points-center-gallery-opening.aspx>
* Gabe Herman (Hartt faculty member) works with partnership council to offer specialized opportunities to music business students (Pandora challenge was offered in past years)

Old/Continuing Business

* General election update: Nomination period is finished, and the ballot is being created. Watch UNotes or speak with your Community Representative for more information.
* The Staff Council annual meeting will be May 12th.

Announcements

* Call for nominations for the Staff Spotlight

Future Staff Council general meetings (always second Wednesday at 1 p.m.)

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| ~~Apr 14, 2021 (Partnership Council)~~ | May 12, 2021 (Annual Meeting) | Jun 9, 2021 (Pres. Woodward) |
| July 14, 2021 | Aug 11, 2021 | Sep 8, 2021 |