

**Staff Council Annual Meeting Minutes**  
August 10, 2022 | Wednesday | 1:00pm | ONLINE (Zoom)   
Participants: Professional Staff of University of Hartford

**Welcome:** **Lisa Wollenberg, Staff Council Chair**

## **Consent Agenda**

* **The consent agenda was voted on and approved as written.**

## **Guest Speakers: Katie Kitchens and Jill Engel-Hellman**

Katie:

* Katie oversees CSS and the Tutoring Center as well as other DSS programs.
* She has been involved with the university’s COVID response since the beginning.
* CSS is a one-stop shop for most first-year student needs and questions for all students.

Jill:

* Jill is the executive director of residential life.
* Looks forward to not having everything be about COVID this year, helping students build connections and reengage with one another.
* The push will be to get students engaged, help them experience a sense of belonging here.
* Wants the housing experience to support the academic experience, for students to learn how to navigate studying without a parent looking over their shoulder, to eat on a regular basis, do laundry, and when they have a problem, how to reach out to the right people.

Katie:

* Continuing with Jill’s theme of connections, Katie pointed out that over the past couple of years there has been somewhat of an unlearning, a little bit of a deficit that we are working with now in terms of students' natural abilities to find these connections. They are out of practice.
* There is a Student Experience Committee working on programs and initiatives to get students connected.
* Wants everyone to promote each other, be on the same page, not competing with one another.
* My UHart tab – in the drop–down menu, UHartHub: find what is happening all over campus. There is also an app for this which they are having students download. Encourages staff to do this too.

Questions:

* Availability of masks and hand sanitizers: [covid19@hartford.edu](mailto:covid19@hartford.edu) is still the place to go to place requests. Wipes and masks are available for classrooms.
* Guests: more open, no vaccination requirements or COVID testing. Students must accompany their guests and must be 18 or over.

Noted that we have learned things over past couple of years, particularly with campus access, like having one entrance and some monitoring of who is coming in. Also, people have said they think it’s welcoming to have someone to drive by when you get to campus.

Also, students will now have a sticker on their ID indicating that they are a current student.

* Positive COVID or exposure to someone positive: let supervisor know and isolate at home for 5 days, 5 days more masking, depending on symptoms. No formal contact tracing, but you can email [covid19@hartford.edu](mailto:covid19@hartford.edu) or [tracer@hartford.edu](mailto:tracer@hartford.edu) if you have questions about your situation.
* They are aware of monkeypox, though it is very different than COVID and much less likely to cause large disruptions. There is information on the Healthy Hawks website: <https://www.hartford.edu/healthy-hawks/monkeypox/default.aspx>.

## **Additional Topics and Announcements**

Delegate Election Results

RPPC

* Meaghan Murphy-Rennie

BTF

* Desiree Kleykamp
* Traci Giovinazzo

Faculty Senate

* Annmarie Magurany

DEI Task Force

* Anthony Ferello

Staff Salary Benchmarking

We received eight recommendations and volunteers to serve on the staff salary benchmarking task force, and submitted six of the names to President Woodward. We will keep in contact with those who serve on behalf of Staff Council.

Lawrence Rosado noted that he is one of the ones chosen to serve on the task force, and their first meeting is August 30.

Health Insurance Rates

We are aware that for some staff, the 2% raises this year will bump them from the lower to the higher bracket of health insurance premiums, which may result in a net loss in pay. For others, it may affect spousal eligibility. Jen Conley is also aware and is already working through different scenarios with our broker. She and BTF will discuss further.

Staff Lunches

Lisa asked if there would be interest in us reserving the private dining room in Commons for staff to gather. A number of staff members expressed interest. Lisa noted that we would not provide lunch; it would be bring-your-own or buy a lunch in Commons. Rachel Yacouby noted that the staff lunch rate is currently $8.00.