

**Staff Council Meeting Minutes**
September 14, 2022 | Wednesday | 1:00pm | ONLINE (Zoom)
Participants: Professional Staff of University of Hartford

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

## **Consent Agenda**

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

## **Guest Speaker: Molly Polk**

Molly:

Changes to University’s Alma Mater and Seal:

* The Cabinet wanted to look at some of the school’s symbols, traditions, through a fresh DEIJ lens.
* The alma mater mentions the colors white and red, which have historically been associated with certain meanings that aren’t the best way now to represent our principles.
	+ Worked with the former Hartt faculty in making the changes.
* The seal had traditional gender figures (female in skirt, male with briefcase) so wanted to update that.
	+ Working with Hartford Art School faculty took out figures, but kept key motifs of leaf, anchor, crown.
* Will share both changes with Board of Regents at the end of the month.

## **Additional Topics**

DEIJ Taskforce, Anthony Ferello:

* Thanked people for coming out to the Better Together event.
* November book club will be *Begin Again:* *James Baldwin’s America* *and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* by Eddie Glaude Jr.

Lisa:

* Reminded people of the Public Services Loan Forgiveness Program. The University does qualify as an employer. You also may be able to get credit for past payments. All of this has to be done by October 31. Links were provided in Chat.
* Update from Jen Conley regarding staff salary benchmarking work: Committee met August 31 and the consultants are in the process of working on the benchmarking data collection using four data points per benchmarked position. They will provide the committee with recommendations in the coming week. They will continue to meet every two weeks to process and review reports once this is available.
* University closing days were announced in UNotes. Lisa thanked President Woodward and Jen Conley for the extra days off and the advance notice.
* First staff lunch day will be September 22 at Commons. We have the private dining room reserved from 11:30 – 1:30. These are open to all staff – don’t’ have to be involved with staff council to come.
* UHart’s National Society of Black Engineers is looking for participation in the second annual basketball tournament which will happen Friday, September 23 from 5 – 6:30pm. Proceeds will go to assisting members in attending the NSPS National Convention in Kansas City next March.
* Staff Council updates:
	+ New Community Rep for Barney is Khalia Whyte
	+ Linda Zigmont is retiring – we want to thank her for her many years of service to the university and also to staff council.

Other announcements:

* Jillian Cote announced 3 performances: Hartt Orchestra, Hartt Wind Ensemble, and the Merz Trio as part of the Garmany Series
* Marsha Gaulin gave a shout out about the faculty art show in Joseloff Gallery and staff show in Silpe Gallery, up until October 8.
* Bevin Rainwater announced that FCLD has a bunch of professional development workshops coming up. Shared link with more information.