

**Staff Council Meeting Minutes**  
October 12, 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 Speaker: Anthony Ferello, Hartt Community Division**

* The Hartt Community Division is the non-degree arm of Hartt.
* It’s open to the entire community, not just university folks.
* They offer private lessons in many different instruments and styles of dance.
* They also offer group classes, ensembles, and choirs.
* Staff and faculty, as well as their family members, get a 10% discount.
* Come try something new – can reach out to Anthony or anyone else in the Division, and can find more information on their website:
* <https://www.hartford.edu/hartt-community-division/about/default.aspx>
* Check out one of the performances this fall, including a Holiday Nutcracker!

1. **Additional Topics:**

Carrie Cushman, HAS Gallery Director

* Exhibition by Japanese artist Komatsu Hiroke will open at the Joseloff Gallery October 27 and run until December 10.

Hiroko had a full career as a musician and experimental noise musician, but took a darkroom photography class in the early 2000’s and has completely thrown herself into photography. This is not an exaggeration as her photographs in the exhibit cover the walls, the floors, and are on these huge rolls draped from wires, what she calls the photo forest, so you actually move through them.

She will be here for 2 weeks to run some workshops for the art school students as well as help with the installation.

Carrie encourages all staff to visit and to share this information with their colleagues.

She shared the gallery website in the chat.

<https://www.hartford.edu/academics/schools-colleges/art/galleries/default.aspx>

Benefits Task Force, Ben Ide (Lisa Read reported)

* RPPC met Thursday, Oct 6. The group reviewed the tuition, room, and board costs approved by the Board of Regents for the upcoming 2023-24 semesters. Tuition is going up 3.5%, room by 3%, and board (set by ARAMARK) by 3.5%. All fees will remain at their current rate, so the overall increase for attending UH will go up 3.24%.
* RPPC also reviewed the final analysis of the FY22 budget. Revenue was lower than projected, and expenses were higher than the projected deficit. The group also reviewed an analysis of the FY23 budget, which had a similar finding. The University is working on a more interactive budget model for FY24 with the hopes of establishing a more accurate projection.

E-Board Meeting with Greg Woodward – Lisa Read

The E-Board met with President Woodward and Jen Conley on Thursday, Oct. 6, working through the questions and suggestions from staff. We didn’t have time to get to them all, and some will go through Benefits Task Force, and others seem to be questions or misunderstandings that Jen can answer more directly, and we’ll have those questions for her next month. Points discussed include:

* Creating tiered positions for staff
* Creating a position for a representative staff member on the Board of Regents
* More opportunities for professional development
* Providing a bonus or pay increase as staff complete certifications or additional degrees relevant to their job.
* Mark Twain entrance
* Reworking health insurance tiers
* Staff Compensation update

1. **Other Announcements**

Fundraising – Jessica Brice

* Last month’s Staff Lunch was during terrible weather so we did not have a great turnout.
* This month the lunch will be October 27, 2022 and Aramark has offered to donate a portion of every lunch purchased at Commons for that day.
* We hope staff take this opportunity to drop in to talk to people from around campus.

Office of Student Engagement and Inclusion – Lisa Read

* Tina Morris wants me to share that the OSEI is excited to announce the opening of “The Nosh” Food Pantry, beginning the week of October 17. This is located in GSU 341.

Community members can pick up nonperishable food items, frozen foods, fresh produce, toiletries, paper goods, and cleaning supplies any time during GSU hours.

Freshie Fridays will feature fresh fruits and veggies.

Anyone interested in donating to the pantry can drop off items in GSU 207, the OSEI office.

* The OSEI office also wanted staff to know about the Helping Hawks Fall Day of Service which happened Friday, Oct. 14.

Upcoming Guest Speakers

* Jen Conley – November
* Katherine Black - January