

# UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

## STAFF ASSOCIATION MINUTES

### **D R A F T for approval by SA membership**

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*June 13, 2018 1:00pm-2:00pm GSU335 | Meeting called to order by Katie Cox, Chair*

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#### **In Attendance**

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Executive Board: Katie Cox, *Chair*; Laura Eldredge, *Vice-Chair*, Carla J. Fuller, *Recording Secretary*, Rachel Yacouby, *Treasurer*, Ben Ide, *Member-at-Large - Exempt*, Linda Zigmont, *Member-at-Large - Non-Exempt*  
Absent: Ellen Levasseur, *Membership Director* (On vacation.)

Staff Members: Kelly Anderson, Ann Brown, Donna Clarke, Barbara Dessureau, Katie Dydyn, Laurie Faciano, Jim Garland, Valerie Gilleran, Christina Lapierre, Lindsay McKeegan, Meaghan Murphy, Cindy Oppenheimer, Sean Parke, Kate Sheely, Bonny Taylor

#### **I. Introductions**

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Laura Eldredge introduced herself, welcomed everyone and ran the meeting.

#### **II. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from the 5/9/18 Meeting**

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Membership approved the May 9, 2018 minutes without changes. Motion to approve by Rachel Yacouby and seconded by Laura Eldredge.

#### **III. University Committee Reports**

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**a. Budget Advisory Team – Randi Ashton-Pritting, Valerie Gilleran**  
BAT did not meet so there is no report. Next meeting not yet scheduled.

**b. Wellness Committee – Lindsey McKeegan, Barbara Dessureau**  
The Committee is currently on hiatus.

**c. Benefits Taskforce – Cindy Oppenheimer, Lynn Galvin**  
BTF has not met. Next meeting not until August.

**d. Presidential Commission for the Status of Women – Donna Clarke reported:**  
“The PCSW had a good meeting with Greg. He suggested ways to integrate our work better with the administrative structure so that we can work directly with the VPs in various areas to elevate our import of information and elevate impact. This should streamline our work.

We were instrumental in the Parental Leave Policy. We are still working on items generated by the surveys and focus groups. These range from enhancing opportunities for professional development and advancement to engaging HRD to ensure the lactation policy is followed. We are also working to make sure we have data that will enhance our work.” END OF REPORT

**e. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force – Christine Lapierre**  
DEIT did not meet. Next meeting scheduled for 6/14/18. Will Report at next SA meeting.

#### **IV. Staff Association Reports**

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**a. Web Advisory Committee – Barbara Dessureau**  
WAC did not meet. Next meeting later in June.

**b. Faculty Senate** – Ben Ide reported:

“President Woodward did not speak at the Faculty Senate meetings, one of the two May meetings was a luncheon, and Provost Fred Sweitzer spoke about the new parental leave policy and gave a summary of the academic year’s activities.” END OF REPORT

**c. Treasurer’s Report** – Rachel Yacouby reported:

“There have been no changes to the total of the Staff Association account: \$765.33.” END OF REPORT

**d. Membership Director Report** – Ellen Levasseur

No report.

**e. Fundraising Committee** – Valerie Gilleran

The Committee is currently on hiatus.

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**V. Old Business**

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Laura Eldredge told the membership that Ben Ide has re-written a draft of the current Staff Association Constitution and By-Laws to use for the new Staff Council organizational structure. She hopes to send out more information ahead of the July 11 meeting and is looking for feedback from the membership. Ideally they would like vote to approve the new structure at that meeting. Ben said he has tried to make as few changes as possible. He also reminded the membership that a Staff Council structure would eliminate “Opting In”. All Staff on campus, once employed, would automatically be part of the Staff Council. The goal is to have the Staff Council in place by Fall 2018. The Constitution and By-Laws will need to go through the University Legal office for final approval.

There was lengthy discussion concerning the approach of moving to a Staff Council structure and how it would be organized. Discussion focused on staff representation across the campus, the need to define procedures for how areas would decide on their Community Representatives, and how Reps would communicate with their represented areas. There was some concern over the size and specific blocs of the proposed Staff Council and sustaining committed Staff over the long-haul. Majority of those present (6 EBoard, and 15 Staff members) agreed that the Staff Council concept should continue to move forward, with a minority in disagreement without further discussion and adjustment to the proposed structure.

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**VI. New Business**

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Katie Cox formally announced her resignation as Chair of the Staff Association because she has accepted a position at another local educational institution. Per the Staff Association By-Laws, Vice-Chair Laura Eldredge will move to the Chair position effective July 1, 2018. Ben Ide, currently Member-at-Large - Exempt, was asked by the EBoard to move to the Vice-Chair position. This will leave the Member-at-Large - Exempt position open. Katie asked for volunteers. The EBoard and membership congratulated Katie and thanked her for her hard work and leadership over the past year, and wished her well in her new job!

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**FUTURE MEETINGS: 1-2pm GSU 335**

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7/11/18 - First Meeting of 2018-2019

**Respectfully Submitted by:** Carla J. Fuller; *Recording Secretary (2/1/18-6/30/18)*