

Senate Growth and Development Committee
Meeting Minutes 10.26.18
10:00-11:00am
School of Business, Room 214

Present: Michelle Judge, Kylene Perras, Faquir Jain, Janet Barnes-Farrell, Carl Rivers, Tracie Borden, Robert Bird, Lyle Scruggs, Ben Christensen, Louise Lewis

Guest: Terrence Cheng, Professor of English and Director of the Stamford Campus

Introductions were made by both the committee's guest and attending committee members.

Terence reported that the Stamford campus has grown at an enormous rate in the past 3-5 years. Residence hall enrollments have also grown dramatically to 425 students in the second year of the availability of residences. Twenty-two apartments have also been leased in a building complex and in downtown Stamford.

The Stamford campus is maximizing its space and is almost to capacity. The campus is very full in the afternoons and evenings because of classes. The campus now uses their auditorium and multi-purpose room, previously used for rentals, are now serving student clubs and other meetings for the campus. The broad concourse is in constant use for health and wellness fairs and other events. Adjunct and full-time have also grown over the past five years. Sharp increases in enrollment are anticipated. Gym needs are fulfilled with an agreement from a nearby YMCA.

The campus has immediate space issues with lab space. Biology is the second largest major at the campus, even though students can't finish that major currently in Stamford. With 100 majors in digital media and design, students will also need their own production area and space. Regarding department or sub-spaces, the School of Business space is helpful to the Stamford campus by allowing School of Business space to be used for campus classes as available. The campus is at an early stage of considering external space for classes and other activities, though this requires additional staff resources and focus and dedication from a variety of stakeholders.

Future programs to target for growth would be to expand graduate initiatives. Adding programs in education is a promising idea. Stamford and Norwalk have large school districts. Teachers need more credentials to continue their career path. This can be a population served with a graduate degree in education. In addition, a master's degree in digital media with an edtech focus is also promising. We are nearly the only 'game in town' with graduate programs in the Stamford area.

Terrence emphasized that the campus is growing at a rapid pace. Within the UConn community there is value and attraction to an urban experience. Stamford will never supplant Storrs and isn't meant to. Stamford, however, provides an option for students that want an UConn experience in an urban setting. The challenge will always be resources and synergizing units to make programs run effectively. The committee discussed the possibility of Storrs students spending one year in Stamford in order to live in a more urban setting or take advantages of connections to business and employers.

The committee thanked Terrence for his time and contributions. The committee adjourned at 10:50am.