

UNC Charlotte Staff Council  
Meeting

**Minutes February 12, 2020 – 9:00 am**  
**Cone 210**

**Officers present:** Celeste Corpening (Chair), Helena Connors (Vice Chair), Le’Aira Hames (Treasurer), Julia Stuart (Communications Officer)

Guests: Kelly O’Donnell (Counseling and Psychological Services, Substance Use Counselor)  
Kaela Lindquist (Associate Director of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity)

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Moment of Silence: Celeste Corpening, Chair

II. Kelly O’Donnell and Kaela Lindquist were guest speakers and presented the council with QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Training dealing with suicide prevention.

Overview of suicide in America -Over 800,000 people per year die from suicide. More than 40,000 are Americans. There is an average of 1 death every 14 minutes. Mainly occurs between the ages of 15 - 44.

- QPR is intended to offer hope through positive action.
- If people in a crisis get the help they need, they will probably never be suicidal again.
- Asking someone directly about suicidal intent lowers anxiety and opens up communication which will lower the risk of an impulsive act.
- Suicide prevention is everybody’s business and anyone can help prevent the tragedy of suicide.
- Most people communicate their intent sometime during the week preceding.

- People who talk about it may try or even complete an act of self- destruction.
  - Suicide is the most preventable kind of death and almost any positive actions may save a life.
- Suicide clues and warning signs. The more clues and signs, the greater the risk:
  - Direct Verbal Clues
  - Indirect Verbal Clues
  - Behavioral Clues
  - The Counseling Center takes walk in appointments. M-F 8 am -5 pm.
  - After hours call 7-0311, Counselor's are on call.
  - 24 hours free counseling hotline for anyone in suicidal crisis/distress.
  - Dean of Students office and PPS are also resources. Text Hope to 741741.
  - For more information, contact the Counseling Center.
  - Resource pamphlets were passed out to Council members along with training certificates.

### III. Officer's Reports:

- **Celeste Corpening :**

- **Staff Retreat** -Celeste reported that the Staff Retreat will be at Center City (225 E. 6th St.) on June 10th from 9 am to 4pm in room 1104. The meal will consist of QC BBQ. She will send out a menu with a cut off price. Everyone will need to have their UNC Charlotte ID's for security. Light rail passes will be purchased for those who need one. Kat Lawrence, photographer, will be there to take pictures.
- **Notes from Chair's Meeting with BOT** - the notes were emailed to the Staff Council.
- **Chancellor Gift** - The Staff Council purchased a rocking chair as a gift for the Chancellor. The chair will have the UNC Charlotte crown with an inscription underneath. Total cost was approximately \$490.00.
- **Ordering** -We are ordering a bingo set and tailgate toss to have for our Fall Festival.
- **Staff Assembly** -March 23rd and 24th will be the Staff Assembly Meeting. Celeste, Helena, and Latonya will attend.
- **IT** -Celeste noted that she did talk with Michael Carlin about the lack

of central cooperation with local IT which was discussed in the December meeting. This was in response to a suggestion to send a letter to the Chancellor regarding the matter.

- **Ombuds** - A vote was taken and approved to create a survey with an open section at the bottom to allow comments as to why a Staff Ombudsman position is important. An Ombudsman gives options to individuals and would remove the fear of retaliation. Celeste and Helena will meet with Gary and the Chancellor to discuss the survey.
- **Chair Bylaw Restriction suggestion** - suggestion was made to update bylaws to include serving on executive committee for a year or substitute activities on staff council in order to run for Chair position. It was noted that it would receive the wrong impression and prevent new ideas. However, it is acceptable to ask that the person would have served at least for 2 years on the Staff Council to run. It was also suggested that the candidates specify what they have done in the past on staff council in their Bios. Further discussion will be tabled to next month's meeting and possible survey.
- **Employee Engagement Survey** - Chancellor would like everyone to participate.
- **Operations Meeting in March** - Will work on updating our zones and committee overview guide. Also verify the activity of clients and send notifications of participation to those who sign up for activities.

- **Julia Stuart :**

- Fourteen Golden Nuggets were awarded in February for Areas 2, 7,8, 9, 12, 13 and 15A. Congratulations to all the winners.

- **Le'Aira :**

- **January Minutes:** A motion was made by Kara Killough to approve January minutes and seconded by Sara Johnson. Minutes passed unanimously.

### III. Committee Reports

- **Events Committee**

- Chilli cookoff on February 25 @ 11:30 – 1:00 pm in Lucas Room. So far there are 8 submissions. Would like to see at least 15. If you need copies of

the Chilli Cook Off flyers let Latonya or Le'Aira know. Please resend the sign up email throughout your Areas and send out a reminder. Table tents are coming for the Gold Room. Please sign up to volunteer. Sign up sheet was passed around. Get in touch with an events committee member if you have not signed up yet.

- Staff Relations

- Annette stated that the Staff Relations committee is working with Julia to post the vendor discount list.
  - The child care options project has been put on hold because the committee is hesitant to put a list out due to liability issues. It was suggested that since the EAP website provides a disclosure, staff relations could create a step by step procedure to guide staff members on the EAP website to find childcare resources. They are looking for daycares in the local area and not discounts. The council members suggested a list still be created but accompanied by a google sheet which council members can populate if someone suggests that a daycare be taken off of the main list due to a bad experience. Maybe limit the main list to the top 10 or 15 daycares in the area? Who will monitor the list since it would need to be updated?

A motion was made by Kara Killough to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ronnie Bell.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2020 in Cone 210.