

**University of Connecticut
School of Fine Arts
Faculty/Staff Meeting Notes
Monday, April 29
10:00a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
von der Mehden Recital Hall**

School of Fine Arts Updates (Anne D'Alleva)

- Congratulations to our award-winning faculty!
 - Peter Kaminsky won the AAUP Teaching Excellence Award
 - Janet Pritchard won a Guggenheim Fellowship
 - Kathryn Myers won her third Fulbright
 - Anne is grateful and proud of our faculty for all of their excellent work in the areas of both teaching and research.
- Student Engagement – Performing and Exhibiting Venues
 - We've had a series of successful initiatives to draw students into our programming, including:
 - Husky Rush – 20 free seats grouped together will be made available to UConn students one hour prior to every CRT performance
 - Pizza with a Performance – similar to the popular “Dine with Design” program, but focused on direct outreach to specific student groups
 - The Lenard Chamber Music Series at the Jorgensen - free to all students, UConn or otherwise, including K-12
 - Yoga and meditation in the galleries at the Benton.
- The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has been doing a study on the arts economy of the greater Hartford region, which we have participated in. The data is just being processed now, and should be shared out over the next year.
- Congratulations to our academic departments - we have had many accreditation visits this year, which is hard on everyone, so thank you to everyone who worked on these labor intensive processes. We have gotten very helpful feedback from these visits. We even got a good review of our facilities! So thank you to UPDC and Colleen Bridgeman on that front as well.
- Development Updates
 - Anne has already announced the new Zachs endowment for SFA, which came through in December.
 - We will have a celebration for the Zachs family in the Fall when they are all available - they have been great friends to the School.
 - There are two more major gifts in the works that have good momentum, but it's too early to say more.
 - Thanks to Lauren Prause, who has been working on development with SFA full-time for just about a year, and which has made a huge difference.
 - In addition, Emily Murray, who is from Alumni Affairs and works with us part-time, is doing a lot of great work engaging our alumni - we will have SFA represented for the Senior Send-Off for the first time, thanks to her.

- Along with the other Deans, Anne has had the opportunity to meet with President Elect Katsouleas. He is very thoughtful and is interested in some of the initiatives we have coming along (especially industrial design). Anne also appreciated that he gave a shout-out to our Grammy-Award Winners in his invitation to the campus to join him for coffee.

Advisory Board Meeting Recap (Anne D'Alleva)

The prior Provost charged all of the Deans with developing an advisory board if they did not already have one, so we have done so.

- You can see profiles of our board members at <https://sfa.uconn.edu/sfa-advisory-board/>
- The board met for the first time earlier this month, and will meet once a semester.
- The format will involve department heads and directors rotating through to present on their units.
- If faculty and staff would like to be engaged with this group, Anne would very much welcome that.
- The board members were chosen because they are donors and distinguished alumni who are highly engaged with the School.

Board Meeting Points of Discussion:

- Professional development for our students - what are we doing to help them transition from being students into becoming working professionals?
- Partnership with other arts institutions around the states
- Methods of donor engagement.
 - Advisory Board would really like to see a comprehensive arts calendar developed that covers all of our venues.
 - Also suggested some great, simple forms of recognition for donors (for example, a thank you note on the seat for season subscribers at the first performance of the season).

Facilities and Parking Updates (Colleen Bridgeman)

Colleen shared some updates on what has been completed this spring:

- Site utility relocations and south side facade and window replacements are complete
- Other renovation upgrades and the production facility addition are ongoing.
 - The latter has particularly had a great deal of progress over the last few months, as you can see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reLOHwW0QMo>
 - Thanks to Lou Geht from UPDC for putting the video together. You can follow along with further progress on their YouTube channel! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6TmuGr5-sds5iWCepctLAg>

There is a great deal of work forthcoming this summer:

- The Art Building will get a brand new roof, beginning in May. The entire building will be taken offline for the length of the project, as the work is highly invasive and disruptive. The moving effort will take place May 15-17, and the roof construction will begin May 20. Fencing and scrim will start going up on May 13, but will not impede access. The parking lot will also be closed.
- The remaining facade work facing Route 195 will take place over the summer as well, which will also require a moving effort, and sections of the building will be taken off-line throughout the summer accordingly.
- ITS has committed to a complete re-cabling effort to all of our facilities, and this should take place over the summer, too.

From May-August, beginning right after Commencement, you can expect the following:

- You will see fencing and scaffolding go up
- Moving and swing space relocations will get underway on May 15th
- Coventry Lane and Maple Lane will have temporary closures
- The Fine Arts Parking Lot will be taken offline
- The entrance to the CRT Box Office will be relocated
- There will be noise disruptions and internet disruptions throughout the summer.
- Projects will be in full swing by June 1.
- The parking lot will be re-established August 20th, just before the semester begins
- All displaced offices will be re-established during the week of August 20th.
- The steam vault project will still be in progress through 9/15, which will keep Coventry Lane and Maple Lane offline during that time, but a temporary pathway will be established from 9/16-11/29 (the rest of the project).

Colleen thanked everyone for their patience and continued support of these important capital projects.

STEAM Grant Updates (Alain Frogley)

Alain provided an update on existing grant programs.

- We anticipate running our same three programs next year
 - [SFA Research Grant](#)
 - [Project Completion Grant](#)
 - [STEAM Innovation Grant](#)
 - If you are thinking about the STEAM Grant, Alain urges you to think about it over the course of the summer - these collaborative projects take a lot of thinking ahead and coordination, so it would be wise to not wait until August to start thinking about it.
 - There are many people across the university who are very interested in collaborating with our faculty!
 - It is also always encouraged to think about whether these projects might be eligible for large-scale external grants as they grow.

- [InCHIP is running an Ideas Lab in June](#), which is a two-day brainstorming event.
 - Participation is by application.
 - The outcome of the event is internal grant funding (\$50k on the table from InCHIP).
 - The focus is on the use of mobile and wearable technologies as ways to enhance health outcomes, including ethical and privacy issues related to the collection of data that comes along with these technologies.
 - You don't have to have a team formed to participate - it is anticipated that individuals will apply and teams will form within the workshop itself.
 - Alain will send an email later with details and information on how to apply. The application is due on May 10. The workshop is on June 4-5.
- The [Scholarship Facilitation Fund](#) has a deadline coming up on June 1.
 - APiRs are now eligible for this program, which is new.
- The [Research Excellence Fund](#) is also open to APiRs, which was a change this past year.

Meet Nanette Adesso

Nanette introduced herself - she is the new Access Coordinator for the Drama-Music Library. She has taken over Lois Letcher's position. Nanette has worked at UConn for 15 years, and within the library system for the last 10 years. She joined us in January. The library is now back open and up and functioning.

There is some work being done to make the space more inviting - stop by if you have not visited! The library does have pick-up and drop-off every day from the main library, so feel free to request items, they can be delivered right to us. Interlibrary loan is also available through our own library, so take advantage.

Old/New Business

- Please be reminded - **the SFA Annual Retreat will take place on August 23rd in Rome Ballroom**. We will send out information shortly, and will soon be soliciting suggestions for sessions.
- Bart Roccoberton announced that there will be a memorial event for Jerry Rojo this Saturday, May 4, starting at 3pm at the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry.
- It was asked when the moving materials will arrive (i.e. boxes) - they should be arriving today, please reach out to your department's moving logistics coordinator for your department:
 - DMD: Michael Toomey
 - Art & Art History: Richardson
 - Dramatic Arts: Nisha Hardnett
 - Music: Eric Rice + other administrative support