

UConn Faith

Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2021, 1pm

Virtual-Webex Meeting

Member Attendance:

OCCSS: John Armstrong and Bianka Horvath, **Cru:** Scott Thomson, **The Navigators:** Brandon Wilson, **Spirit and Truth Apostolic Church:** Pastor Joseph Black, **International Christian Fellowship:** Ruth Hartunian-Alumbaugh, **St. Paul's:** Keith Anderson, **St. Mark's:** Rev. Brian Blayer, **Storrs Congregational Church:** Debra Pallatto-Fontaine, **Chabad at UConn:** Shlomo Hecht, **UConn Hillel:** Jacqui Schulefand & Edina Oestreicher, **Chi Alpha:** Gil Banton, **St. Thomas Aquinas:** Father Jonathan Ficara & Ernie Golnik

- **Guest Speaker: Dr. Franklin Tuitt, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, UConn**
 - Dr. Tuitt was welcomed to UConn in late July of 2020
 - Came to UConn after 15 years at the University of Denver first starting as a Higher Education professor, then becoming the Associate Provost for Inclusive Excellence, and finally, was their Chief Diversity Officer from 2015-19
 - Goals for UConn- to facilitate for students a powerful sense of belonging to the University
 - How?
 - By meeting and bringing together as many people, organizations, and groups at UConn and learning what has worked in the past and what can be improved upon for the future
 - Creating a University wide website to streamline diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts
 - Ensuring equal access to all programs and resources
 - Noted that while the University has been successful in diversifying the student body, there is still a need to focus on another area- faculty and staff
 - A question that Dr. Tuitt poses to the community- How can we become leaders in our own respective areas to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion?
- **UConn COVID-19 Updates**
 - [Spring 2021 COVID Codes](#)
 - Student affairs has developed a color coded system to reflect the current status of the campus relating to positivity rates and COVID-19 spread
 - Storrs Campus is currently in the yellow, which is considered moderate risk level
 - [UConn COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
 - To stay up to date on the reopening of UConn
- **Inform Website**
 - [InForm](#), launched in Fall of 2019, is a tool to help the UConn community navigate the reporting process and support available for a variety of incidents including bias, harassment, safety concerns, and other types of misconduct

- Available to anyone coming into contact with UConn, including students, faculty, staff, visitors, and community members who have a concern to report, including bystanders
- Existing reporting forms and websites are not changing or going away. InForm simply acts as a hub for accessing all those forms from one place, with a greater level of guidance
- Bias Reporting
 - You can easily submit a [bias report](#) on the Dean of Students (DOS) Website
 - Also available on the DOS site is a compilation of [University communications](#) sent to the campus in response to bias reports
 - Lastly on this site, is a [bias incident summary report](#)
- [Foodshare and CT Foodbank](#)
 - Two organizations to merge in the near future
 - Their union will have positive impacts for the UConn community to help combat food insecurity
 - More information to come