

Area Association of Religious Communities (AARC)

Meeting Minutes: November 13th, 2018, 3pm

Student Union 324

Member Attendance:

OCSS: John Armstrong, Cru: Scott Thomson, Generation of Hope Ministry: Ray Riddell, Chi Alpha: Gil Banton, Reformed University Fellowship: Lucas Dourado, Spirit and Truth Apostolic Church: Joseph & Leslie Black, St. Thomas Aquinas (Toms Council): Emily Golec

Guests:

Bill Shea & Mary Rose Duberek, UConn Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

- Overview of OEM: responsibilities include monitoring local and national events; keeping the University up to date on occurrences that could affect the campus' students, faculty, and staff.
- Overview of OEM website, oem.uconn.edu
 - Information includes emergency operation plans, emergency protocols, and the Alert system.
- Alert System: 56,000-63,000 on this system
 - All faculty, staff, and students are automatically enrolled
 - System includes all satellite campus' as well
 - For the most up-to-date information on the status of an alert, one can visit alert.uconn.edu
 - There is a leveraging tool for individuals who are not automatically enrolled
 - Text "uconnalert" to 88877
 - Faith Leaders play important role in the event of a critical incident through supporting the affected community.
- Opportunity for AARC leaders to enroll in a free TEEX course, "Incorporating Whole Community Inclusive Planning into the Emergency Management Process". This course is a "pilot" training for TEEX which UConn OEM has agreed to assist with their training as well as provide valuable information to our planning partners.
- Suspicious package protocol: 2-3 incidents in CT in early September
 - Advantageous time to remind UConn of policies and procedures for a suspicious package.
 - Information about the policies, procedures, and protocol can be found at: <https://publicsafety.uconn.edu/emergency/hazard-guide/suspicious-package/>
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster ([VOAD](#)): an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters, provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration; fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster.
 - The National VOAD coalition includes over 50 of the country's most reputable national organizations (faith-based, community-based and other non-governmental organizations) and 55 State/Territory VOADs, which represent Local/Regional VOADs and hundreds of other member organizations throughout the country.

UConn Adverse Events Protocol (Dean of Students Office)

- University outreach to students when regions of the country are adversely affected by tragic events. Contact is made to students at UConn from the impacted areas.

- Student First Fund- created for students that may face unanticipated hardships
 - Funded by donors and annual golf tournament
 - For more information about the Student First Fund and how to donate or nominate a student please visit: <https://studentaffairs.uconn.edu/students-first-fund/>

UConn Bias Incident Protocol

- A bias-related incident is an incident that negatively targets, intimidates, or threatens an individual or group due to race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, physical, mental, and intellectual disabilities, as well as past/present history of mental disorders. This includes, but is not limited to, graffiti or images that harass or intimidate individuals or groups due to the above characteristics.
 - Protocol activation
 - Anyone can report a bias-related incident.
 - For more information about reporting or the protocol, please visit: <https://dos.uconn.edu/bias-incident-protocol/>

UConn Metanoia

- Spring 2019; Theme of Activism
 - The schedule or date has not been released but John will send more information as it becomes available.

UConn Reads: A Game of Thrones by George R.R. Martin

- Activities include speakers, events, dinner, small group discussion.
- <https://uconnreads.uconn.edu/>
- AARC members always welcome to take part in all aspects of the program.

Finals Week

- December 10th-16th
- Emily Golec mentioned that their Student Center will be open to students 24 hours during Finals Week- thank you Emily for providing a great space for students to study!

Announcements / Discussion/Other

- RUF: Lucas is hosting a Paper Towel Drive on 11/15 at Union Street in the Student Union.
- Spirit and Truth Apostolic Church: Pastor Black and Leslie had their first service this past Sunday.
 - Pastor Black and Leslie have collaborated with Reverend Blayer and St. Mark's who have provided a space for their service- great news!
- St. Thomas Aquinas: Hosting a public talk on "Finding Common Ground Between Muslims and Christians" on Tuesday, November 13th at 7:30pm in the Student Center.
- Generation of Hope Ministry: Due to recent difficulties hosting students, there are no more homestay opportunities available for the time being for the Wasili Program. Ray will provide updates as they come.

Next and Final Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2019