January 28, 2013

The CCW Workplace Bullying and Sexual Harassment sub-committee report:

Leah Hollis has just written a book about Workplace Bullying in Higher Education. She is from Pennsylvania, so not too far away. I don’t know if there is still a budget, but it would be nice to invite her at a time when Lou Pisano and other people in HR could attend the talk. After that, we could perhaps speak to Lou Pisano about the policy idea. I do not know Hollis’ ideas on policies per se.

What’s happening in the General Assembly: Ernest Hewett of New London has just introduced a law to study abusive conduct among state workers, HB 6146 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AND VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE, "To require the Department of Administrative Services to report the number of complaints of abusive conduct in the workplace between state employees to the General Assembly." Last year we supported a similar law (it was worded a little differently), but this year, with the increase in number of laws directed at state workers in a negative way, I suggest we do not support it, but support only Healthy Workplace Bill legislation if it arises. As I write, none has been drafted so far, although I met with the Judiciary Committee’s chairperson to discuss it. There are laws being introduced to prohibit employers from requiring access to social media (as far as I know we aren’t directly affected by that at CCSU, but the new BOR policy of demanding a right to see all of our email at any time and have complete access to our intellectual property is something AAUP is dealing with). There is also a law proposing that people should not be discriminated against based on credit reports. That may affect us, as credit checks can be done at CCSU on a limited basis. I think these are matters for individual support or not.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hermes