

Staff Council Officer's Report

December 2023

SC LEADERSHIP WITH SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

On November 29, 2023, Monika, Jennifer, and Alan met with Jonathan D'Amore, Special Assistant to the President

- Shared services assistance with Staff Council website to take a bit of work off the administrator's plate
- Discussed opportunity to “normalize” working together with other campus staff advocacy groups. Chris Lehman supports attempting to make this happen
- Discussion on subsidization of the ECare Training cost for the UVM Staff Community or at the very least for Staff Council members. It was suggested that the appointed safety officers on campus may be a good place to begin this training for a reduced cost.
- Jonathan is committed to encouraging senior level administrators to attend the Holiday Bazaar
- Discussion about the Staff Council office replacing one of the paper bulletin boards with an E-Board. Some steps have been taken to begin this process.

SC LEADERSHIP WITH PRESIDENT GARIMELLA

On December 11, 2023, Monika, Jennifer and Alan met virtually with President Garimella. The discussion included:

- Progress being made to move the Our Common Ground process changes forward are being made to improve the program, mostly to address the transparency of the process as well as redefine eligibility using staff standards rather than academic/faculty standards.
- There was a lengthy discussion on engagement with other advocacy and governance groups on campus with Staff Council and how to make that happen. President Garimella floated an idea that he will explore on having a “regular breakfast” meeting with all the governance group leaders.

SC LEADERSHIP WITH HUMAN RESOURCES

On December 12, 2023, Monika, Jennifer and Alan met with Caitlyn Sisler, Sarah Hennessy, Lindsey Melo, and Chris Lehman. The discussion included:

- The Our Common Ground award process was discussed with planned changes to a rolling application period, some guideline changes that may need President Garimella's approval, development of a rubric as well as several other changes.
- HR plans to hire an Engagement Coordinator, with one task to review the many staff recognitions already happening on campus before moving forward this any new initiatives building off the proposal the SC put forth. This item will be on the agenda as Monika continues to press for recognition & retention.
- HR will be sending out a communication regarding some changes in federal law that will require UVM to better align their prescription drug offering between retail and mail order needing to be treated the same. This may impact as few as 2% of the UVM population.

Upcoming Leadership Meetings

- SC Leadership with Special Assistant to the President, Jonathan D'Amore, 1/24/24
- SC Leadership with HR, 1/09/24