



The University of Vermont

Staff Council

Serving as a voice and advocate for all staff at UVM, since 1971.

Staff Council President's Report **Friday, February 5, 2010**

Board of Trustees – Committee of the Whole

Prepared By
Beth R. Walsh, Staff Council President

The Staff Council appreciates the continued transparency which has been provided to staff, and the rest of the UVM Community, around the creation of the FY11 Budget. While we all recognize the difficulties facing the University, and our nation, in these challenging times, the efforts of the administration to provide an open process regarding the budget has not gone unrecognized by Staff Council and UVM staff. We see these developments by the administration as further recognition of the importance of dialogue and utilization of the expertise of our diverse community to strengthen the University.

While we recognize and appreciate the greater role our organization, and staff in general, play in the decision making process, we hope that this commitment to transparency and discussion continues to expand as we face future challenges and begin new initiatives. Staff Council wants to be a part of finding solutions on issues and initiatives such as the Transdisciplinary Research Initiative, the General Education requirements and pending adjustments to retirement benefits.

Over the past few months our Committees have worked on such issues as:

- Improving communication to staff members from their representatives
- Exploration of mentoring for new staff members
- Ways to improve “Greening the workplace”
- Short Term Disability Benefits
- Consistent Performance Evaluations campus-wide

In December the Staff Council’s Recreation Committee held its annual Holiday Bazaar, which provides the many artisans in our UVM community (staff, faculty and students, as well as some retirees) an opportunity to display and sell their hand-made works of art. This event helps to raise money for future Recreation Committee activities like our Champlain Valley Fair Tickets discount as well as our Community Service Award program. This year the Recreation Committee partnered with the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf and held a one day food drive in connection with the Bazaar. As a result 230 lbs. of food were donated by members of the UVM Community to help needy members of Chittenden County. This is an example of how the Staff Council is expanding its scope both within and beyond our campus.

You may be interested in our January edition of the *Staffline* (<http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/pdf/staffline010410.pdf>), which includes a new feature called “Spotlight on Staff”. The January spotlight shines on longtime staff member Clay Warren, who has been with UVM since 1961! Clay is a supervisor senior mechanic, spends each summer at Katmai National Park in Alaska as a supporter of a research team that studies grizzly bears for the National Park Service, and has taken over 100 classes as a UVM staff member/lifelong learner. As Clay says, “(UVM is) a great place with a lot of dedicated people who work extremely hard.”

I will be prepared to discuss the recommendations for staff salary increases, as well as efforts to collect ideas and suggestions from staff for budget reduction, during my report at the February 5th meeting.

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