



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, October 23, 2009

Board of Trustees – Committee of the Whole

Prepared By

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With the new Academic year comes a sense of renewal. Although the impact of last year's announcements regarding layoffs are still being felt around campus, staff have remained resilient and dedicated to the continued success of UVM. While the last year has been difficult, the efforts of the Administration to be more transparent have set an important precedent which must be continued. Transparency to staff, faculty, and students is essential for the University to move forward. Staff Council encourages further communication and collaboration among the Board of Trustees, Administration, governance bodies, and the campus community as we continue to improve the overall quality of this institution.

Staff Council's own commitment to fostering collaboration and transparency in decision making processes across our campus can be seen through its efforts to address the needs of staff. Throughout the summer and fall, Staff Council has heard a number of concerns from staff related to transportation and parking at UVM. With the construction of Jeffords Hall, the lease of the Spur lot to Fletcher Allen Health Care (FAHC), and confusion over changes to parking tags and zones, staff members feel that their voices and concerns have not been considered. In response to these issues, Staff Council has worked with Transportation and Parking Services to address some of these issues and promote further transparency and communication. One example is the new shuttle service directly from Gutterson Parking Garage to the Given Building during peak hours in hopes to alleviate the problem of travel time between one's vehicle and work space. In addition, we have been assured that the Transportation and Parking Services Advisory Committee (TAPSAC), composed of staff, faculty, and students, will play a larger role in future transportation and parking decisions.

Our Standing Committees are also reaching out to establish and strengthen working relationships with members of the Administration and various departments across campus. In an effort to make a more informed salary raise pool recommendation, our Salary & Budget Committee has sought the guidance of the VP for Finance and Administration, Assoc. VP for Budget & Resource Management, and the Assoc. VP for Human Resource Services, while our Employee Environment and Facilities Committee is working with UVM Recycling and Waste Management to provide a "Greening Your Workplace" presentation on a quarterly basis to further promote sustainability and green practices among staff.

The Council recently held a retreat to facilitate community building among our representatives and set larger goals for our organization. We also identified several areas of concern for staff which included a need for more transparency and accountability at all levels within the University, a commitment to professional development and annual performance appraisals especially as it relates to compensation, and the continued concerns around parking as well as sustainability. There was also a reaffirmation of our commitment to work collaboratively with the all members of the campus community to find solutions that benefit everyone.

We hope that by establishing these areas of concern we will be able to focus the direction of our initiatives this year as we continue to reach out to staff and address their needs.