



The University of Vermont

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Staff Council

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

March 8, 2011

To: Daniel Mark Fogel, President
Jane E. Knodell, Provost and Senior Vice President
Richard Cate, Vice President for Finance and Administration
Barbara Johnson, Associate Vice President, Human Resource Services

CC: Gary Derr, Vice President for Executive Operations and Chief of Staff

From: Ida Russin, Staff Council President *Ida M. Russin*
Michelle Smith, Staff Council Vice President *Michelle M. Smith*
Todd Stewart, Chair, Staff Council Education and Professional Development Committee
Eric Hoefel, Vice Chair, Staff Council Education and Professional Development Committee

Re: Cancellation of Mastering the Maze 2011

We were disappointed to learn of the recent decision to cancel Mastering the Maze for 2011. We understand that the decision to cancel this year's Maze came from the organizers and we are pleased that you listened to their concerns. While we believe that both the Maze organizing committee and the University's senior administrators are supportive of continuing Maze in the future we want to emphasize how important it is that one of the University's best-attended professional development opportunities does not disappear from the calendar.

We are pleased to note that the commitment exists to hold Maze again in 2012 but we are concerned that the circumstances that caused this year's cancellation will still exist next year. We hope that you will communicate to the supervisors the importance of this day and encourage them to give their staff members who have been asked to present, the time and resources to prepare for their part in this day of professional development. The return on their investment will pay dividends for them with better trained and energized employees.

Given the limited options that staff members currently have for these professional development opportunities we cannot overstate the importance of your continued support, both philosophically and through the allocation of appropriate resources, to ensure that Mastering the Maze returns in 2012.