Summary of Staff Council Meeting

February 1, 2011

February’s meeting focused on the Staff Council Salary and Budget Committee’s FY 2012 Salary Raise Pool Increase Recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Other business included a vote to approve a Council’s Officer Election Policy and Procedure and changes to the term of service for Committee chairpersons, the approval of the Council’s January 4, 2011 minutes, along with several announcements by Ida Russin, Council President and Jeff Bukowski, Council Administrator.

Council President’s Update

Ida Russin reported that Michelle Smith had attended the BOT Executive Committee meeting on Ida’s behalf, and reported that President Fogel provided a summary of enrollment and retention rates for Fall 2010, further explaining that although the news was good and the retention rate has improved, it comes a price, an increase in financial aid. Michelle will also represent Ida at this week’s meeting with Gary Derr, VP for Executive Operations, where she will update him on the work of the Council. Questions that Ida has prepared for this meeting include, who represents UVM’s retired staff, what impact is the Administrative Business Service Center (ABSC) having on existing positions (those whose responsibilities are being shifted to ABSC), and other topics including student success and satisfaction.

Announcements

Jeff Bukowski, Council Administrator, announced the submissions deadline for the March edition of Staffline is Friday, February 18, 2011. Applications for staff to serve as representatives on UVM’s Board of Trustees’ Budget, Finance and Investment Committee and the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee are available in the February issue of Staffline. The Staff Council Office will accept these applications through Friday, February 18th. Discounted ski vouchers for Jay Peak and Smugglers’ Notch, and discount coupons for Bolton Valley continue to be available in the Staff Council Office. The Social Committee has a bus trip to the Montreal Casino on Presidents’ Day, February 21st with only a few seats remaining. There are a number of updated discounts at area businesses that will appear in Staffline.

Staff Council Salary & Budget Committee Salary Raise Pool Increase Recommendation

Ida Russin read the FY 2012 Salary Raise Pool Increase Recommendation put forth by Staff Council’s Salary and Budget Committee. After much discussion and a few word changes, the primary concern not addressed in the body of the written Recommendation was, how the Committee came to choose this proposal. It was agreed that it would be the responsibility of Ida Russin, when she presents the Council’s Recommendation to the Board of Trustees on Friday, February 4th, to provide a brief overview of both the research and reasoning that went into this recommendation. Additionally, the Council requested an explanation to accompany the Council’s Salary Raise Pool Recommendation for FY 2012 that will be distributed to staff with the Representative’s Update. By a vote of 19 in favor, 0 opposed, and 5 abstentions, the Staff Council recommends that the base salary pool increase for FY 2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) be that each full time (1.0 FTE) unrepresented staff member receive a flat $1,000 increase in pay to be distributed over 24 pay periods. In cases where a staff member works part-time, their increase would be prorated accordingly. The link to the recommendation is http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/pdf/fy12rec-exp.pdf.
Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Council Survey – Chair Eric Hoefel reported the draft SC Survey has been reviewed by Human Resource Services and Institutional Research. He found their comments very favorable with only a few minor edit suggestions. The Committee is prepared to conduct a preliminary survey (test run) among the Council members in the next few days.

Employee Environment and Facilities Committee – Chair Michelle Smith reported that she and Erica Spiegel with the Recycling and Solid Waste Office met with the Admissions Office. Admissions has an environmental committee within their department that has been tracking their “Greening Your Office Program” efforts. Michelle reported this was a very exciting discovery for her Committee since this idea and effort has been in the making for almost ten years. Admissions will be the first department at UVM to test the program and serve as a case-study for measuring the program’s success.

Other Business

A request was made to include an announcement in the SC Representative’s February update the list of units that will be holding Staff Council Representative Elections in April 2011.

The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Livak Ballrooms, 4th Floor Davis Center, Tuesday, March 1st at 12:05 p.m.