PRESENT: Marilyn Baker, Jeff Bukowski (Ex-officio), Marty Burrows, Rodman Cory, Theresa Goddard, Carol Gross, Mark Hall, Eric Hoefel, Eileen Kristiansen, Rita Lemire, Sharon Mone, Joanne Montanye, Mary Parent, Jon Reidel (Vice-President), Mary Reilly, Rob Rohr, Mary Schliecker-Brigham, Nelson Sears, Michelle Smith, Todd Stewart, Marie Tiemann, Diane Trono, Beth Walsh (President), and Susan Williford.


GUESTS: Al Turgeon, Executive Assistant to VP Finance and Administration

Council President Beth Walsh called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES
The February 2, 2010 minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Salary and Budget – Mary Reilly asked that the Summary Reports reflect two co-chairs, adding Eileen Kristiansen.

Employee Environment & Facilities – Michelle Smith reported that restriping of the Given and Jeffords parking lots will take place after commencement. Future announcements will appear in Staffline.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Beth Walsh and Rob Rohr

Staff Council bylaws stipulate the Council must nominate and approve two representatives to the Nominating Committee. This Committee is charged with overseeing the Council’s presidential elections this spring. Beth Walsh reported that Mary Reilly was nominated and approved at the Council’s January 2010 meeting. She reminded the Council that one other person from the Council was needed to serve on this committee. Rob Rohr announced that a second nominee, Michelle Smith, had agreed to serve as the Council’s representative pending the Council’s approval. The Council voted and approved the nomination of Michelle Smith.

MISSION STATEMENT – Beth Walsh

In follow-up to the Staff Council’s 2009 retreat, the Council decided it needed to create a mission statement that provided clarity about its purpose. Beth Walsh shared how she envisions the Council and its Standing Committees will use a mission statement when making decisions and how it should provide members the ability to ask if they are fulfilling their purpose and charge.
Council members were asked to review the original draft put forth by Jon Reidel, and revisions as recommended by the Executive Board and Joanne Montayne. After much discussion and rewriting, the following mission statement was drawn and adopted.

The UVM Staff Council serves as an advocate for staff by seeking out and responding to their ideas and concerns, representing them to the University administration, and keeping staff informed of University initiatives. Staff Council works to create a cohesive community, have a positive impact on staff culture, and promote the betterment of all.

Beth noted at the conclusion of this discussion, that this is the Council’s first mission statement in almost 40 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE – Jeff Bukowski

Jeff Bukowski announced the deadline for submissions for the April Edition of Staffline is Friday, March 19th. Ski vouchers and discount coupons continue to be available in the Staff Council Office.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE – Beth Walsh

Beth Walsh encouraged Council members to sign up to participate in MAZE. She reported attending the Leadership Forum on February 12th where she added a number of items to their agenda. She encouraged regular communication from vice-presidents and other campus leaders. They responded that they are willing to submit reports to appear in Staffline, and they are willing to speak at our meetings and answer our questions; the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations is willing to address the Council at its meeting in August 2010. Beth expressed the opinion that Staff should be seen as a resource when budgets are being built; she talked about UVM’s website and its lack of intuitiveness and suggested that when websites are updated, links should be corrected and language should be consistent. Lastly, she suggested that customer service should be emphasized more across campus in an effort to make certain we are all helpful to the people we work with and for.

Beth reported that the Board of Trustees recently discussed a proposal to establish a UVM Foundation – a body whose primary function will be fund-raising. This organization would promote greater involvement by alumni and community members. It appears this proposal will move forward.

The Presidents’ meetings, both February and March, are taking place with Gary Derr as President Fogel is on the road on development-related business. The focus of these discussions continues to be the Council’s recommendation for the FY 11 Salary Pool Increase, budget concerns, and paid-release time for grant-funded employees. Beth reported that the topic of paid release time for grant-funded employees is moving forward and she sees this as significant, given it affects approximately 60% of the College of Medicine’s non-represented staff. This effort would provide funding to allow grant-funded employees the opportunity to participate in and serve on Staff Council, affecting as many as six to nine representative positions on the Council.

The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Davis Center Livak Ballrooms, Tuesday April 6, 2010 at 12:05 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.