UVM STAFF COUNCIL  
March 3, 2009  
Livak Ballroom #417- 419  
Davis Center  
12:05 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ernie Buford, Marty Burrows, Jeff Bukowski (Ex-officio), Rodman Cory, David Ebenstein, Patricia Forguites, Mark Hall, Eileen Kristiansen, Shari Langlois, Jennifer Larsen, Rita Lemire, Aliza Mansolino Gault, Joanne Montanye, Michelle Smith-Mullarkey, Thi Nguyen, Mary Parent, Morgan Phillips, Jon Reidel (Vice-President), Mary Reilly, Rob Rohr, Mary Schiecker-Brigham, Todd Stewart, Catherine Symans, Diane Trono (Council Coordinator), Beth Walsh (President).


GUESTS: Professor Patricia Prelock, Chair of the Department of Communication Sciences; Al Turgeon (DFES Designee)

President Beth Walsh called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION by Patricia A. Prelock, Ph.D.

Dr. Prelock provided an engaging, powerful overview of Effective Leadership. A copy of her presentation will be made available on the Staff Council’s website. Today’s presentation was offered as part of Staff Council President Walsh’s commitment to provide professional development and education opportunities to Council members during her tenure. A presentation on Consensus Building is scheduled for the April 7th Council meeting

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – The February 3, 2009 minutes were approved as written.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE – Jeff Bukowski

Staff announcements included the Staffline submission deadline as March 20th; the Council’s end-of-year luncheon has been moved from June 9th to June 23rd; AT&T Wireless has extended a 15% discount to all UVM employees (for personal use only); Sugarbush Resort is sponsoring a chamber member Ski Day on March 15th, when all UVM employees can ski for $15 (spouses are $58, children 7-17 are $40, children 6 and under are free). You MUST pre-register by March 13th at www.vermont.org to participate in this promotion at Sugarbush Resort. No tickets will be sold at the event.

The 2009 Staff Council Elections will be announced later this month. Although we are pending receipt of an updated census of UVM Staff, current information indicates there are 23 positions that need to be filled in eight units.
PRESIDENT’S UPDATE – Beth Walsh

Council President Beth Walsh announced that she, Jon Reidel and Jeff Bukowski met with President Fogel on February 18th and discussed several concerns regarding the pending Phase I budget cuts and layoff announcements. She reported attending a Transformational Change Work Group meeting and explained that a recommendation is being developed and is expected to be completed by March 15th, at the request of President Fogel. More information regarding this workgroup is available on the Office of the President’s website under the heading “Transformational Change.” A link to this site will also be made available on the Staff Council website. Jon Reidel (vice-president) will attend the President’s Campus Leadership Forum on Beth’s behalf, later this week.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION & VOTE

In accordance with Staff Council Bylaws, a nominating committee must be formed for the purpose of vetting future nominees for Council president and vice-president. The committee requires seven members including the chair of the Rules and Elections Committee. As per the Bylaws, the Council Office put forth the names of two staff members: Robin Lockerby and Kathie Merchant. And the Council had two members volunteer: Eileen Kristiansen and Mark Hall. All four candidates were unanimously approved by the Council. There remain two openings to be nominated by the Executive Board. The Council will vote on the remaining candidates at the April meeting. The term of this committee is through June 30, 2009.

OTHER BUSINESS

Michelle Smith-Mullarkey, chair of the Employee Environment and Facilities Committee (EEF), notified the Council that her committee has revised and approved new language outlining the EEF’s responsibilities. The proposed language will go before the Executive Board in March. If approved, and in accordance with our bylaws, this change to the Council bylaws will be put forth for a vote of the Council in April.

The Council discussed the process in which statements are issued by the Staff Council President. Although ample support was voiced by the Council for the work done to date by Beth Walsh in her role as president of Staff Council, two suggestions were made:

1) When the Council president is faced with a tight timeline in which she needs to issue a statement on behalf of the Council, she agreed to consult the Executive Board beforehand.

2) The Council president will share her statement(s) issued on behalf of Staff Council with the elected membership (representatives) prior to the distribution of her statement to all staff.

Concerns were expressed that a policy is needed to provide the president direction on this topic. This matter was referred to the Executive Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.