Today’s meeting included an informational presentation on leadership by Professor Patricia Prelock, a vote to approve four candidates to the Council’s Nominating Committee, several staff-related announcements, and a discussion about the process in which statements are issued by the Staff Council President on behalf of the Council. A copy of today’s leadership presentation will be made available on the Staff Council’s website.

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 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.

2009 Elections for Council representatives, to fill vacant positions and those with expiring terms, 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.

Council President Beth Walsh announced that she, Jon Reidel and Jeff Bukowski had 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. Lastly, Jon Reidel (vice-president) will attend the President’s Campus Leadership Forum on Beth’s behalf, later this week.

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 and the Council had two members volunteer. 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.

Under the heading of Other Business, 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. As a result, when Beth is faced with a tight timeline, she agreed to consult the Executive Board. She will also distribute her statements to the full Council prior to distributing them 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 next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, 12:05 to 1:30 p.m. in the Livak Ballrooms of the Davis Student Center. The agenda is available online at http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/ on the Tuesday prior to each Council meeting.