MEMBERS PRESENT:
Akol Aguek, Ann Barlow, Renee Bertea, Michelle Chapman, Rodman Cory, Jacqueline Drouin, Isis Erb, Mark Hall, Scott Hipko, Molly Hubbell, Laurie Juskiwicz, Tracey Maurer, Sharon Mone, Joanne Montanye, Jeff Moreau, Mary Parent, Parvin Pothiawala, Emira Smalagic, Michelle Smith (Vice President), Todd Stewart, Wayne Tetrisk, Marie Tiemann, Floyd Vilmont, and Susan Williford.

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Naima Denis, Theresa Goddard, Allen Josey, Karen Lemire, Ida Russin (President), Nicole Todd, Karmen Swim, and Lynn Tracy.

ALSO PARTICIPATING:
Jeff Bukowski (Ex-Officio), Staff Council Administrator
Diane Trono (Secretary), Staff Council Office Coordinator

GUESTS:
Cindy Lee, Process Coordinator, Office of the VP for Finance and Enterprise Services

Council Vice President Michelle Smith called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The February 7, 2012 Draft Minutes were approved with one change; Jeff Moreau was present, not absent.

COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Rodman Cory, Chair of the Compensation, Benefits and Budget Committee, announced that his Committee will be meeting with Vice President Richard Cate on Wednesday, March 14th to share their thoughts and concerns, and to learn about the progress related to the FY2013 budget. Rodman invited members of the Council to forward any questions they (or their constituents) may have to Staff.Council@uvm.edu, or to Committee Vice Chair Mark Hall, or directly to him (Rodman Cory).

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Marie Tiemann, Chair of the Social Committee shared how her Committee is working on several events including a UVM Day at Centennial Field with the Lake Monsters, a Mystery Game and Dinner Cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen, the Eighth Annual Golf Outing, and the Second Annual Staff Art Exhibit.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Staff Council Administrator Jeff Bukowski reported that the Nominating Committee met on March 2nd to discuss to schedule and process for electing a new Staff Council President and Vice President.
LimeSurvey is being used to promote greater participation in elections this year and the Committee has successfully tested a sample ballot template. The Tuesday, May 1st Staff Council Meeting will host an Open Forum for Staff to meet the presidential and vice-presidential candidates. The Committee is researching the possibility of video-taping the Open Forum, but if this cost is prohibitive, they will plan on recording and posting an .mp3 audio file on the Staff Council website. The Staff Council Office will work with ACCESS Services, to request a transcript of the Open Forum to accompany either a video or audio recording.

Staff who are qualified to serve, those with six months of Staff Council service in the last six years, will be notified personally and invited to submit an application for candidacy. Once the candidates step forward, the Nominating Committee will meet with them to make certain they understand the commitment. Each candidate’s photo and their reasons for wanting to serve as Staff Council President or Vice President will be posted on the Staff Council’s website and on the Election Ballots as well.

A list of those staff who are eligible to run is available on the Staff Council Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections 2012 website. The deadline for eligible staff to submit an application for candidacy for Council President or Vice President is Friday, April 13, 2012.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

An Ad Hoc Committee has been created and charged with the “Creation of a Staff Memorandum of Understanding with University Leadership.” At today’s Staff Council Meeting, Rodman Cory, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, conducted an exercise where he asked Council members to provide answers to two questions: 1) What is going well at UVM, and 2) Where is there room for improvement at UVM. The Council provided feedback that will be used by the Ad Hoc Committee on their project.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Council Vice President Michelle Smith delivered Council President Ida Russin’s March 2012 Update, as Ida was performing her civic duty and attending Town Meeting Day. Ida’s report began with how proud she was of the Executive Board (EB) of Staff Council for their work on helping to bring in UVM’s new President. She noted how several people involved in the presidential interview process commented that our group was the most well organized group to meet with the candidates. The EB was ready with thoughtful questions, which had been prepared in advance, and they consistently asked the same questions of each candidate. The EB had some wonderful conversations about UVM’s future with the candidates, and they are very pleased with the outcome. Ida feels certain that E. Thomas Sullivan, J.D. will be a great President, and she was proud to have had a speaking role, alongside the other governance leaders, as they welcomed President Elect Thomas Sullivan, as UVM’s 26th president.

Ida reported that the Staff Council office has geared up for election season. Both Michelle and Ida will be leaving their roles. A general communication to all eligible candidates will be distributed shortly and a list of the qualified candidates will be posted on the Staff Council Presidential Elections 2012 website.
At this time, the Staff Council leadership is fully engaged with the University’s executive administration; they include us in important conversations, they invite us to important events, and are including us in the budget planning processes. We’ve built a mutually respective and transparent relationship that we want to continue. Ida will serve as Immediate Past President as of July 1, 2012, and will remain very involved in Staff Council because she believes in Council’s mission. The complete report can be found here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The submission deadline for the April edition of Staffline is Friday, March 16, 2012. Ski Vouchers remain available for Jay Peak and Smugglers’ Notch, and Bolton Valley coupons are also available. The Staff Council Office has a limited number of $5.00 off coupons (good until April 2012) for the PumpHouse at Jay Peak Resort, and a shopping bus trip to North Conway, NH is planned for June 9th. Jeff Bukowski reminded everyone of the recently created Staff Council Facebook and Twitter accounts and asked Council members to sign-up. Detailed information on all discounts and events may be found on the Staff Council’s Discount and Event webpage http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/?Page=discounts.html.

A quick survey for staff was included in the March edition of Staffline, asking staff to provide their words of advice and one thing they want to see President-Elect Sullivan accomplish at UVM. The deadline for participating in this survey is end-of-business March 15th.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rodman Cory, one of organizers of EDU@UVM (formerly known as MAZE) explained that registrations are lagging for this event and the many classes being offered. Rodman encouraged Staff Council members to attend two particular events for reasons that included the anticipated quality of these events and the opportunity to demonstrate an appreciation for the time commitment each presenter is making. The two events he spoke of included: ‘Conversation with four of UVM’s Legislative Trustees’ on Tuesday, March 6th at 2pm in the Chittenden Bank Room (following the Staff Council Meeting). The second event was the ‘Keynote’ for EDU@UVM on Thursday, March 8th at 8:30 a.m. in the Sugar Maple Ballroom. Dr. Saleem Ali, a Professor of Environmental Studies at UVM’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and adjunct faculty of Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies will speak about Culture, Conflict and Cooperation.

The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Livak Ballrooms, 4th Floor Davis Center, Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 12:05 p.m.