UVM Staff Council  
April 1, 2014  
12:05-1:30 p.m.  
Livak Ballroom, Davis Center  
Minutes

Members Present: President Catherine Symans, Vice President Renee Berteau, Sarah Childs, Rodman Cory, Naima Dennis, Ellen DeOrsey, Jacqueline Drouin, Kate Ford, Wendy Koenig, Anita Lavoie, Robin Lockerby, Noël McCann, Sharon Mone, JoAnne Dearborn for Jane Nevins, Holly Pedrini, Parvin Pothiawala, Judy Riani, Dave Rogers, Marie Tiemann, Amy Vile, Floyd Vilmont, Bethany Wolfe

Ex-officio: Jeff Bukowski, Staff Council Administrator

Members Absent: Brendan Andrews, Johanna Brabham, Mark Hall, Troy Krahl, Gwen Landis, Joanne Montanye, Susan Skalka, Karmen Swim, Lynn Tracy, Susan Williford

Also Participating: Jon Porter, Dir. Of UVM Center of Health & Wellbeing, Amy Gilman, Staff Council Assistant, Connor Daley, President, SGA, Marie Vea-Fagnant, Assistant Dean, Student Svs.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m.

Student Wellness Presentation

Catherine Symans, President of Staff Council, welcomed Dr. Jon Porter, Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing. In a follow up to President Sullivan’s February 10, 2014 letter to the University on Student Wellness, Dr. Porter shared a snapshot with the Council of what the current data is for alcohol and substance use within the UVM Student population. UVM is participating in The National Collegiate Health Improvement Project (NCHIP) along with 32 other institutions of higher education. NCHIP is an organization formed to create cultural and social change in higher education around these issues of substance abuse. UVM data and numbers have remained steady from 1980-2011, but statistically higher than the national average. Many of our incoming first-year students surveyed before coming to the University rank above the national average for high risk in drinking and marijuana use. The administration wishes to create the best learning environment by decreasing behaviors that could negatively impact learning outcomes for students. There are many layers to trying to change the culture and it will take the entire University community to support the change. Areas to address are windows of downtime in the academic calendar year, doing more proactive outreach to students around “high risk weekends,” and continuing to have evening programming to keep students busy when they might otherwise participate in using alcohol or drugs. Resources that staff and faculty can access to assist a student that may be struggling with these high risk behaviors were discussed and listed. The C.A.R.E. Form on the Dean of Students website has all of the information for students. Additionally, there are resources for staff and faculty who have the same types of concerns about a co-worker or colleague, those options are to contact UVM HRS or visit LifeScope our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) partner.
Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the March 4, 2014 Council minutes. With no discussion, the minutes were adopted.

Public Comment Period

Connor Daly, President of UVM Student Government Association, commented that he has been working with Dr. Porter on sharing the data and information about campus alcohol and substance abuse to his constituents. He also wanted to thank Staff Council leadership as he nears the end of his two-term presidency for the help and collaboration that has been shared and exhibited while he has been in office.

Officer’s Update

The Officer’s update is posted online on the President of Staff Council’s webpage.

Staff Council Leadership Meeting with University President

Our next meeting with President Sullivan is scheduled for May 5th. In the meantime, we met with Vice president for Executive Operations Gary Derr. Although our agenda was light, we had a good discussion concerning several issues including the University Benefits Advisory Council Review of benefits cost share, the Tobacco-Free Initiative, and the Staff Council Elections.

Human Resource Services Quarterly Meeting With Staff Council Leadership

Our next meeting with Vice President for Human Resource Services Barbara Johnson is scheduled for April 29.

Honorary Degree Committee

On March 26, members of the Honorary Degree Committee met to discuss nominations for honorary degrees to be awarded at the 2015 Commencement. The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss nominations. The next meeting, scheduled for April 9, will be to rank and select nominations to be submitted to President Sullivan for consideration.

Election of UVM Board of Trustees

Catherine shared the results of the Board of Trustee elections: Deborah McAneny, Chair; David Daigle, Vice Chair; and Joan Lenes, Secretary.

President’s Our Common Ground Staff Award
With 20 complete nomination packages submitted, the Award Committee has broken into two teams to review. There are two meetings left to finish the review and rank process for the nominees. The six winners will be announced on April 14th and an Awards Breakfast will be held on May 5, 2014.

Staff Council Representative Elections

Staff Council Administrator Jeff Bukowski reminded the group that Representative Election nominations are currently being accepted. If any current representative plans to run again you still need to submit your nomination form before the deadline of April 9, 2014.

Staff Council Officer Elections

Staff Council Parliamentarian Rodman Cory shared that the Nomination Committee has been formed and a timeline has been created. The group has met once to go over what the goals and expectations are once officer nominations are passed along to the committee. Qualified candidates must submit an application by April 11, 2014.

Group Discussion

Debrief of Student Wellness Presentation: It was brought up that it wasn’t entirely clear to members of the council how to assist or identify a student that may be in need of help, or where to find a resources listing. The C.A.R.E. Form was mentioned as the primary source for reporting and listing of resources. This form is found on the Dean of Students webpage.

Tobacco Free Initiative: A letter went out March 24, 2014 from Jan Carney, Associate Dean for Public Health and Tom Gustafson, Vice President, University Relations and Administration about the January 1, 2015 initiative. The most comprehensive information is available at www.uvm.edu/tobaccofree. There were no additional concerns raised about this timeline, but a commitment to supporting this health initiative while also supporting those who use tobacco products to quit was voiced.

Staff Council Annual Update: Jeff mentioned the proposed changes that were discussed in the March 24th Executive Board meeting about presenting the update in a more reader friendly format with color and image. This piece could continue to serve as the formal document but also be a piece that Staff Council could use to talk about the work we do by referencing specific examples. Most likely the update will revisit areas of continued work (e.g., salary & compensation, campus communications and supervisor-employee relations) as well as talk about Council successes (e.g., increased University guest/speakers, better attendance and participation for all Staff Council events and meetings, results from the Staff Council Survey and an increase in number of recipients for the Community Service Awards).

Other Business

Social Committee: As announced in the April 1, 2014 Staffline newsletter the Social Committee is encouraging participation in the VT Corporate Cup Challenge, a 5k walk or run, on May 15, 2104 in
Montpelier, VT at 6pm. Make a team of three UVM staff, faculty or students, register at the race website (www.vcccsar.org), and let Staff Council know about your team. The Staff Council Office and the Social Committee will promote the event, give participants UVM swag, and take a group photo before the race. The goal of promoting this event and team participation is to have cohesive UVM representation at this statewide event.

One other question was raised about whether UVM is doing anything about rideshares or car-pooling for UVM staff/faculty during the CCTA bus strike? There was no knowledge of an organized plan at this time and it had not come up earlier as the strike was not expected to last this long.

**Adjournment**

Catherine made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 1:33pm.