SUMMARY OF THE UVM STAFF COUNCIL MEETING – April 1, 2014

This summary provides the most relevant information for staff from Staff Council’s recent meeting.

**Student Wellness Presentation**
In a follow up to President Sullivan’s February 10, 2014 letter to the campus on Student Wellness, Dr. Porter, Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing shared a snapshot with the Council of what the current data is for alcohol and substance use within the UVM Student population. 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 campus rank above the national average for high risk in drinking and marijuana use. The administration wishes to create the best learning environment where these risk behaviors have the least amount of impact on the 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. Resources were discussed and listed that staff and faculty can access to assist a student that may be struggling with these high risk behaviors. The CARE form on the Dean of Students website has all of the information for students. Additionally, there are resources for staff and faculty that have the same types of concerns about a co-worker or colleague, those options are to contact UVM HRS or visit LifeScope our EAP partner.

**Approval of Minutes**
March 4, 2014 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.

**Staff Council President’s Update**
The full update by Staff council President Catherine Symans is available here.

**Staff Council Representative Elections**
Representative Election nominations are currently being accepted until 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 by April 11, 2014.

**Group Discussion**
There was a short debrief of the Student Wellness Presentation, it was reiterated that if you feel like a student needs assistance or resources please visit the C.A.R.E form mentioned and linked under in the first paragraph above under the Student Wellness Presentation.
A discussion about the status of the Tobacco Free Initiative took place. It was shared that the most comprehensive information is available at: www.uvm.edu/tobaccofree website. There were no additional concerns raised about this timeline, but a commitment to this health initiative while supporting those who use tobacco products to quit was voiced.

The Staff Council Annual Update is due soon. The Executive Board gave their thought and input at the March 24, 2014 meeting. The look and feel will change slightly but will still cover relevant concepts and 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).

**Announcements**

**Staffline:**

The submission deadline for the April edition of *Staffline* is Friday, April 11, 2014. This edition will be distributed on Thursday, May 1, 2014.