MEMBERS PRESENT:
Akol Aguek, Ann Barlow, Renee Berteau, Michelle Chapman, Rodman Cory, Naima Dennis, Jacqueline Drouin, Isis Erb, Mark Hall, Scott Hipko, Molly Hubbell, Laurie Juskiewicz, Karen Lemire, Tracey Maurer, Joanne Montanye, Mary Parent, Parvin Pothiawala, Ida Russin (President), Emira Smailagic, Michelle Smith (Vice President), Todd Stewart, Karmen Swim Wayne Tetrick, Marie Tiemann, Floyd Vilmont, and Susan Williford.

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Theresa Goddard, Allen Josey, Sharon Mone, Jeff Moreau, Nicole Todd, and Lynn Tracy.

ALSO PARTICIPATING:
Jeff Bukowski (Ex-Officio), Staff Council Administrator

Council President Ida Russin called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The March 6, 2012 Draft Minutes were approved as written.

STAFF COUNCIL PROMOTIONAL FLYER & BRANDING EFFORTS

The Staff Council Office has created a four-color double-sided information flyer to reach out to all non-represented staff, for Staff Council election purposes. Jeff Bukowski, Staff Council Administrator, explained how the flyer also serves to address several observations brought to the Council’s attention in last year’s survey; specifically, what is Staff Council, what does Staff Council do, and what has Staff Council done. The flyer is also instructional about how to become involved, and why. Jeff thanked the Outreach, Assessment, and University Engagement Committee (OAUE) for their role in the development of this promotional flyer. UVM’s General Counsel reviewed the flyer’s language and provided minor recommendations for change that were incorporated. This flyer will replace the Council’s brochure created in 2008 by the former Communications Committee. The flyer will also be distributed to all staff through campus mail and it will be provided to newly-hired staff at orientation.

The OAUE has also worked to create some ‘branding’ for the Staff Council. Their efforts have resulted in the creation of a watermark, not to be confused with a logo (since UVM’s logo is the tower). The Executive Board provided feedback to Committee members regarding their latest mockup. UVM’s Web Team and the Communications Department are also both reviewing the Staff Council’s watermark design.
AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Ad Hoc Committee Chair Rodman Cory reported that this Committee, originally charged with the creating a “Staff Memorandum of Understanding with University Leadership,” has charted a new course. They have decided to create an ‘annual report’ for the Administration that outlines: what has worked well; what has not worked well; and provide recommendations - for those things that did not go well. The Committee remains intent on accomplishing this task (as stated in the Ad Hoc Committee’s charge) on or before May 31, 2012. It was also the recommendation of this Committee to make this Staff Council’s End-of-Year Annual Report, normally generated by the Staff Council Office.

STAFF COUNCIL ELECTIONS

April is a busy month for Staff Council, promoting elections in eight University units/divisions to fill fifteen (15) Representative seats. The Council is also promoting self-nominations for Staff Council President and Vice-President. Several outreach efforts are underway to ensure the Staff Council will have a full and representative governing body for the coming academic year. Current Representatives with terms ending this June were invited to serve again and if interested, asked to complete the Staff Council Representative Self-Nomination Form. For more election information go to Staff Council’s “Get Involved” webpage.

The May 1st Staff Council Meeting will host an Open Forum for Presidential and Vice-President Candidates. Each candidate will be asked to make an opening statement and the meeting will then provide time for Q&A. Remaining Staff Council business will be conducted at the conclusion of the Open Forum.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

At the March meeting with Vice President for Executive Operations Gary Derr, he explained the need for UVM’s General Counsel to approve Staff Council’s proposed by-law wording changes allowing the Council to ask UVM affiliates, such as employees of The Foundation, to act as liaisons and participate in Staff Council meetings. The Council’s continuing collaboration with the Provost’s office on the Strategic Initiatives Project was discussed, and in follow-up to prior inquiries. A complete report can be found here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The submission deadline for the May edition of Staffline is Friday, April 13, 2012. The Staff Council Office has a limited number of $5.00 off coupons (good until the end of April 2012) for the PumpHouse at Jay Peak Resort, and a shopping bus trip to North Conway, NH is planned for Saturday, June 9, 2012. SAVE THE DATE(S) for a Staff Council Lake Monsters Ballgame and Barbecue, planned for Thursday, August 2, 2012, and the Eighth Annual Staff Council Golf Outing planned for Friday, August 10, 2012. 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.

UVM staff were asked to provide their Words of Advice and one thing they want to see President-Elect Thomas Sullivan accomplish at UVM in a quick survey that was included in the March edition of Staffline.
Participation in this survey was good and the information received is currently being summarized. It will be shared with the Community and President-Elect Sullivan in the coming months.

OTHER BUSINESS

Staff Council has been involved in many discussions surrounding Post-Retirement Medical Benefits. While the changes to these benefits has been in effect for a while, and though employees still have until June 30, 2014 to make a determination on their retirement choices, staff remain concerned and to some degree confused about the details. Many staff are hoping for a more detailed communication surrounding these changes which will help determine what next-steps to take. Long-term employees who will just miss the mark for years of service and/or age eligibility are disappointed. Staff Council will continue to discuss this issue.

The May 1st, Staff Council will host an Open Forum for Presidential and Vice-President Candidates. It will take place in the Livak Ballrooms, 4th Floor Davis Center, at 12:05 p.m. An audio recording and written transcript of the Open Forum will be made available on Staff Council’s website as soon as possible, following the Open Forum.