UVM STAFF COUNCIL
April 7, 2009
Livak Ballroom #417-419
Davis Center
12:05 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Marilyn Baker, Ernie Buford, Jeff Bukowski (Ex-officio), Rodman Cory, Patricia Forguites, Mark Hall, Eileen Kristiansen, Shari Langlois, Jennifer Larsen, Rita Lemire, Sharnel Martelle, Michelle Smith-Mullarkey, Jon Reidel (Vice-President), Mary Reilly, Rob Rohr, Ida Russin, Mary Schliecker-Brigham, Todd Stewart, Catherine Symans, Diane Trono (Council Coordinator), Beth Walsh (President).


GUESTS: William Cats-Baril, Associate Professor, School of Business; Al Turgeon (DFES Designee), Zhanna Gordon, Bailey/Howe Library Collection Management Services

President Beth Walsh called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – The March 3, 2009 minutes were approved as corrected, adding Rodman Cory and Jennifer Larsen to those present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE – Jeff Bukowski

The May Staffline submission deadline is April 17th. The Council’s fifth annual Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Recreation Committee, will take place July 31st at Links at Lang Farm. Participation forms will appear in the May issue of Staffline. Council elections are underway; candidacy applications and election timelines are available on the Council website under the Get Involved section. Handouts of the same are available at today’s meeting. Jeff also reported that the Staff Council Office is working to create a new format of Staffline and may be asking Council members to begin submitting documents in additional formats.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE – Beth Walsh

Beth attended the Board of Trustees’ Executive Committee meeting where elimination of the athletic department’s baseball and softball programs was the focus of discussion, and the Board chose not to change their original decision or process for determining the cuts.

Beth reported the Council hosted three Outreach Tables in an effort to inform staff of election opportunities across campus, twice in the Davis Center Atrium on March 20th and April 3rd, and once in the College of Medicine’s Hoehl Gallery on March 26th (which Jeff covered). She reported traffic was low in both locations.
Jon Reidel attended a Campus Leadership Forum last month, on behalf of the Council President. He reported that President Fogel was optimistic about pending budget matters. Several members at the forum asked how much optimism they should convey to their various constituents. Richard Cate was reluctant to encourage too much excitement about something that may not happen, because much of current optimism hinges on the legislature. Overall, Jon reported feeling better about UVM’s future budget situation.

Beth and Jeff met with President Fogel and Gary Derr yesterday, April 6th; Jon Reidel was unable to attend. They talked about the State’s appropriation and the stimulus package, and what that may mean for UVM and the planned Phase II budget cuts. Although UVM’s administration had hoped they would have more information by mid-April, it appears final figures from the State will not be known until sometime in May.

Beth reported discussing with President Fogel a letter received from the UE Local 267. The letter, read in its entirety to the Council, states that UE members should not serve on Staff Council, its committees, or participate in its elections. Discussion by the Office of the President and General Counsel resulted in a decision to respect the UE’s request. Any questions or concerns from members of the UE bargaining unit will be referred directly to the UE Local 267. The Teamsters have not expressed any of these sentiments and will continue to be recognized as able to serve on and participate in Staff Council.

**ELECTION UPDATE** – Rob Rohr and Diane Trono

Rob Rohr, Rules and Elections Committee Chair, explained that the AFS unit is most affected by this decision. The March 15th census report states there were 498 AFS staff members. UE members in AFS total 348. Since UE members cannot serve on the Council, as representatives or committee members and cannot vote, they do not count as part of the census number when determining Council representation (in accordance with the Council’s Election Policy Statement). This means the number of representatives required in AFS, based on the number of eligible staff (150) in this sub-division, is three instead of nine.

Diane Trono further explained that since AFS currently has four Council representatives with one whose term concludes on June 30th, they will have three representatives as of July 1st and do not need to hold elections. This reduction in eligible staff means that Staff Council representation for 2009 should be 38, reduced from 44. There are six (6) openings due to representative terms expiring, 10 vacant seats, and there remain 22 seated representatives for 2009. The total number of new representatives needed in 2009 is 16.

In an effort to promote greater involvement and representation on Staff Council, College of Medicine (COM) administrators organized its 52 departments into three sub-divisions: Administrative Depts. (AD), Basic Sciences (BS), and Clinical Sciences (CS). All current COM representatives were found to reside in AD. It was determined that based on the number of eligible staff, BS requires one representative and CS needs five.

Diane reminded everyone that April 15th is the deadline for employees submitting candidacy applications. Online ballots managed by the Staff Council office will be distributed on April 20th and all elections will conclude on April 30th. Candidates will be notified on May 4th and the
Council will be notified of election results at the May 5th meeting. Election results will be posted on the Council’s website on May 5th, following the Council meeting. The May issue of Staffline will be delayed so that it may include election results. It will be distributed following the Council meeting.

THE WELLNESS PROGRAM – Beth Walsh

The role of Staff Council and its involvement in promoting the continuation of the Wellness Program was discussed. Several members expressed concerns over the potential loss or restructuring of the Wellness Program. An Ad Hoc Committee was proposed, to examine whether or not fitness programs should continue to be made available on-campus. It would be further charged with researching the creation of a new standing committee to assume responsibility for the management of future fitness programs on-campus. Several Council members expressed concern that the Council not assume this role, but instead, advocate for the needs of staff and recommend to President Fogel that he reexamine the administration’s decision to target the Wellness Program in Phase II budget reductions for FY10.

The Council voted unanimously in support a letter from the Council President, supporting the Wellness Ambassadors’ initiative and petition drive, asking President Fogel to give further consideration to protecting funding for the Wellness Program.

The Council President and Administrator will coordinate this effort with Zhanna Gordon, the Wellness Ambassadors’ representative and guest at today’s meeting.

BYLAW CHANGE REQUEST
- EMPLOYEE ENVIRONMENT AND FACILITIES’ STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This matter was tabled until the May 5, 2009 Council meeting. Attendance at today’s meeting did not meet the required two-thirds (21) Regular Council members, for the purpose of a vote to affirm a bylaw change to the Employee Environment and Facilities’ statement of purpose as per Article XV, Bylaw Amendments.

OTHER BUSINESS

The matter of “movement” on Parking and Transportation’s waiting list for the coveted Green Zone permit was discussed. The question narrowed in on why, after being on this waiting list for a few years, the Council member’s place on the list (her #) had not changed even though several other Waterman Building employees have received Green Zone tags. The Council member was referred to Mary Provost in the Parking Office, or Deac, Director of Parking and Transportation.

Due to the prior commitments of representatives, the Council asked William Cats-Baril, Associate Professor in the School of Business Administration, to address the Council on Consensus Building at a future date and he agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.