Summary of Staff Council Meeting

April 7, 2009

Today’s meeting included a Staff Council elections update, a discussion and vote in favor of sending a letter of support for the Wellness Program to the administration, and several staff-related announcements, an update of discussions between the Council and the President’s office concerning UVM’s budget situation, and a discussion on the matter of Parking and Transportation’s waiting list for the Green Zone permit.

Staff announcements included the May Staffline submission deadline as April 17th; the Council’s fifth annual Golf Tournament is July 31st at Links at Lang Farm and sign-up 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.

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

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.

Jon Reidel, Council vice president, 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, VP Finance and Administration, was reluctant to encourage too much excitement about something that may not happen, because much of current optimism hinges on the legislature.

Beth and Jeff Bukowski, Council Administrator, met with President Fogel and Gary Derr, VP Executive Operations, yesterday, April 6th. 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. Final figures from the State and the impact on UVM’s budget will not be known until sometime in May.

Beth received a letter from the UE Local 267 stating UE members should not serve on Staff Council, its committees, nor should they participate in its elections. Discussion by the Office of the President and General Counsel rendered 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.

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, SC Coordinator, further explained that since AFS currently has four Council representatives with one whose term concludes on June 30\textsuperscript{th}, they will have three representatives as of July 1\textsuperscript{st} and not need to hold elections. This reduction in eligible staff means 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 15\textsuperscript{th} is the deadline for employees submitting candidacy applications. Online ballots managed by the Staff Council office will be distributed on April 20\textsuperscript{th} and all elections will conclude on April 30\textsuperscript{th}. Candidates will be notified on May 4\textsuperscript{th} and the Council will be notified of election results at the May 5\textsuperscript{th} meeting. Election results will be posted on the Council’s website on May 5\textsuperscript{th}, following the Council meeting. The May issue of \textit{Staffline} will be delayed so that it may include election results. It will be distributed following the Council meeting.

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. 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.

The Employee Environment and Facilities’ request to change its statement of purpose was tabled until the May 5\textsuperscript{th} Council meeting.

Under 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 placement on this list (her #) had not changed over the past few years. 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 next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5\textsuperscript{th}, 12:05 to 1:30 p.m. in the Livak Ballroom of the Davis Student Center. The agenda is available online at http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/ on the Tuesday prior to each Council meeting.