Summary of Staff Council Meeting

May 1, 2012

May’s meeting included a status report on Staff Council Representative Elections, an announcement regarding the postponement of Staff Council Officer Elections, approval of the Compensation, Benefits, and Budget Committee’s Annual Report, approval of proposed Staff Council Bylaw changes, approval of the Council’s April 3, 2012 Draft Minutes, and several announcements by Council Administrator, Jeff Bukowski and Council President Ida Russin.

POSTPONEMENT OF STAFF COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTIONS

It was announced in Monday’s News You Should Know and the May edition of Staffline that Staff Council leadership made a decision to extend the submission deadline for candidacy applications for Council President and Vice President Elections. The new submission deadline is Monday, May 7th and elections will now occur from Tuesday, May 22nd through Tuesday, May 29th. Election results will be announced on Thursday, May 31st. While Council President Ida Russin explained that two outstanding candidates have come forth, as a governance body that advocates on behalf of staff, Council leaders felt it was important to make an effort to provide non-represented staff with a voting choice.

COMPENSATION, BENEFITS & BUDGET COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT

Rodman Cory, Chair of the Compensation, Benefits and Budget Committee (CBB), spoke to how the restructuring of the committees by Staff Council last year resulted in the CBB being charged with broad responsibilities. This change affected the way the Committee previously generated annual salary increase recommendations and resulted in the CBB generating a report focusing on its three areas of research and advocacy: Compensation, Benefits, and Budget. The Council voted unanimously in support of forwarding the CBB’s report on to UVM’s Board of Trustees and senior members of administration. The Staff Council’s Report on Compensation, Benefits & Budget can be found on the Staff Council’s home page: http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/pdf/fy13rec.pdf

BYLAW CHANGES

Staff Council Administrator Jeff Bukowski reviewed the proposed additions and changes to the Council’s bylaws, as put forth by the Executive Board. The primary changes included the creation of a liaison role for external entities, clarifying language about the status of Staff Council as a governance body, and clarifying language about eligibility to run for Staff Council President and Vice President. The Council discussed and recommended one change to the proposed document. They requested the word “primary” be inserted in the second sentence of Article II. Purpose, so that it reads, *The Staff Council’s primary responsibilities include...* A motion to approve the proposed bylaw changes with this one change passed unanimously.
STAFF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS

Staff Council held elections in April for Representative positions in several units/divisions across the University community. Eight of the fifteen open Representative seats have been filled, leaving seven (7) opens seats. These include: four (4) open seats in the College of Medicine; one (1) open seat in the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration; one (1) open seat in Extension; and one (1) open seat in University Relations and Campus Life. To become involved with Staff Council and learn more about serving as a Representative and ambassador for your unit/division, go to: http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/?Page=getinvolved.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The UVM Staff Art Exhibit is scheduled to coincide with Staff Appreciation Week in September. The Exhibit will once again take place in the Davis Center, Livak Fireplace Lounge. The registration deadline for the Art Exhibit is June 15th.

Champlain Valley Fair ticket sales (discounted by the Social Committee) will go on sale June 1st. A shopping bus trip to Settlers’ Green Village Outlets in North Conway, NH is planned for Saturday, June 9, 2012. A UVM Night of Vermont Lake Monsters Baseball and Barbecue is planned for Thursday, August 2, 2012, and the Eighth Annual Staff Council Golf Outing at the Links at Lang Farm is planned for Friday, August 10, 2012.

Jeff asked everyone to check the May issue of Staffline, for information on how to catch a Lake Monsters’ baseball game and help support UVM’s Upward Bound program. If you purchase Lake Monsters’ tickets for the 7:05pm, Thursday, July 5th game, you’ll receive a discounted price of $6.00 for general admission tickets and half of all ticket sales will benefit UVM’s Upward Bound Program – a college prep program for low-income/first generation high school students from Burlington and Winooski. Only tickets purchased using the following link will benefit UVM’s Upward Bound Program: https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2/team.asp?SponsorID=4251&promocode=uvup

The Class of 2012’s Senior Class Gift is a scholarship fund designed to help current UVM student remain here when financial aid and parent contributions are not enough. To learn more, or to give, go to: www.giveuvm.com

Detailed information on all events and discounts may be found on the Staff Council’s Discount and Event webpage http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/?Page=discounts.html. The submission deadline for the June edition of Staffline is Friday, May 18, 2012.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Council President Ida Russin reported that at April’s Leadership meeting with Vice President Gary Derr, he informed Staff Council leadership that General Counsel approved the Executive Board’s proposed additions and changes to the Staff Council Bylaws, thereby providing clarifying language
about the status of Staff Council as a governance body. New language also provides for the creation of a liaison role between The UVM Foundation and Staff Council. Ida explained that it seemed appropriate to formally include the Foundation employees as part of our university community. Staff Council was recognized as outstanding, among UVM’s governance bodies, for the careful attention given when reviewing and editing proposed and updated policies provided by UVM’s administration. Also discussed, at the meeting with Vice President Derr, was the Ad Hoc Committee’s draft memo, formerly called “MOU”. Ida believes this document will serve more as an annual summary of Staff Council achievements and list priorities for the Council’s Standing Committees in the next academic year. The report will also highlight administration’s achievements and areas for improvement, when it comes to their efforts on behalf of staff. A complete Staff Council President’s report for May 2012 can be found [here](https://www.uvm.edu).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Staff Council’s written report to the Board of Trustees for the May meeting, asks the Board to reach out to the group of employees who have been here for twenty-five years or more, but who will still miss the criteria set forth to retire and receive their health insurance fully paid, as they had believed. Regardless of where the PRMB line is drawn, there is always someone on the other side, and while Staff Council doesn’t have an answer to “fix” this issue, we encourage the Board to consider options they feel may be prudent in addressing the needs of this group.

Staff Council Representative Marie Tiemann has been honored by “Vermont Works for Women.” Marie, along with her fellow UVM honorees Deborah Lisi-Baker and Candace Taylor will be participating in the “Labor of Love” exhibit, recognizing working women from all backgrounds. Marie is the Endowment Accountant in the Controller’s office, and is Chair of the Social Committee. Deborah is the administrative services manager at the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion. Candace is a student services professional at the UVM Women’s Center.

The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Waterman Building Memorial Lounge on Tuesday, June 5th, 2012 at 12:05 p.m.