**Staff Council Standing Committee Reports for 5-4-10**

**Benefits – Rita Lemire, Chair**

The Benefits Committee met on April 13. The main topic of conversation pertained to the newly announced Health Care Reform Bill and how it will affect our benefits. Available information was reviewed from a couple of websites. It was agreed that obtaining accurate and complete information on this topic may be difficult at this time. The Benefits Committee agreed that as a committee, we need to be informed but that we cannot be expected to be the experts on reform; therefore staff with questions should be referred to Human Resource Services.

**Communications – Joanne Montanye, Chair**

Committee members focused on three primary issues: how to generate features on staff members for the “Spotlight on Staff” section of *Staffline*; the coordination of promotional materials so they coincide with the timeline for upcoming elections; and the process by which summaries of the UVM Board of Trustees meetings that appear in *Staffline* are generated.

It was agreed that a template with standardized questions should be produced so that Staff Council members with little or no interview experience would feel more comfortable putting together an article on a staff member for “Spotlight on Staff.” Committee members felt that questions should focus on the employee’s job, other work-related activities and any interesting off-campus hobbies or projects.

Communications Chair Joanne montanye provided a link to videos she produced featuring presidential and vice presidential candidates giving brief statements about why they are running for their respective positions. It was determined that the Staff Council would handle the rest of the promotional outreach regarding upcoming elections with Montayne volunteering to videotape the May 4 and May 6 Staff Council Open Forums for Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates at the Davis Center and posting to YouTube.

In regard to Board of Trustee Committee reports, committee members saw no reason to change the current process of the administration sending their reports to Staff Council’s five BOT representatives, who then summarize the reports for publication in *Staffline*.

**Employee Environment and Facilities–Michelle Smith, Chair**

The Employee Environment and Facilities Committee met on Tuesday April 13 and discussed the continued planning and promotion of Green Up Day, which will be held Sat. May 1 this year. We hope to see lots of you there! Also coming up is Way to Go week, the annual alternative commuting event, scheduled for the week of May 17. Plan ahead and think about the many alternative ways you can arrive at work while reducing your impact to the natural environment. Also discussed was the continue liaison role that EEF can play in promoting Transportation and Parking Services many great programs that staff can take advantage of. Be sure to read T&PS's monthly installment in the *Staffline*! Lastly, many thanks to all of our committee members for their time, dedication, and hard work!
**Education and Professional Development – Todd Stewart**

The Education and Professional Development Committee met on Monday, April 12th. The Committee continued discussion on the Mentoring Project. A letter of support has been drafted and being brought forth to the Staff Council. The Committee also took up discussion on future goals and activities. Several good ideas were discussed and more discussion will occur in the coming months.

**Internal Affairs – Sharon Mone**

Committee members reviewed bylaws and recently approved Staff Council Mission Statement. Committee looked at wording of other Committee’s for consistency. Discussion was centered on the role of the IA committee with respect to the Benefits Committee in particular. There are no proposed changes to the IA current bylaw charge. The conversation on Short Term disability will continue in May. Prior data collected and additional questions will be submitted to Barbara Johnson, Assoc. VP for HRS in advance of the committee’s May meeting in which Ms. Johnson will participate.

**Recreation – Marie Tiemann, Chair**

The Recreation Committee met on April 15, 2010. We reviewed the upcoming summer events and discussed the implementation. The Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, July 30th with a rain date of Friday, August 6th coordinated by Annette Mailhot. The announcement will be in the May and June Staffline. Annette has formed a subcommittee to assist her with the details for planning this event. Additionally, Annette noted that several prizes are donated and awarded at the Golf Outing. A Montreal Bus Trip is scheduled for August 14th. Watch for the details next month. We drafted a new mission statement to be in alignment with the Staff Council mission statement and we will finalize it in May. Information about The Champlain Valley Fair tickets will be available in the June Staffline. Any employee who buys one or more tickets receives a free admission ticket. The admission ticket cost is covered by the Recreation Committee. Other upcoming events: a Boston bus trip, Book Fair in October. If you or another staff member who you know would like to assist with any event in planning or organizing, please contact Marie Tiemann or the Staff Council office.

**Rules & Election Committee – Rob Rohr, Chair**

The committee did not meet in April.

**Salary & Budget – Mary Reilly, Chair**

At its 4/15/10 meeting, the Salary & Budget Committee discussed whether to pursue the performance evaluation issue, and if so, how. The committee agreed on the need for more concrete data to determine the extent of the problem. Our discussion centered on the best way to reach the most staff, potential survey instruments (as well as other working groups on campus that could help), and the questions we would want the survey to ask. Realizing that evaluations have added importance when linked to merit increases, we concluded that a budget year without merit has the advantage of providing valuable time to work on this important issue. The survey would be expected to reach approximately 1,500 non-union staff.