Benefits – Rita Lemire, Chair
The Benefits Committee did not meet in the month of May.

Communications – Joanne Montanye, Chair
At the Communication Committee meeting Thursday May 6, 2010 we discussed any last minute details necessary for the upcoming Election.

We worked on a preliminary list of simple interview questions for the Spotlight on Staff template; the template is to enable any staff member to interview a colleague for the Staffline about their special interest. It will also provide a consistent size and content format to minimize editing.

It was suggested that both new & experienced representatives would appreciate more information on conducting meetings and using Robert's Rules. More staff may participate in Staff Council if they feel more comfortable with these procedures. A future plan is to compile some information or tutorials to post on the website and include in the orientation packets for new representatives. Mary has volunteered to help Jeff with that.

A new project was proposed: assisting the Staff Council Office to develop a historical retrospective celebrating the Council's 40th anniversary next year. The Office is currently trying to locate historical documents of the early years; the next step is to consult the library archivist.

Employee Environment and Facilities–Michelle Smith, Chair
Due to a lack of quorum, the Employee Environment and Facilities Committee unofficially met and discussed concerns raised around Parking issues as well as the Green Up Day activities on May 1st. The Committee continues to work with Transportation and Parking Services to assist with providing information about parking and transportation to the staff community at UVM.

Education and Professional Development – Todd Stewart
The Education and Professional Development unofficially met in May to discuss its direction for next year. The Mentor Connection recommendation was tabled during the Staff Council Meeting on May 4th due to time constraints following the Presidential and Vice Presidential Election Forums. We expect the recommendation to be reviewed during the June 1st Staff Council Meeting and will be sent to members of the Administration in mid June.

Internal Affairs – Sharon Mone
The Internal Affairs Committee met on May 19, 2010 with Barbara Johnson, Associate Vice President for Human Resource Services (HRS) to discuss Short Term Disability. The Committee wanted to learn more about how it could collaborate with HRS to advocate for the creation of Short Term Disability at UVM noting that it is a significant gap in our benefits that is not met with the current practice of saving up Sick Time. Barbara indicated that work is being done now to look at possible models for possible plans this summer. Once information has been gathered, Barbara agree that the Committee could then play a role in reviewing this data and can provide further information based on questions and concerns raised by staff.
Recreation – Marie Tiemann, Chair

The Recreation Committee had an informal meeting on May 20, 2010 due to lack of members’ attendance. Diane reported that she was able to schedule the bus for the August 14th Montreal Bus Trip for 8 a.m. departure time and return time of 9:00 p.m. We determined the price of the ticket for staff to be $25.00 and nonemployee to be $30.00. The deadline for registration for this trip is July 31st. Kathie reported that the Champlain Valley Fair tickets have increased in price to $7.50. Employees who purchase at least one ticket receive one free ticket (only one free ticket per employee). We then discussed some possible means of recruiting more members for this committee and decided to have an outreach table. Other upcoming events include the Golf Outing on July 30th, a Boston Bus Trip September 18th and a Book Fair in October. The committee plans to address the variables surrounding community service awards and to implement a smoother process for the distribution of the awards.

Rules & Election Committee – Rob Rohr, Chair

The Rules & Election Committee continues to review the Election Policy Statement and is creating an updated version that follows the structure of the Council’s other policy statements. They have all but concluded work on the Staff Council’s Representative Elections Policy Statement and Procedures. They are now working on the Draft Presidential Elections Policy Statement and Procedures.

The Committee reviewed the 2010 presidential election methods used by the SCO. The Committee concluded that they were satisfied with the SCO’s efforts to conduct a fair, inclusive and open election. The review confirmed anonymity was preserved, and voter participation was promoted. The Committee also concluded that the SCO’s election software has its limits and agreed to research alternatives.

Salary & Budget – Mary Reilly, Chair

The Salary & Budget Committee met on May 20, 2010 with Diane Freiheit, Team Lead for HRS WorkLife Services to discuss how the Staff Emergency Loan Fund (SELF) can make better use of the financial counseling services provided through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The Committee hopes that those individuals who seek multiple loans from SELF may also seek assistance beyond the scope of what the fund can provide. The discussion focused on what information is available to staff through WorkLife Services and EAP as well as how to direct individuals to these services. In the future, all individuals who seek an Emergency Loan will be informed of the services through EAP. Diane agreed to provide information to the Staff Council Office for distribution to future emergency loan applicants.