MINUTES

PRESENT: Marilyn Baker, Ernie Buford, Jeff Bukowski (Ex-officio), Rodman Cory, Patricia Forguites, Eileen Kristiansen, Jennifer Larsen, Rita Lemire, Joanne Montanye, Michelle Smith-Mullarkey, Jon Reidel (Vice-President), Mary Reilly, Anne-Marie Resnik, Rob Rohr, Mary Schliecker-Brigham, Todd Stewart, Catherine Symans, Diane Trono (Council Coordinator), Beth Walsh (President), and Cat Woodward.


GUESTS: Renee Berteau, V.P. Richard Cate, Wendy Coy, Scott Edelstein, Terri Goddard, Carol Gross, Michael Moser, Sean O’Brien, Jim Read, Nelson Sears, Marie Tiemann, Al Turgeon, and Beth Wright.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – The May 5, 2009 minutes were approved written.

APPROVAL OF NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS – Beth Walsh

The following chairs were approved by the Council: Communications – Joanne Montayne (Chair) and Jon Reidel (Co-Chair); Internal Affairs-Marilyn Baker (Interim Chair); Rules & Election-Rob Rohr (Interim Chair).

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Todd Stewart, Chair

As Committee Chair, Stewart discussed his committee’s Lunchtime Learning Series initiative and letter to Barbara Johnson, informing her of the E&PD Committee plan to begin this series in September 2009. The Council voted to endorse the Committee’s Lunchtime Learning Series initiative. Stewart also reviewed his Committee’s Technical Training Recommendation and proposal letter to Barbara Johnson. The Council voted to endorse the letter of recommendation to Barbara Johnson as well.

BYLAW CHANGE TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Rob Rohr, Chair of Rules & Elections

The proposed Bylaw Change to the Nominating Committee’s term was reviewed Rohr, Chair of the Rules & Elections Committee, but not voted on because Bylaw amendments require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all Regular Council members, and today’s meeting attendance did not meet this requirement. The matter was tabled until the August Council meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE – Jeff Bukowski

June 19th is the submission deadline for the Summer issue of Staffline; the Council’s fifth annual Golf Tournament is for July 31st at Links at Lang Farm; the June 28th Boston Bus Trip deadline for signing-up is June 19th; and discounted Champlain Valley Fair Tickets will be on sale until July 24th. Forms for both events and the discounted Fair Tickets are available in the June issue of Staffline and are located on the Staff Council website under Discounts and Events.
PRESIDENT’S UPDATE – Beth Walsh

Walsh reported on her participation, as Council President, in several Commencement related events including her address at the Commencement Ceremony. She expressed how the graduates genuinely acknowledged their appreciation for Staff’s role in their UVM experience. Walsh’s address to the Board of Trustees focused on reminding them to support consistent employee evaluations and the Wellness Program for staff.

This month’s Leadership Forum took place without an agenda. Instead, President Fogel reported on UVM’s six-year graduation rate and the coming year’s enrollment numbers. Fogel shared his goal of 90% for UVM’s first year student retention rate. This is quite aggressive, but a goal that Fogel thinks is achievable.

Beth, Jon and Jeff met with President Fogel in mid-May regarding the Phase II targeted employees and their follow-up. Fogel reported that all of the Phase II targeted employees will either remain in their positions until next year, however some had accepted job opportunities elsewhere on campus. He also reported that the follow-up with these employees was in process. They were adamant about the importance of maintaining the Wellness Program’s Fitness Class offerings across campus for staff. And lastly, they asked for guidance on how to provide Grant-funded employees the opportunity to serve on Staff Council.

The Enrollment Management Unit recently learned that one of their sitting representatives will be leaving UVM. Hence, this unit will be holding an election shortly. All other elections have concluded. Six vacancies remain, not including Enrollment Management’s seat. These include four seats in the College of Medicine and two in the Student and Campus Life unit. The total size of Staff Council for this coming year should be 38, not including the Council president.

The Wellness Coordinator position has been retained and the fitness classes will remain as is for the time being. These classes will be organized by Human Services’ Work Life Office, for at least next year. Because of changes that UVM’s Human Services division is proposing for the Work Life Services area, they are looking to expand and find alternative ways in which to continue to offer fitness classes long term.

Lastly, Beth asked anyone interested in serving on the 2010 Climate Survey Committee to be patient, as she was waiting for elections to conclude so as to include them in this opportunity. At least two Council members will be appointed to this Committee. Anyone who is interested in serving on this Committee is asked to contact either Beth or Jeff Bukowski.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Council recognized Beth Walsh and Rob Rohr for attaining their Bachelor’s degrees and Catherine Symans for attaining her Masters’ degree at Commencement in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m. for the End of Year Community Potluck, with special guest, Vice President Richard Cate.