SUMMARY OF THE UVM STAFF COUNCIL MEETING

June 5, 2012

June’s meeting included the review and support for the Staff Council’s first Annual Update for University’s administration and the Board of Trustee’s chairperson, several announcements about upcoming events and discount programs sponsored by the Staff Council Social Committee, approval of the Council’s May 1, 2012 Draft Minutes, and several announcements by Council Administrator, Jeff Bukowski and Council President Ida Russin. The newly elected Staff Council Officers, Catherine Symans, President-Elect and Renee Berteau, Vice-President Elect both addressed the Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Social Committee – Committee chairperson Marie Tiemann highlighted several events and discount programs that are underway and scheduled for this summer. Events include: the July 19th Murder Mystery Dinner Cruise on The Spirit of Ethan Allen, the UVM at Vermont Lake Monsters Game and Barbecue on August 2nd, Lake Monsters Baseball and Barbecue; the 8th Annual Staff Council’s Golf Outing at the Links at Lang Farm on August 10th. Other forms of entertainment include: discounted 2012 Champlain Valley Fair Tickets that must be ordered by July 25th and discounted Great Escape & Splashwater Kingdom tickets that are on sale for $30.00 per person (the price at the gate, including tax is $51.99 + tax). Detailed information on all discounts and events, that Social Committee Chair Marie Tiemann spoke of earlier, may be found on the Staff Council’s Discount and Event webpage http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/?Page=discounts.html

Ad Hoc Committee – Committee chairperson Rodman Cory reviewed the Ad Hoc Committee’s final product, the Staff Council Annual Update, the first of its kind for the UVM Staff Council. This Update reflects on significant accomplishments achieved this past year; it speaks to a number of ongoing efforts titled, Areas for Focus and Improvement; and it identifies several areas of concern that affect non-represented Staff. This last section is titled, Thoughts on Moving Forward.

The Committee feels confident that this first Annual Update represents the concerns of non-represented Staff; that it is both fair and balanced. Ultimately, the Committee hopes that the Staff Council’s Annual Update will encompass each Standing Committee’s work and serve as the Council’s Annual Update for the Board of Trustees in May of each year.

The Staff Council voted to support this new formal report, and to send it on to the Chair of UVM’s Board of Trustees, UVM’s administration officers and incoming President-Elect Thomas Sullivan. You can read the full report on the Staff Council website here: http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/pdf/sc_annual_update_fy12.pdf

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Second Annual UVM Staff Art Exhibit will be held during the month of September in the Livak Fireplace Lounge of the Davis Student Center. The deadline to reserve a space to participate in this exhibit is Friday, June 15th. A reception is planned for Tuesday, September 11th. For more information visit the Staff Art Exhibit website or contact the Staff Council Office at Staff.Council@uvm.edu or 656-4493. A Call for Musicians will be promoted in the coming weeks, to provide music during the Exhibit Reception to be held on Tuesday, September 11th from 12:00 -1:00pm, in an effort to enrich the ambiance at the Reception. Each musician(s) will play a 10-15 minute acoustic set (no microphones or amps) as folks stroll through the Livak Fireplace Lounge during the Exhibit Reception. This event will coincide with other Staff Appreciation Week celebrations. For more information and to sign-up please contact the Staff Council Office at Staff.Council@uvm.edu or 656-4493 by August 10th. Only a few musicians will be selected to perform at the event.

The submissions deadline for the summer edition of Staffline is Friday, June 15, 2012. This edition is distributed on August 1st.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Council President Ida Russin reported Interim President John Bramley sent a memo to the Compensation, Benefits and Budget committee, expressing his appreciation for their “thoughtful and thorough analysis and report.” He shared those comments with both the Board and other UVM leaders. At the May Staff Council Leadership Meeting with Vice President Gary Derr, she reviewed the final draft of the Staff Council’s “Annual Update” letter. She explained how it will thank administration for what they have done for Staff, and reminds them of what work still needs to be done. Ida relayed that Gary is pleased that we approach initiatives as shared concerns, and that we also share in the work to address the areas that need attention.

In her quarterly meeting with Associate Vice President Barbara Johnson they spoke about many issues that are scheduled for committee work for the upcoming year. Information shared at this meeting was an announcement that a PeopleSoft Admin system upgrade will help to put in place a system where HRS will be able to track performance appraisals, ensuring that each and every employee has been provided an annual appraisal. They also discussed the support Staff Council has provided the University Benefits Advisory Council (UBAC) regarding Child Care, and the Council’s desire to have a better policy in place for Staff that provides paid Parental Leave in the future.

Ida welcomed Staff Council’s new leadership team for the next two year term. Catherine Symans will be serving as Staff Council President, and Renee Berteau will be serving as Staff Council Vice President. Both women have served Staff Council well as representatives, and both are excited at this opportunity. She expressed confidence in their leadership and the Council’s future as it moves forward with positive initiatives under their guidance.

A complete Staff Council President’s report for June 2012 can be found here.

OTHER BUSINESS
Staff Council Vice President Michelle Smith expressed her gratitude to Council President Ida Russin, Administrator Jeff Bukowski, and Staff Council Office Coordinator Diane Trono for their collective support in helping both her and the Council advance its work and mission. She hopes that the Council will work to address the Work/Life Capacity issues that many on campus are experiencing, and asked Council representatives to consider greater leadership roles in their future as a committee chairperson, vice-president or president of Staff Council. She regaled how Staff Council provides a unique staff development opportunity, and how she has enjoyed it immensely. Her closing comment to the Council was, “Be well, do good work, and keep in touch.”

Staff Council President-Elect Catherine Symans addressed the Council by saying how much she looks forward to this new role and getting to know everyone, and hope to continue the good work of Michelle Smith and Ida Russin.

Staff Council Vice-President Elect Renee Berteau expressed she sees her new role as a professional development opportunity, and looks forward to continuing the Council’s momentum in engaging Staff in the many initiatives that are underway at UVM. She thanked both the Nominating Committee for all their work and in particular, she recognized Joanne Montanye for her video-taping expertise and helping the candidates feel comfortable.

The Council concluded this meeting with individual statements regarding what they, or the Council, had learned, and what they would change going forward. These statements were recorded and will be discussed at the next Staff Council Meeting on August 7th.

The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Waterman Memorial Lounge, Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 12:05 p.m.