UVM Staff Council  
June 14, 2011  
Waterman Memorial Lounge  
12:05 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Jeff Bukowski (Ex-Officio), Michelle Chapman, Naima Dennis, Isis Erb, Anthony Fouche, Mark Hall, Eric Hoefel, Molly Hubbell, Allen Josey, Eileen Kristiansen, Karen Lemire, Rita Lemire, Tracey Maurer, Sharon Mone, Joanne Montanye, Mary Parent, Ida Russin (President), Mary Schliecker-Brigham, Nelson Sears, and Michelle Smith (Vice President), Todd Stewart, Marie Tiemann, Diane Trono, Beth Walsh (Immediate Past President), and Susan Williford.

ABSENT: Patricia Forguites, Theresa Goddard, Carol Gross, Scott Hipko, Shelly Jurkiewicz, and Sharnel Martelle.

GUESTS: Rodman Cory - HRS Constituent Relations Team Lead, Jacqueline Drouin – CESS Office/Program Support Generalist, Cindy Lee - Process Coordinator Finance and Administration, and Jennifer Sheridan – Audit Services Sr. Analyst.

Council President Ida Russin called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

BYLAW CHANGE - STANDING COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING INITIATIVE

The Council approved several amendments to its Bylaws, affecting Articles VIII, X, and VI which resulted in a reduction of Staff Council Standing Committees (from eight to four) while improving efficiency and focus. These changes align the Standing Committees with the Council’s mission statement, with the objective of adhering to the University of Vermont’s Strategic Plan and goal for institutional efficacy which says: As an institution, we model the highest standard of ethical conduct, accountability and best practiced public service and strong commitment to lifelong learning. These changes will become effective July 1, 2011.

2011-12 COUNCIL YEAR - TRANSITION

Following today’s vote to approve the Council’s Standing Committee Restructuring Initiative, Jeff Bukowski, Council Administrator, asked Staff Council Representatives whose terms are ongoing to identify their Standing Committee preferences for the coming year (on the handout provided them). He then explained how newly elected Staff Council Representatives will be invited to participate in an orientation session in mid-July, at which time they will be asked to identify their Committee preferences. The deadline for all Staff Council Representative to identify their Standing Committee preference for 2011-12 is Friday, July 15th. Representatives will then be notified what Committee they will be serving on. Each Committee will focus their first meeting in August on choosing a new chair and vice-chair, deciding future meeting schedules, and addressing any outstanding work carried over from the prior year. Training for future chairs and vice-chairs will be scheduled once they are identified.
UVM PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE - UPDATE

Staff Council officers, President Ida Russin and Vice-President Michelle Smith, reported they are scheduled to meet with members of the Presidential Search Firm following today’s Staff Council Meeting. This one-time meeting with the officers of UVM’s governance committees was called by the Search Firm. Ida expects Susan Wertheimer, Senior Associate Director of Admissions and Staff Council’s Appointed Representative to the Presidential Search Committee, will keep the Council informed regarding the Search Committee’s process when and where appropriate.

Ida relayed how the Staff Council’s Report to the Presidential Search Committee Chair, Robert Cioffi, was very much appreciated. The report provided a detailed list of desired traits, experiences and qualities in the ultimate presidential candidate(s) from Staff Council Representatives. Although a large encompassing list, the items are not intended to be requirements, but rather serve as an instrument by which to consider and measure serious presidential candidates. The Staff Council Report was a governance body response only and provided at the request of the Search Committee Chair; it did not seek to include information from staff at large. Online survey tools have been created for this purpose. These are available online on the Presidential Search website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Bukowski, Council Administrator, announced the submissions deadline for the summer edition of Staffline is Friday, June 17, 2011; the summer edition is distributed on August 1st. The Social Committee’s annual Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, August 5th. The registration deadline for this event is July 20th. Great Escape tickets are now on sale for $29 each and are available in the Staff Council Office. The deadline for ordering this year’s Champlain Valley Fair Tickets is Friday, July 22nd. The Fair Ticket order form was posted in the June issue of Staffline and is also available on Staff Council’s website. The Staff Council’s Art Exhibit Reception is scheduled to take place Tuesday, September 20th (11:30 am to 1:30 pm) in the Davis Center Fireplace Lounge. This event is one of several efforts designed to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Staff Council and was purposely scheduled during UVM’s Annual Staff Appreciation Week. The deadline for registering to participate in the Art Exhibit is extended to July 15th. Lastly, Staff Council has partnered with the Greater Burlington YMCA to organize a School Supply Drive throughout the month of July and the first week of August that will benefit students in 20+ communities in our area. Five Drop-Off Locations have been identified across campus. An announcement promoting the School Supply Drive will be distributed to Staff Council Representatives on July 1st and fliers will be posted across campus. This effort is a collaboration of the Communications and Social Committees and is designed to promote UVM Staff giving back to our greater community.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

There are no updates to provide with regard salary increases for non-represented staff. Any decisions regarding this matter are pending the conclusion of on-going collective bargaining-unit discussions. Decisions regarding the restructuring of Post-Retirement Medical Benefits are also pending.

Ida reported attending the recent Board of Trustees’ (BOT) Executive Board Meeting where the Board approved the reallocation of bond funds for deferred maintenance purposes. At this meeting, President Fogel cited the May 2011 Board of Trustees’ Meeting as perhaps the most significant ever, given the number of initiatives that were both voted on and approved. These included the General Education
Initiative, the Program Viability Review, the announcement of a financial goal for UVM’s next comprehensive campaign, and a vote in support of UVM’s newly created Foundation. These initiatives will provide a great deal of momentum at UVM during President Fogel’s last year in office, while we search for our next president. Ida then reported several BOT members approached her to let her know they appreciated her comments at May’s BOT meeting, where she appealed to the Board to consider the impact the budgeted zero-percent increase would have on non-represented staff, both financially and their sense of value as an employee. Ida also reported that she appreciated the opportunity to participate in this year’s Commencement ceremonies and thanked everyone who was able to attend the Staff Council’s End-of-Year Luncheon on June 7th, sponsored by President Fogel.

OTHER BUSINESS

Group Study Exchange – Michelle Smith’s Travel Synopsis

Michelle Smith, Council Vice-President, provided an overview of her experiences in Turkey (during the month of May) as part of the Rotary Foundation’s Group Study Exchange program. She highlighted how this program provides travel grants to young professionals (ages 25-40) for four-six week programs, providing the participants an opportunity to experience the host country’s culture, to observe how the participant’s vocation is practiced abroad, to exchange ideas, and to develop relationships. The Foundation provides grants that include airfare and Rotarians in the host country provide meals, lodging and group travel. To learn more about the Rotary Foundation’s Group Study Exchange Program, go to: http://www.rotary.org/en/serviceandfellowship/fellowship/groupstudyexchange/pages/ridefault.aspx.

The Council adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next monthly Staff Council meeting will take place in Waterman’s Memorial Lounge on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 12:05 p.m.