Summary of Staff Council Meeting  
September 1, 2009

Today’s meeting included: an overview of UVM’s H1N1 Flu preparations by Jon Porter, Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing and Annie Stevens, Asst. VP for Student and Campus Life; elections for Staff Council Executive Board members; a Council bylaw change vote; several staff-related announcements; an announcement regarding the Council’s upcoming retreat.

Jon Porter and Annie Stevens explained how UVM has and is preparing for the H1N1 Flu. They emphasized their efforts are focused on campus and student prevention education. They expect that this illness to affect as much as 30 to 40% of the population. Information memorandums have been sent to all UVM employees, students and their parents. As more is learned, more information will be made available. Specific recommendations around prevention and instructions for sick employees are available online at uvm.edu/~emergency/?Page=h1n1.html&SM=h1n1menu.html. Porter and Stevens asked that all questions and suggestions be sent to pandemicresponse@uvm.edu.

Aliza Mansolino Gault, College of Medicine Council Representative, announced the COM’s Community Medical School has scheduled an information session titled, The H1N1 Virus: Understanding Pandemic Influenza on Tuesday October 20th from 6-7:00 PM, in Carpenter Auditorium at the UVM Given Medical Building. This session is free and open to the public. Registration is requested in advance by calling 847-2886 or online at med.uvm.edu/cms.

The Council approved two Staff Council Executive Board nominees, Rodman Cory (2nd term) and Cat Woodward. Unanimous approval was also given to the 2009-2010 Council Committee chairpersons and vice-chairs elected by each committee. The chairs for each committee are: Rita Lemire – Benefits; Joanne Montanye – Communications; Todd Stewart – Education & Professional Development; Michelle Smith – Employee Environment & Facilities; Sharron Mone – Internal Affairs; Marie Tiemann – Recreation; Rob Rohr – Rules & Election; Mary Reilly – Salary & Budget.

Additional Council business included: approval of Human Resources 2010 list of proposed holidays; approval of August 4, 2009 Staff Council Meeting Minutes; consent to change a Council Bylaw affecting the term of service for the Nominating Committee members - aligning these appointments with the Staff Council president’s term.

The Staff Council Office will be moving shortly. The new office will be located down the hall in Waterman 313 and SC will retain Waterman 305 as its conference room. The deadline for Staffline submissions for the October issue is September 18th; Staff Appreciation Week will take place September 21-25; Ski Season Passes are now available through the Staff Council’s website; a Boston Bus Trip is planned for September 19th – and there are only a couple of seats that remain available.
Council Administrator Jeff Bukowski informed Council representatives that he was working to identify the primary contact or ‘keeper’ of each unit’s listserv to aid representatives in their efforts to both report out and request feedback from their constituents.

Council President Beth Walsh reported hosting a Staff Council Outreach table in the Given Courtyard on August 20th, and was assisted by several College of Medicine Council representatives. Although she’s uncertain if these outreach efforts attracted new members, it does inform and encourage staff to become more aware of the Council’s efforts.

Walsh shared her positive experiences as a participant in Move-In Day and as a member of the platform party at Convocation. This past month’s meetings, attended by Walsh, included the Campus Leadership forum where she asked administration to continue to have frequent communication with staff; discussed parking issues on campus; shared the idea of a shared-leave pool; requested a policy promoting consistency in evaluations and the determination of merit pay; and relayed Council efforts to gain release time for grant-funded employees – enabling them to participate on Staff Council. Walsh, Jon Reidel and Jeff Bukowski will be meeting with President Fogel and Gary Derr next week. She invited Council members to share any issues or questions they want brought forward at this meeting.

Rita Lemire and Beth Walsh have agreed to serve on the committee to recruit UVM’s next Director of Parking and Transportation. Walsh stated she would welcome recommended questions to pose to those interviewing for this position. She explained she intended to focus on Parking and Transportation issues of transparency, policy and procedure, and equity.

SGA President and Vice-President met with Walsh, Reidel and Bukowski to discuss future student/staff opportunities for collaboration as well as joint communications. This meeting is unprecedented as well as the invitation extended to President Walsh, to address a future meeting of SGA senators. Walsh has written a welcome letter to students on behalf of Staff Council that SGA has agreed to distribute.

Walsh also wished to inform everyone that Nelson Sears with LGBTQA Services has been appointed as the staff representative to serve on the Campus Climate Working Group for 2009-2010.

The Staff Council Retreat is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29th (8-12:00 PM lunch included) in the Livak Ballrooms. The agenda will be distributed shortly.

President Fogel will be the guest speaker at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 12:05 to 1:30 p.m. in the Livak Ballrooms, 4th Floor Davis Student Center. Fogel will be asked to address the University’s current fiscal status and expectations for FY11. Council members are asked to inform their units of this opportunity to share their questions for administration. Council members are encouraged to pass these along to the Staff Council Office in advance of this meeting.