MEMBERS PRESENT:
Akol Aguek, Ann Barlow, Renee Berteau, Michelle Chapman, Rodman Cory, Naima Dennis, Jacqueline Drouin, Isis Erb, Aaron Fay, Mark Hall, Scott Hipko, Molly Hubbell, Laurie Juskiewicz, Karen Lemire, Tracey Maurer, Sharon Mone, Joanne Montanye, Jeff Moreau, Mary Parent, Parvin Pothiawala, Emira Smailagic, Michelle Smith (Vice President), Karmen Swim, Ida Russin (President), Wayne Tetrick, Marie Tiemann, Nicole Todd, Floyd Vilmont, and Susan Williford.

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Theresa Goddard, Allen Josey, Todd Stewart, and Lynn Tracy.

ALSO PARTICIPATING:
Jeff Bukowski (Ex-Officio), Staff Council Administrator
Diane Trono (Secretary), Staff Council Office Coordinator

GUESTS:
John Bramley, Interim President University of Vermont

Interim President John Bramley joined the Staff Council for a group photo and then addressed the Council on the topic of his role as Interim President for UVM’s 2011-12 academic year.

Council President Ida Russin called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm

INTERIM PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS TO STAFF COUNCIL

Interim President Bramley began by talking about tropical storm “Irene” as well as the dramatic events in Vermont this past year including a severe winter and a very wet spring, resulting in flooding along the banks of Lake Champlain. He detailed what UVM is doing to help those Vermonters affected most recently by Irene. UVM Extension is working with farmers across Vermont; UVM is providing temporary space (9000 sq. ft) for the State of Vermont’s offices; we are providing IT services to the State College System, getting their servers up and running as they welcome their students this semester; we offered assistance to Castleton State College with operational support; we’re hosting a blood drive in Patrick Gymnasium on Sunday 9/11; donation jars are being setup around campus; UVM Development is creating a way (an account) to accept donations from students and UVM employees (through deductions) toward disaster relief for the victims of Irene; and groups of students and staff are engaged with volunteering in various ways to assist those in need.

President Bramley said, “This event is unprecedented, or at least since the flood of 1927. You can be proud that UVM and the members of our community are doing their best to help our neighbors.” For more information on how you can help our neighbors, go to the UVM’s Emergency website:  http://www.uvm.edu/~emergncy/
Interim President Bramley then outlined his goals for the next nine months:

- He wants to help restore institutional morale and esprit de corps. It is his observation that various events of recent years as well as the immediate past have negatively impacted campus morale. He thinks a consistent practice of open and honest communication is what is needed. This is how he has always tried to operate during his years at UVM, and we can be confident that this is how will endeavor to operate during his tenure as interim president.

- We have to eliminate some practices that erode confidence and trust. He didn’t elaborate on what these are, saying we all know what they are.

- It’s important to complete the initiatives around executive compensation, bonuses, and when appropriate, discuss these efforts with the various governance groups.

- We need to have an effective communications and public relations strategy at the University of Vermont. He’s convinced that many people are not aware of who we (UVM) are and what we do. Therefore, he’s taking every opportunity possible to get relevant and clear data out to our many constituents, to our faculty, staff and our alumni, regarding UVM’s students, its financial aid, and its economic impact on Vermont. We want our employees to have information to respond to our neighbors misperceptions about UVM. This same message was outlined in his article in the September issue of Staffline.

- He’ll be traveling around Vermont to both communicate UVM’s contributions to Vermonters, and to listen as well.

- He looks forward to the successful completion of current contract negotiations to allow the University to then address issues pertaining to non-represented staff.

- He will be working closely with the newly formed Foundation, raising money for UVM.

- And he looks forward to the successful completion of UVM’s Presidential Search and assisting with its transition to its 26th President.

Interim President Bramley concluded by saying, UVM must begin thinking creatively about its future and how changing demographics will affect our ability to recruit students from our traditional market. He suggested we need to think about cost structure and rationalization: where are the dollars coming from and where are they going. This will allow us to think about whether the money we spend is aligned with our strategic priorities. UVM needs to think about strategic initiatives and explore new ideas for revenue generation and cost reduction, with UVM’s long term future in mind.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

The August 2, 2011 minutes were approved as written.

**CONFIRM STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS**
NOMINATION/APPOINTMENT OF TWO STAFF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Staff Council President Ida Russin reported how Interim President Bramley sought out each Governance Group Leader to inquire about their specific concerns at UVM. Ida shared how she looks forward to the completion of contract negotiations, so that we may take up the discussion of how this may impact non-represented staff. She commented on how she hopes the Strategic Initiatives Project will be thoughtful and involve staff and Staff Council throughout the process.

A Presidential Search update is expected shortly from the Board of Trustees. Additional opportunities for faculty, staff and students to offer their thoughts on what we all want to see in our next president will be announced shortly.

The October 4th Staff Council meeting will be expanded to include the Council’s annual retreat. Ida sought suggestions regarding particular topics that Council representatives wanted to focus on at retreat. These suggestions will be considered and the agenda along with the monthly Council meeting materials one week in advance, or by September 27th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCES

Council Administrator Jeff Bukowski announced the submissions deadline for the October edition of Staffline is Friday, September 16, 2011. The Staff Council Office is currently selling discounted Season Passes for four area ski resorts. The Social Committee is sponsoring a Boston Bus Trip on Saturday, October 22nd and registration forms are due by Wednesday, October 12th. This year’s Holiday Bazaar will take place on Thursday, December 1st and we are now accepting table rental forms for those who wish to participate by selling their crafts.

Staff Council Representatives were provided a green Staff Council T-shirt that they are asked to wear on Monday, September 19th at UVM’s Social on the Green, as part of Staff Appreciation Week. These T-shirts will help staff recognize and possibly seek out Staff Representatives at this event. Other Staff Appreciation Week activities include the Staff Art Exhibit that begins September 13th through October 1st. A reception is scheduled for September 20th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Livak Fireplace Lounge on the fourth floor of the Davis Center with the first 400 staff attendees receiving free water bottles in celebration of Staff Council’s 40th Anniversary. These water bottles are BPA free and made in the US.

Staff Appreciation Week activities also include a Wellness Walk on Thursday, September 30th. This activity is in memory of Emina Ibragic-Burak, who passed away on August 9, 2011 after a tragic car accident. Emina’s career at UVM spanned 28 years and focused on
Wellness. There will also be a luncheon on Wednesday for employees celebrating their 10th Anniversary at UVM, and a dinner on Friday evening for approximately 330 employees celebrating 15 or more years at UVM.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Livak Ballrooms, 4th Floor Davis Center, Tuesday, October 4th, 2011 at 12:05 p.m. The meeting concluded at 1:29 p.m.