PRESENT: Mindy Bessette, Jeff Bukowski (Ex-officio), Michelle Chapman, Naima Dennis, Isis Erb, Patricia Forguites, Theresa Goddard, Carol Gross, Mark Hall, Eric Hoefel, Molly Hubbell, Allen Josey, Shelly Jurkiewicz, Eileen Kristiansen, Karen Lemire, Rita Lemire, Tracy Maurer, Sharon Mone, Joanne Montanye, Julia Paradiso, Mary Parent, Ida Russin (President), Nelson Sears, Michelle Smith (Vice President), Marie Tiemann, Diane Trono, Beth Walsh (Immediate Past President) and Susan Williford.

ABSENT: Marty Burrows, Yuliya Cruz, Sharnel Martelle, Mary Schliecker-Brigham, and Todd Stewart


Council President Ida Russin called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The August 3, 2010 minutes with minor changes in title.

APPROVAL OF STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS/VICE-CHAIRS

Ida Russin, Council President, relayed the list of chairs and vice-chairs chosen by each Standing Committee for 2010-2011. Nelson Sears was elected chair of the Benefits Committee and Mark Hall agreed to serve as vice-chair. Joanne Montanye was reelected chair of the Communications Committee and Mary Parent agreed to serve as vice-chair. Todd Stewart was reelected chair of the Education and Professional Development Committee and Eric Hoefel agreed to serve again as vice-chair. Michelle Smith was reelected chair of the Employee, Environment and Facilities Committee. Beth Walsh was elected chair of the Rules and Elections Committee. Carol Gross was elected chair of the Salary and Budget Committee and Eileen Kristiansen agreed to serve as vice-chair. Sharon Mone was reelected chair of the Internal Affairs Committee, and Marie Tiemann was reelected chair of the Social Committee. The Council voted to approve all Committee chairs and vice-chairs chosen by each Standing Committee.

STAFF COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS & APPROVAL

In accordance with the Council by-laws, the Council accepted the nomination of two Staff Council Representatives to serve on the Executive Board. They are Mark Hall and Isis Irb.
PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Ida Russin reported attending Convocation, her first Campus Leadership Forum, and a Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting. A Staff Council Leadership Meeting (comprised of the Council president, vice president and administrator) is scheduled with Gary Derr, Vice President of Executive Operations, on September 9th and with Barbara Johnson on September 23rd. The meeting with Barbara Johnson is the first of four quarterly meetings established to further coordinate the Council’s many collaborative efforts with UVM’s Human Resource Services Division. Staff Council’s Executive Board will meet with Robert Cioffi, Chair of UVM’s Board of Trustees on September 20th. This precedent setting meeting, was called for by the Board’s chair. He is scheduled to meet with the other governance body leaders on campus as well. Ida welcomed the Council to feel free to submit any questions or concerns they wish to be shared with Robert Cioffi, by this Friday, September 10th.

The Staff Council has scheduled its annual Retreat for Tuesday, September 14th in the Davis Center Livak Ballroom. The day will begin at 8:15 a.m. and conclude by 12:30 p.m. Attendance is important as we work to identify the focus of the Council’s work these next two years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCES

Jeff announced the deadline for submissions for the October Edition of Staffline is Friday, September 17, 2010. There are six seats available on the September 14th Boston Bus Trip coordinated by the Social Committee. There are several deeply discounted Ski Resort Season Passes available for employees and family members through the Staff Council Office. The Social Committee has begun to sell tables for this year’s Holiday Bazaar on December 2nd (30% are sold so far).

OTHER BUSINESS

UBAC Update - Ida reported that Staff Council has had at least one representative, sometimes more, at every meeting hosted by the University Benefits Advisory Council (UBAC) and the Health Insurance Working Group (HIWG). Jeff Bukowski reported that a detailed summary of August’s UBAC and HIWG meetings is available in the September publication of Staffline. Beth Walsh explained that there are a very limited number of guests at each meeting, but that guests were welcome, noting that at the end of each UBAC or HIWG meeting there is time allotted for public comment. Beth reported that she recently shared her concern regarding one option being considered that would specify a date by which those who qualify for retirement would need to retire. She explained how this could potentially cause UVM to sacrifice or lose a significant number of highly qualified faculty and staff that have a wealth of institutional knowledge and create a dire situation. Michelle Smith explained that she had shared her concerns that the assumptions (or changes in assumptions) being made by Hewitt Associates within their models are not very clear or detailed.

The September meetings of UBAC include: September 10, from 9 – 11 a.m. in the Sugar Maple Ballroom in Davis Center; September 23, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. in U Heights North 1, Multipurpose Rm; and September 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon in Billings North Lounge.
Rodman Cory announced that the UBAC will hold two information sessions for faculty and staff to discuss a draft of their advisory report on post-retirement benefits before it is finalized and submitted to the President.

UBAC Information Sessions scheduled:

   September 27 – Memorial Lounge, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
   September 27 – Memorial Lounge, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Beth explained that the UBAC’s report will not include a recommendation, but instead it will be an advisory report on the pros and cons of each option before them.

Parking and Transportation Update - Michelle Smith reported that Green-Pass parking is available by Jeffords Hall. The fact that the area near U Heights is filled with blue and white passes is problematic and University Parking and Transportation is working on it. There have been some problems with the Visitor Lot Automated Parking machine, which is being addressed. Those raising additional questions regarding parking were asked to complete contact sheets, so that we may track problems and follow-up more accurately.

The Council adjourned at 12:58 p.m. The next Staff Council meeting will take place in the Livak Ballrooms, 4th Floor Davis Center, Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 12:05 p.m.