Staff Council Standing Committee Reports for 10-6-09

Benefits – Rita Lemire, Chair

Several contact sheets regarding staff educational benefits were reviewed. Benefits for staff members, staff spouse and staff dependents were discussed. Comparative research from similar educational institutions in the New England region revealed that UVM currently offers a generous educational plan for staff and dependents. It was noted that dependant benefits exceed those of actual staff members. It was also noted that eyeglass and hearing aid insurance issues were on the UABC agenda. We will await their review.

Communications – Joanne Montanye, Chair

The Staff Council Communications Committee met Thursday Sept. 10, 2009. We considered asking for input from the units on topics of interest for Beth Walsh's regular meetings with President Fogel, looked into suggested updates to the current contact sheet format, and continued to develop streamlined methods of outreach to the full UVM staff body. We also discussed the Staff Council Office's draft of guidelines clarifying what sorts of commercial notices non-profit rules permit us to run in the Staffline.

Education and Professional Development – Todd Stewart, Chair

The Education and Professional Development Committee met on Monday, September 14th. Discussions occurred regarding a collaborative meeting with HR, and further actions required to finalize current recommendations. In brief, the committee will review technical training initiatives currently in the works by others, retool the lunchtime learning series to a round-table format, and continue fine-tuning the mentoring project recommendation.

Employee Environment and Facilities – Michelle Smith, Chair

We will be working with Erica Speigel and Corey Berman to bring “Greening Your Workplace” to staff on a quarterly basis. The committee reviewed feedback regarding Transportation and Parking issues. One committee member, Marty Burrows, will be attending the TAPSAC or Transportation and Parking Services Advisory Committee meetings in order to keep our voice in those discussions, and provide information back to the committee. Please continue to provide us with feedback or ideas regarding alternative transportation methods and how to insure the safety and wellbeing of staff on campus when winter arrives.

Internal Affairs – Sharon Mone, Chair

The Internal Affairs Committee met in September and continued its discussion on a Shared Leave Pool and Short Term Disability. The Committee is gathering the information it has collected on the issue of a Shared Leave Pool and moving forward on its investigation into Short Term Disability options through initial research.

Recreation – Marie Tiemann, Chair
The Recreation Committee met in September and discussed recruitment ideas and the upcoming events for the fall. Plans are underway to recruit volunteers to assist with the upcoming Holiday Bazaar being held on Thursday, December 3rd. For more information please visit the Holiday Bazaar website: http://www.uvm.edu/~stffcncl/?Page=holidaybazaar.html The Committee is asking all Staff Council representatives to assist in recruiting co-workers and colleagues for volunteers for the Holiday Bazaar.

Since our meeting time, the Committee has decided not to hold the Book Fair this fall due to the vendors schedule which had this event set for Friday November 20th prior to the Thanksgiving and right before the Holiday Bazaar.

The Committee set a new guideline on the amount to be distributed for the Community Service Award. The guideline states that $10 per event per year with a cap of $100 total per year will be distributed.

50 people went on the Boston Bus Trip on September 19th yielding a profit of $177.00. Ski – pass update – Diane continues to sell discounted ski-passes from a variety of ski resorts. Two of the Ski Resorts have offered a consignment fee for Day voucher sales, and she intends on approaching a third resort, so see if we can add $1 per pass, so we can increase the Recreation Committee budget, and keep offering discounted programs to employees. After some discussion the Committee decided to ask the Employee Environment and Facilities Committee to oversee a Green Up Day event. Jim Read is in the process of planning the Casino Trip in February 2010. Past participants are being contacted to inquire about which location they would prefer.

**Rules & Election – Rob Rohr, Chair**

The Rules and Election Committee did not meet in September.

**Salary & Budget – Mary Reilly, Chair**

The Salary & Budget Committee met with Barbara Johnson, Associate Vice President of Human Resources Services, on Sept. 24 to discuss salary increases, the performance evaluation process, mandatory supervisory training, merit increases made as a one-time bonus, and other issues related to the recommendations it will make for the 2010-11 budget planning process. Its next meeting will be with Richard Cate and Ted Winfield on Oct. 19, following which a timetable for submitting recommendations to the Staff Council Executive Board will be decided.